



**XIX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the  
Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean**

**Los Cabos, Mexico  
12 to 14 March 2014**

B. MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

**Distribution:**

Limited

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Friday 28 February 2014

**Original:** Spanish

## **Annotated Provisional Agenda of the Ministerial Segment**

### **Background**

1. In recent years, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have made significant efforts to reverse the trends of environmental degradation, raise the living conditions of their populations and stimulate economic growth of their economies in the framework of sustainability, through the promotion of mainstreaming the environment in national policies concerning the their countries development. However, there are still significant challenges to achieve the full and effective integration of the three pillars of sustainable development: environmental, economic and social.

### **Objectives of the Meeting**

2. The Nineteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers has been convened in order to fulfil the following objectives:

- a) Carry out an assessment of the Forum of Ministers and its tools, and review the regional environmental agenda;
- b) Promote a political dialogue at the highest level on priority environmental issues on the agenda to establish a regional cooperation agenda, promoting South-South cooperation.
- c) Ensure a renewed regional policy arrangement centred on sustainable development.

3. The purpose of the following comments on the items of the provisional agenda for the meeting aim to facilitate consideration of

the various issues to be addressed at the Nineteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers.

## **Item I of the Agenda: Opening of the meeting**

4. The meeting will begin with an opening ceremony on Wednesday 12 March 2014 at 3:00 p.m., with a message from the Governor of the State of Baja California Sur, from the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources of the Government of Mexico, of the Head of the Delegation of the Government of Ecuador, as Outgoing President of the Forum and from a representative of UNEP, which acts as the Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

### **I.1. Adoption of the rules of procedure**

5. It is proposed that the Ministers adopt, *mutatis mutandis*, the rules of procedure of the UNEP Governing Council to govern the procedures of the meeting.

### **I.2. Election of the Bureau**

6. A proposal is made to the Ministers that, in accordance with the practice established in previous meetings, the Bureau shall be comprised by one Chairperson, seven Vice-Chairs, and one Rapporteur, as per the criteria of geographic representativeness and rotation established by the ministerial meetings.

### **I.3. Adoption of the agenda and programme of sessions of the Meeting**

7. Under this item, the Ministers will consider the Provisional Agenda and Annotated Provisional Agenda and the Calendar of Sessions proposed by the Secretariat and will adopt them after incorporating the changes deemed necessary.

## **Item II of the Agenda: Results of the meeting of the High-Level Experts of the Nineteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and follow-up of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean**

8. Under this item of the agenda, the Ministers will examine the recommendations of the High-Level Experts as they relate to the issues discussed at the meeting, with a view to adopting them.

9. Under this item of the agenda, the recommendations emanating from the deliberations of the Preparatory Meeting of High-Level Experts, to be held ahead of the Ministerial Segment, are submitted for the consideration of the Forum of Ministers. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation will discuss the content of the draft decisions and will proceed with their adoption. They may also propose the adoption of decisions relative to other items of the agenda.

## **Item III of the Agenda: Ministerial Dialogues**

10. Global Agenda for Sustainable Development: the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean are invited to the dialogue and encouraged to develop a comprehensive Post-2015 Development Agenda that integrates the three dimensions of sustainable development, which is transformative and builds on the Millennium Development Goals to reach Sustainable Development Goals. The focus of this agenda is the eradication of extreme poverty and the construction of prosperity through inclusive and sustainable growth.

11. The Dialogue on climate change will seek a regional, high-level dialogue in order to define the contribution of Latin America and the Caribbean to a global problem, and initiate regional coordination towards the COP20 in Lima.

12. It will also further the opportunity of having a collaborative project on climate legislation at the regional level, as an area of opportunity that will strengthen national capacities to address this global problem.

13. The Ministerial Dialogue on Cooperation on Biodiversity and Sustainable Development aims providing elements of analysis and share lessons learned, to support informed decision making and enable the development of effective public policies in the region to ensure the conservation, sustainable use of biodiversity and the benefits it provides to human well-being.

14. The Ministers and heads of delegation will share their opinions and views on the issues raised by the panellists, in order to draw conclusions that could be incorporated into the ministerial declaration, as well as a decision on regional cooperation on issues of biodiversity.

15. The Dialogue on Chemicals and Waste will seek to establish a regional policy dialogue to address the challenges of implementing the Minamata Convention and waste management in the countries of the region and explore specific options for cooperation aimed at developing specific proposals that help and promote these processes in Latin America and the Caribbean to:

- The prompt signature and/or ratification, as well effective implementation of the Minamata Convention in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a view to integrating an initiative to strengthen the capacities and its application in the region.
- The identification of opportunities to improve regional cooperation and strengthen waste management in the region.

16. The Dialogue on the Celebration of the International Year of Small Island Developing States shall inform the Ministers on the activities and primary elements in the discussion in preparation for the Third Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in Apia, Samoa, from 1 to 4 September 2014. It will also promote South-South cooperation in the region.

#### **Item IV of the Agenda: Tour and lunch at the Sea of Cortes**

17. The Ministers of Environment and Heads of Delegation will have the opportunity to learn about several conservation areas in the Sea of Cortes in Mexico, an important ecological reserve with a rich biodiversity.

#### **Item V of the Agenda: Other matters**

18. Matters that have been included under this item upon the adoption of the agenda will be discussed.

**Item VI of the Agenda: Review of the Draft Final Report of the Nineteenth Meeting and adoption of the Ministerial Declaration**

18. Under this agenda item, the delegations will review the draft Final Report to be submitted by the Rapporteur, including the set of decisions and the draft Ministerial Declaration of the meeting, and will adopt it after incorporating the changes deemed necessary.

**Item VII of the Agenda: Closing of the Nineteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean**

18. The meeting will end on Friday, 14 March 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

# Annex

## Calendar of Sessions of the Ministerial Segment

Wednesday 12 March

### I. Opening of the meeting

**15:00 - 16:00**    **Inauguration**

#### **Organization of the work**

- Adoption of the rules of procedure of the meeting
- Election of the Board of Directors
- Approval of the Agenda for the sessions of this meeting
- Message from Civil Society

### II. Follow up to the XVIII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and revision of the decisions of the XIX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers

**16:00 -17:30**    **Results of the meeting of high level experts of the XIX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and follow up to the XVIII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers:**

- Regional Environmental Agenda
- Environmental Education
- Regional Council of Experts on Consumption and Sustainable Production
- Working Group on ILAC Environmental Indicators
- Inter-governmental Regional Network on Air Pollution

### III. Ministerial Dialogues

**17:30 – 19:30**    **Global Agenda for Sustainable Development**

- First Session of UNEP's Environmental Assembly
- Follow up of Agreements reached at Rio +20
- The post 2015 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals

**19:30 – 21:30**    **Welcome Cocktail**

**Thursday 13 March**

- 09:00 – 12::30**      **Cooperation on Climate Change**
- Towards the Conference in Lima
  - Cooperation Segment
- 12:30 - 13:00**      **Press Conference**
- 13:00 -14:30**      **Lunch**  
Presentation of the Study on Green Economy for Mexico: UNEP
- 15:00-17:00**      **Cooperation on Biodiversity**
- 17:00 -19:00**      **Cooperation on Chemical and Wastes**  
Towards the Minamata Convention
- 19:00 – 21:00**      **Dinner**

**Friday 14 March**

- 08:30 – 9:00**      **Press Conference**
- IV. Field Trip and lunch to the Mar de Cortés\***
- 9:00 – 15:00**      **For Ministers and/or Heads of Delegation, and special invitees**
- Ministerial Dialogues (continued)**
- 16:00 -17:00**      **Celebration of the International Year of Small Island Development States**
- V. Other Matters**
- 17:00 -17:30**
- VI. Review of the Draft Final Report of the XIX Meeting of the Forum and approval of the Ministerial Declaration**
- 17:30 -18:00**      **Delegations will review the draft Final Report**
- VII. Closure of the XIX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean**
- 18:00 – 18:30**      **Closure of the Meeting.**
- **Achim Steiner**, UNEP's Executive Director
  - **Juan José Guerra**, Environment and Natural Resources Secretariat

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\*We appreciate the support of the Marine Secretariat