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

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**A. PREPARATORY MEETING OF EXPERTS**

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**Report of the Secretariat on the Implementation  
of the Decisions of the Eighteenth Meeting of the  
Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin  
America and the Caribbean**



## **Introduction**

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1. The Nineteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean will take place in parallel with the definition of the post-2015 development agenda, with many plans to prepare and goals to achieve.
2. The need to integrate environmental issues along with economic and social issues in sustainable development planning has been clearly established.
3. The Forum of Ministers represents a unique opportunity for countries to share, discuss, agree on and approve regional actions for cooperation that contribute to sustainable development.
4. At the Eighteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, ministers adopted 10 decisions, which were commented during the Intersessional Meeting held in Quito, Ecuador in April 2013; herein is a brief summary of the activities carried out in this context.

## **Decision 1 Governance of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean**

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5. At the Eighteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean held in Quito Ecuador, in 2012, it was decided to establish a Working Group to address issues of governance of the Forum of Ministers as well as its operation.
6. In 2013, an Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers was held on 2-3 April in Quito, Ecuador, immediately after the First Meeting of the Working Group created in the framework of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).
7. The Intersessional Meeting established the experiences of the Forum of Ministers as a source of vital information for the establishment of judgment criteria while providing the basis for strengthening the governance and institutional framework of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. Similarly, it was affirmed that the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of LAC should strengthen the will of the region embodied in the decisions and arrangements made by the CELAC Working Group on environmental issues, in addition to channelling international cooperation activities on the environment in the region.
8. The declaration of the meeting also concluded that it is necessary to continue and strengthen the work of the Inter Agency Technical Committee (ITC), preserving its main functions of (i) providing technical and operational advice and (ii) facilitating the mobilization of funding for implementation of the regional agenda of the Forum, which must be coordinated and articulated with the Environmental Agenda of CELAC.
9. In order to strengthen this relationship, UNEP convened a meeting with regional, international and intergovernmental organizations to address the emerging issues, which was held on 11 December 2013 in Panama City. Representatives of the Central American Commission for Sustainable Development (CCAD), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Iberoamerican General Secretariat (SEGIB) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) attended the meeting, where environmental issues that countries have defined as priorities at the sub-regional and regional level were analysed based on document UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIX/8 "Review of existing intergovernmental priorities on sustainable development, with an emphasis on environment, in Latin America and the Caribbean"

prepared by UNEP as an assessment of the environmental agenda of all sub-regions of Latin America and the Caribbean.

## **Decision 2**

### **Environmental Education for Sustainable Development**

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**10.** During 2013, UNEP has implemented several actions following the Decision on Environmental Education for Sustainable Development.

**11.** In order to establish the thematic priorities of the ministers, UNEP convened a meeting of the focal points of the Environmental Training Network (ETN/LAC) on 18 April 2013 in San José, Costa Rica, following the meeting of the subregional consultation of Latin America for planning the programme framework of the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), as a follow-up activity of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014), held in San José from 16 to 17 April with the financial support of UNEP.

**12.** As a result of the meeting, the ETN/LAC Advisory Committee was established in May 2013. The terms of reference are available on the website <http://www.pnuma.org/educamb/documentos/RFA%20Comite%20Consultivo.pdf>. The ETN Advisory Committee meets online on a monthly basis. Four meetings were held between May and December 2013.

**13.** In order to obtain information on national plans for environmental education in the region, UNEP gathered information received from countries on political strategies and plans, which is available on the ETN/LAC: <http://www.pnuma.org/educamb/reuniones.php>. In addition, UNEP proposed creating a community of practice for the ETN/LAC in order to have a space where the focal points could meet, and exchange current and substantive information on environmental education in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**14.** Seeking complementarity of the ETN with other environmental education processes, UNEP supported the participation of several experts to the PLACEA meeting held on 10 July 2013, through the Environmental Training Network. The meeting was facilitated by Cuba in the framework of the 9th Congress on Environmental Education held on 8-12 July in Havana. The meeting was attended by focal points from Brazil, Cuba, Peru and Uruguay.

**15.** Through the ETN and based on its programme of work, UNEP also facilitated the participation of several countries in environmental education activities, such as: the 7th Congress on Environmental Education in Lima, Peru, 26-27 September 2013; the 7th World Environmental Education Congress - 7th WEEC, 9-14 June in Marrakech, Morocco, the participation of the Coordinator of the Alliance of Ibero-American Networks of Universities for Sustainability and the Environment (ARIUSA) and regional focal point of the Global Universities Partnership for Environment and Sustainability (GUPES) in the GUPES Green Room during the UNEP Governing Council (UNEP GC 27) in February 2013 and the preparatory meeting of the 7th Congress of Environmental Education in Lima, Peru, 26-27 September, 2013; the Forum of the Academy and Environmental Education, the 6th Global Expo on South-South Cooperation 2013, from 28 October to 1 November in Nairobi, Kenya, among others.

**16.** In coordination with ARIUSA, UNEP has signed a cooperation agreement with the University of Applied and Environmental Sciences of Colombia (UDCA) with the aim, to promote the participation of Latin American universities in GUPES, support activities developed in the framework of this alliance, facilitate coordination with other university networks operating in the region, including environmental networks, Spanish translation and adaptation of the UNEP's "Greening University Toolkit".

17. With the aim of providing information on the environmental education activities that are taking place in our region and other relevant issues, UNEP updates the ETN website on an ongoing basis. The webpage contains information on the history of the Network, focal points, events, news, publications, training and other activities. Countries such as Uruguay, Chile and Peru have created a direct link from their respective Ministry of the Environment websites. An ETN Facebook account was also created, and contains information on environmental education events and initiatives in the region and draws upon the inputs of the focal points:

18. The focal point of Paraguay, with the support of UNEP, prepared the political and technical report on the importance of the contributions to the Trust Fund, its benefits, deadlines, possible debt cancellation. The ETN/LAC focal points were provided a copy for comment. The focal point of El Salvador prepared the proposal for the establishment of the National Network of Universities for Environmental Sustainability in El Salvador. With the support of UNEP, contact was facilitated with the Colombian Network of Universities, ARIUSA and the Guatemalan Network of Universities.

19. UNEP sent the letter and technical policy report to the ministers of the environment asking for their contributions to the trust fund on June 18, 2013. It is expected to increase the frequency of contributions to the Network Fund to ensure the continuity of activities.

20. UNEP will propose to develop and systematize a bank of experiences for knowledge transfer, based on similar experiences, for example tools developed by UNDP on knowledge management. This activity will be reprogrammed for this year in 2014.

21. The activities of the Environmental Training Network are further detailed in the UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIX/9 Report on the Activities of the Environmental Training Network.

### **Decision 3**

#### **Regional Financial Strategy**

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22. It was requested to the UNCCD to continue the implementation process of the Regional Integrated Financial Strategy – RIFS and to conduct the necessary measures to establish the Technical Management Secretariat for the implementation of the EFIR. It was requested to looking for modalities of financial contribution to implement the Multi-Agency Fund Pre-Investment to allow the Technical Management Secretariat of the EFIR to be operational;

23. The Global Mechanism of the UNCCD submitted a comprehensive proposal on the Integrated Financial Strategy for the implementation of the UNCCD to the 10th session of the Conference of Parties held in Chagwon, Korea in October, 2011 seeking advice on the best way to proceed with the financial mobilization in support to the implementation of the Integrated Financial Strategies at national, sub-regional, regional and global level.

24. It was requested to the secretariat and the Global Mechanism to continue coordinating their fund-raising efforts, ensuring alignment and integration with wider strategies to address strategic objective 4 of the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) (The Strategy), in accordance with decision 6/COP.10;

25. Further requested country Parties under each Regional Implementation Annex, with the assistance of the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, to improve their financial support to Regional Coordination Mechanisms in order to address their identified priorities by, inter alia, developing a systematic approach to mobilize resources for the Regional Coordination Mechanisms and their activities, and involving various sources, including regional partnership platforms that are outside the Convention budget;

26. As a conclusion, the Conference of Parties of the UNCCD has given to the Secretariat and the Global Mechanism the mandate to move forward with the resource mobilization to achieve the objectives as the one requested by the LAC Forum of Ministers. In this regard, the Regional Integrated Financial Strategy and its operational plan is expected to have more attention in the biennium 2014-2015.

**Decision 4**  
**Atmospheric Pollution within the framework of**  
**the Regional Intergovernmental Network**

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27. The Regional Intergovernmental Network on Atmospheric Pollution for Latin America and the Caribbean held a meeting to develop a proposal for a Regional Action Plan.

28. A meeting was held on 2 November 2012, in Bogotá, Colombia. This meeting was held immediately after the meeting of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, due to the links between short-lived climate forcers (SLCF) and air pollution. The first outline of the draft Plan of Action on Air Pollution was discussed at the meeting. In order to facilitate the discussion, the Secretariat, with support from the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change in Mexico and the Clean Air Institute, prepared a document entitled "Draft Regional Action Plan on Air Pollution," which considered the results of the Network's discussions to date.

29. A second meeting of the Intergovernmental Network was held on 28-30 October, 2013 in coordination with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico (SEMARNAT) where the proposal of the Regional Action Plan was finalised, to be presented for consideration of the Ministers during the XIX Meeting of the Forum.

30. The Regional Action Plan proposed as a draft at this meeting formulates short-, medium- and long-term guidelines, common to all members of the Inter-Governmental Network on Air Pollution of Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to reduce air pollution and related health impacts at local, regional and global levels.

31. The document UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIX/6 contains the full report of the meeting, and document UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIX/7 is the draft Regional Action Plan, for the consideration of the Ministers.

**Decision 5**  
**Environmental Indicators**

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32. The Working Group on Environmental Indicators (WGEI) has continued its work, through electronic communication coordinated by UNEP, in its capacity as Secretariat.

**33.** During this period, methodologies were developed by WGEI for the following indicators: Proportion of species threatened with extinction; Environmental expenditure as a percentage of total public expenditure; Percentage of projects authorized to use genetic resources that generate national benefits; Public expenditure for risk management of disasters caused by extreme natural events and anthropogenic activities. Also, a potential methodology to measure the progress of national environmental statistical systems was extensively discussed.

**34.** With respect to the preparation of ILAC National Reports, up to this date, nine countries have published ILAC National Reports, with an average of 29 indicators. The countries are Costa Rica (2005), Mexico (2005), Argentina (2006), Brazil (2007), Colombia (2007), Peru (2008), Cuba (2009), Panama (2010), Nicaragua (2011) and Uruguay (2011). Barbados has made significant progress in preparing its national report. Note that several countries regularly report on ILAC indicators in their environmental information systems, and this contributes to decision-making.

**35.** Following a digital publishing model, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico (SEMARNAT) has made a Geospatial Viewer for displaying the ILAC indicators at a regional level available to all countries. Countries may enter their data in the platform using web map services (WMS) each country keeping the ownership and responsibility over the information.<sup>1</sup>

**36.** Between 2012 and 2013, four countries joined the WGEI: Bahamas, El Salvador, Honduras and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

**37.** Financial constraints prevented the realization of a workshop prior to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, as set forth in paragraph 13, Decision 5 of the Eighteenth Workshop Forum of Ministers. However, the Secretariat and ECLAC have provided relevant inputs on indicators to regional discussions on the post-2015 agenda.<sup>2</sup>

**38.** UNEP organized the regional meeting 'Strengthening regional networks and national capacities on environmental information', held in November 2013 in Panama City. During this meeting issues directly related to the work plan (such as sustainable production and consumption indicators) and the strengthening of WGEI were discussed. Below are the key messages of the WGEI meeting.

**39.** Six WGEI countries are involved in the 'Development and Strengthening of Official Environmental Statistics through the Creation of a Regional Framework in Latin America and the Caribbean' project, carried out by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) and ECLAC, with IADB financing. Some ILAC indicators will serve as input for the outputs developed within the project, and the experience of WGEI countries will feed the regional WGEI assessment on the development of environmental statistics.

**40.** Seven WGEI countries are participating in the 'Monitoring of green growth in Latin America and the Caribbean' project, carried out by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), with funding from the Latin American Development Bank (CAF). The project aims to test and implement the OECD

<sup>1</sup> <http://gisviewer.semarnat.gob.mx/gisflex/ilac/index.html#>

<sup>2</sup> An explicit reference to the monitoring of sustainable development is located in the key messages (page 9) of the document 'Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean', available at [http://www.cepal.org/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/publicaciones/xml/7/50797/P50797.xml&xsl=/publicaciones/ficha.xsl&base=/publicaciones/top\\_publicaciones.xsl](http://www.cepal.org/cgi-bin/getProd.asp?xml=/publicaciones/xml/7/50797/P50797.xml&xsl=/publicaciones/ficha.xsl&base=/publicaciones/top_publicaciones.xsl)

methodology for green growth indicators. Given the obvious similarities with WGEI's work, the Secretariat encourages discussions with UNIDO and CAF to exchange experiences and to enable joint meetings between the focal points of the Ministries of Environment, Industry and Statistical Offices.

**41.** The meeting on environmental information organized by UNEP in November 2013 was attended by international, regional and subregional organizations such as the Central American Commission for Sustainable Development (CCAD), Latin American Development Bank (CAF), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), who have shown interest in establishing synergies with WGEI in its different areas of work.

**42.** The Secretariat has established a sub-regional initiative to increase the capacity and strengthen regional and South-South cooperation, to enable SIDSs to systematically collect, manage and use environmental data and information to support their sustainable development goals at the national and regional levels. The proposal is currently under revision of Caribbean countries, and joint resource mobilisation will be encouraged for its implementation. A funding request is expected to be submitted shortly.

**43.** In its role as implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNEP is supporting projects in Haiti and St. Lucia in the development of crosscutting capacity portfolio, with an emphasis on the strengthening of National Environmental Information Systems (SINIA). Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has also submitted a similar UNEP-supported project for review before the GEF.

**44.** Based on the accumulation of past experiences, the WGEI proposes a new work plan for the period 2014 -2015 to the Forum of Ministers, which aims to give adequate support to the ILAC Initiative and others that advance the Forum of Ministers by channelling environmental information for decision making.

**45.** A proposal with the group's recommendations is presented to the meeting in document UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIX/4 Proposal of the Working Group on Environmental Indicators.

## **Decision 6**

### **Sustainable Consumption and Production**

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**46.** Sustainable consumption and production (SCP) occupies an increasingly important place in the priorities of the region. Several countries have developed and adopted policies, strategies and action plans on SCP.

**47.** Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the most active regions in the implementation of initiatives and projects that promote SCP, as evidenced by the adoption of the Regional Strategy on SCP and the creation in 2003 of the Regional Council of Government Experts on SCP. The region has also been active in the Marrakech Process, with a series of pilot projects, awareness raising campaigns and capacity building activities at the regional, sub-regional and national levels.

**48.** In close cooperation with the Secretariat of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (hereinafter 10YFP), the Seventh Regional Meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) 'The 10YFP is taking action!' was held on 24-25 June 2013, in Lima, Peru. The meeting was organized by the 10YFP Secretariat, led by UNEP, and the Regional Council of Government Experts on SCP, with financial support from the European Union and the Government of Peru.



49. The meeting took place prior to two other meetings organized by UNEP in the framework of the Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production (RECP) Programme. A regional Eco-innovation Manual Validation workshop was also conducted as part of the European Commission (EC)-supported project 'Eco-Innovation in Developing and Transition Economies'; and the UNIDO/UNEP RECP Programme organized a training session on the regional knowledge management platform.

50. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) reaffirmed that promoting sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns is one of the three overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for sustainable development. Furthermore, at Rio+20, Heads of State strengthened their commitment to accelerate the shift towards SCP patterns with the adoption of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP) –in paragraph 226 of the Rio+20 Outcome Document 'The Future We Want'.

51. The regional meeting focused on the implementation of the regional 10YFP. More specifically, the objectives of the meeting were as follows: Provide a global and regional vision on SCP and 10 YFP; Share the progress of the SCP Regional Strategy and other SCP activities in Latin America and the Caribbean, identifying synergies and areas of cooperation; Contribute to the development and implementation of the initial 10YFP five-programme list with active participation of the region and, if necessary, identify the need for additional programmes; Provide training and capacity development on the tools, methodologies and benefits/contributions of SCP for poverty reduction and market opportunities; and Increase the exchange of information for science-based knowledge on SCP and Resource Efficiency (ER) (e.g., material flow, assessment of life-cycle decoupling), in close cooperation with the International Resource Panel.

52. The recommendations of the Seventh Session of the Council of Government Experts are expressed in the document UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIX/5.

## **Decisión 7**

### **Chemical substances, hazardous wastes and other wastes**

53. UNEP, in coordination with other agencies and the MEA Secretariats, has provided technical assistance through a range of activities and projects on chemicals and waste during 2012 and 2013. This included support to the organization of several regional meetings and workshops in cooperation with the Secretariat of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions, such as the Green Customs Initiative workshop (Mexico, March 2012), a workshop on the synergic implementation of the chemicals conventions (Ecuador, November 2012), or the workshop on updating Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plans (Brazil, February 2013). In cooperation with the Ozone Unit, the Second Caribbean Media Training Workshop, which was focused on chemicals and waste management, was organized in Suriname (June 2013). On-line webinars organized by the BRS Secretariat were also widely disseminated across the region.

54. In August 2013, support was provided to the LAC Regional SAICM Meeting (Mexico, 19-23 August), which joined around 100 participants, including 25 governments, 8 IGOs and 14 NGOs. During this meeting, the process to complete a regional action plan was agreed, and two resolutions on Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals and highly hazardous pesticides were adopted.

55. During this period, several regional and national projects have been implemented in the region. In 2012 a project was developed in Ecuador to promote the coordinated

implementation of chemicals MEAs, which included a national assessment of potential synergies and status of implementation of the Conventions, and the organization of a workshop with invited countries as case studies. In Panama, in coordination with other agencies, support has been provided to promote a new regulatory framework for the sound use of agrochemicals, including capacity building and dissemination activities. A project is also being developed in Panama to undertake a national assessment on dietary exposure to chemicals (Total Diet Study), which can serve as a reference for other countries. In Honduras, support was provided to the BRS Secretariat to launch a project on the implementation of the Rotterdam Convention.

**56.** UNEP and other agencies have been implementing also a range projects in different countries with Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) resources. This includes the GEF project in Brazil and Guyana to developed the Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plan, or the continuing regional Support for the POPs Global Monitoring Plan (12 LAC countries included), and SAICM QSP projects in Belize (strengthening of legal and institutional framework), Peru-Bolivia (ASGM), or Suriname (sound management of chemicals).

**57.** In preparation of the meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) for a mercury agreement, support was provided to the organization of the Latin America and the Caribbean regional consultations in preparation of INC4 (Brasilia, 21-25 May 2012, with the support of the Government of Brazil; held back-to-back with a technical workshop on mercury waste management in the LAC region, supported by the Governments of Spain and Uruguay), and INC5 (Bogota, 26-29 November 2012; with the support of the Government of Colombia). During this period an intranet was provided to the countries of the region to facilitate the exchange of the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) with regard to the text under negotiation.

**58.** Assistance was also provided to the countries in preparation of their INC4, which took place in the region (Uruguay, June 2012), and INC5 (Geneva, January 2013), where the text of the Minamata Convention on Mercury was agreed, with an active participation of GRULAC. In preparation of the Diplomatic Conference of the Minamata Convention (Japan, October 2013), relevant briefings were also circulated across the region, and participation of countries was facilitated. UNEP also participated in the regional event to disseminate the Minamata Convention, which took place within the framework of the meeting of Ministers of Environment of MERCOSUR (Uruguay, May 2013).

**59.** In order to disseminate the scope and implications of Minamata Convention on Mercury to the LAC countries, a report has been prepared during 2013 which describes the key provisions of the Convention, contextualized with regional data and information, including case studies of some of the actions already underway in different countries.

**60.** Within the framework of the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership (GMP), several activities were held during 2012-2013 in the region. A new bi-national project on the sound mercury storage and disposal was conducted in Mexico and Panama, with the technical support of the Stockholm Convention regional centres based in these countries. In relation to the GMP, artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM), one of the key areas of GMP, the region hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Forum on ASGM, which was held in Peru (Lima, September 2013), and where approximately 100 participants took part, including representatives of 20 Governments, 6 IGOs and 20 NGOs from around the world. Additionally, a sub-regional Andean Forum on ASGM was later organized in Colombia (Medellin, November 2013), where the need for further regional cooperation

on this area was highlighted. UNEP has also supported projects to facilitate the development of National Action Plans on ASGM in Colombia, and Bolivia-Peru.

**61.** Mercury-related projects have also been prepared to be presented to the GEF, among them, a regional project on developing mercury inventories and action plans which has been recently approved and is ready to be executed during the next couple of years.

**62.** To assess the needs on capacity building to be addressed by the Global Partnership on Waste Management (GPWM), a questionnaire was circulated in 2012 to all LAC countries. The LAC survey was the most represented region and its results were presented at the biannual meeting of the GPWM (Japan, November 2012).

**63.** Also within the framework of the GPWM, some regional capacity building and dissemination events have been organized. In cooperation with the UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC), a regional workshop on hazardous waste management took place in Buenos Aires (Buenos Aires, November 2012), where the needs for specific training on this area were discussed. Additionally, a sub-regional workshop on the potential use of waste agricultural biomass was organized in Costa Rica (San Jose, December, 2012).

**64.** In connection, some demonstration projects under the umbrella of the GPWM were initiated in 2013, promoted by UNEP/IETC. A project on Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) in pilot municipalities of Honduras has recently been concluded. This project included capacity building activities to local teams in each municipality, assessment of current waste management situation, and the development of ISWM Plans in cooperation with stakeholders. Another project is being implemented in Costa Rica, to promote the use of waste agricultural biomass, with the related reduction of GHG. This project has been focused in the coffee sector, and its results will be disseminated at regional level.

**65.** The final report with the Decision on chemicals, hazardous wastes, and other wastes, was transmitted to the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm Conventions and Montreal Protocol, as well as to different divisions of UNEP (DTIE-OzonAction Branch; DTIE-Chemicals Branch; DTIE/IETC; DELC) and to the SAICM Secretariat.

## **Decision 9**

### **Small Island Developing States (SIDS)**

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**66.** A number of initiatives were undertaken by UNEP aimed at supporting the Caribbean SIDS and providing technical support. These included are detailed in the following paragraphs.

**67.** Support through the framework of the project entitled "Regional Gateway for Technology Transfer and Climate Change Action in Latin America and the Caribbean" (REGATTA) on Sustainable Energy with the view of assessing the current state of Sustainable Energy Initiatives in the Caribbean and to establish ways in which these initiatives can be supported and further developed. This activity was jointly organised by UNEP with the University of West Indies in the framework of the UNEP led Project and took place on 30-31 October 2012, in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

**68.** The convening of a Regional workshop of capacity Building and Lessons Learned in the development of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Programme of Activities

(PoA) and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs)." The workshop which was jointly organized with the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE, acronym in Spanish) and UNEP Risoe Centre (URC) and supported by the Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining and the Ministry of Environment of Jamaica, was held in Kingston, Jamiaca.

**69.** Enhancing the capacity of the Climate Change negotiations in the region, through the organisation of Region Workshops for Climate Change Negotiators supported by the UNFCCC Secretariat. These workshops provide a regional platform for exchange of information and views on the issues under multilateral negotiation as well as contributed to the generation of a common ground and to facilitate a more cohesive participation of the region at the multilateral level. Workshops were held in Salinas, Ecuador in February 2011 with the participation of CARICOM, and in Guayaquil, Ecuador, in April 2013.

**70.** In the case of Haiti, UNEP is implementing a US\$8 million Project—the Sustainable Energy South Department NMFA (Norwegian Ministry for Foreign Affairs) Project. The project commenced in September 2012 and is expected to be completed by December 2015. This project funded by the Government of Norway, has the goal of increasing access to environmentally and economically sustainable energy within the South Department of Haiti.

**71.** Implementation of the "Broad-scale Marine Spatial Planning of Mammal Corridors & Protected Areas in Wider Caribbean & Southeast & Northeast Pacific" in the area of coastal marine resources. In the Caribbean the project entitled "Protecting habitats and migration corridors for marine mammals in the South and Northeast Pacific and the Caribbean through marine protected area networks" was implemented. The goal of this project was to assist implementation of CBD's Programme of Work on Protected Areas (in particular through technical support in establishment of comprehensive, effectively managed, and ecologically representative regional systems of marine protected areas in the countries of the Latin America, the Caribbean and neighbouring regions. This project was concluded in 2012.

**72.** The Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management PISLM is coordinated jointly by a number of UN Agencies, namely UNEP, FAO, GM/UNCCD and the UNCCD Secretariat along with the Caribbean Community Secretariat; the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and Caribbean SIDS continues to be a major flagship project in sustainable land management in Caribbean SIDS. The Support Office for the PISLM is provided through the Caribbean Network for Rural Development (CNIRD), a regional Civil Society organisation and Caribbean SIDS. As part of the UN Agencies to facilitate the mobilisation of innovative financial resources to help finance the activities being undertaken within the framework of the PISLM, a "Change for A Better Environment" has been launched commencing with Trinidad and Tobago with the intention of expanding to all of the Caribbean SIDS PISLM participating member States. This financial mechanism is intended to be used as a vehicle for enhancing awareness in Caribbean SIDS by emphasising the value of the environmental resource base to Caribbean regional development and to encourage persons, particularly visitors to the region who have used the region's environmental resources (i.e. beaches, sea, water etc.) for their own benefit and enjoyment to contribute "change" (as in money) to contribute to the management of the region's resource base.

**73.** UNEP is implementing the project titled, The demarcation and establishment of the Caribbean Biological Corridor (CBC): as a framework for biodiversity conservation, environmental rehabilitation and development of livelihood options in Haiti the Dominican Republic and Cuba The Caribbean Biological Corridor (CBC) project aims to encourage and facilitate collaboration among the participating countries through: the

creation of the Caribbean Biological Corridor; the establishment of a network of protected areas for Haiti and the Dominican Republic; the creation of livelihood options as a means of contributing to poverty alleviation, human resources development and the establishment of a regional institutional mechanism for planning and management of shared resources between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. One important output of this initiative is the facilitation of dialogue on sustainable management of national and transboundary natural resources. Other expected outputs include the capacity of countries and regions to integrate an ecosystem management approach into development and planning processes and the establishment of a cooperative multinational platform for the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity through environmental rehabilitation and the development of alternative livelihood options.

**74.** The Regional Project for Implementing Biosafety Frameworks in the Caribbean Sub-region is currently under implementation with the participation of 12 countries of the Caribbean, namely: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname. This project supports the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Currently, a proposal is being developed to establish and institutionalize a Centre of Excellence on Biosafety within the University of the West Indies (UWI) for the purpose of mounting training courses and workshops; a regional Master Course, and also to host an accredited regional laboratory for the testing of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and a regional node of the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH).

**75.** The promotion of the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity in the Caribbean (TEEB) which aims to enhance the capacities of high level economists on methodologies to estimate the economic benefits of biodiversity, the growing costs of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation. In this regard, UNEP has conducted national TEEB implementation projects to draw attention to the economic benefits of biodiversity, highlighting the growing cost of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation and drawing together expertise from the fields of ecosystem science, economics and development policy to support the mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem considerations in national policymaking. This project is under implementation jointly with the University of West Indies (UWI), since December 2010, and is programmed to end in February 2014.

**76.** UNEP continues to work closely with the Caribbean Community Secretariat and as such participates actively in the COTED [Environment]. UNEP's participation is both substantive, and facilitative. In the case of the former, UNEP is usually called upon to take the lead in the preparation of substantive documentation in areas which fall within its competencies (i.e. International Environment Governance); the work of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean, etc. UNEP participated in the 39th Session of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) on Environment and Sustainable Development, which took place in Georgetown, Guyana, 17-20 April 2012.

**77.** In this regard, UNEP has implemented a number of initiatives in close collaboration with the Caribbean Community Secretariat, and in strengthening Caribbean SIDS capability to implement the various MEAs. These include, inter alia,

- a. The Caribbean component of the project entitled "Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in African Caribbean and Pacific Group of States" (ACP), an EU funded project for which the Caribbean Community Secretariat serves as the Caribbean Hub. The overall objective of the Project is to strengthen and enhance the endogenous capacity of Caribbean ACP countries to effectively implement

and comply with MEAs and related commitments thereby resulting in sound management of the environment and natural resources.

- b. Training on Environmental Legislative Drafting. In this regard an intensive training course with specific emphasis on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) for CARIFORUM Member States was held in Guyana 2011. This training was done in close collaboration with the Caribbean Community Secretariat.
- c. Supporting the implementation of the Montreal Protocol, including assisting respective member states to acquire the necessary national institutions and resources to reach and maintain compliance to the Montreal Protocol which deals with phasing out Ozone Depleting Substances. These activities were carried out working with the CARICOM through the UNEP Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP), with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Caribbean Customs Law Enforcement Council, private sectors and non government associations. The sub-regional Meeting of the English Speaking Caribbean and Haiti Ozone Officers Network took place in 2012 in Dominica, on 27-29 March 2012, and for 2013 on 18-20 March in St. Kitts and Nevis.
- d. Supporting the convening in 2012, of the UNEP Annual Judicial Conference in the Caribbean that was organized with the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court. The objectives of the Conference included engendering an understanding of the principles of environmental law, including ecological responsibility and the rule of law; dissemination of the Rio+20 Declaration of the World Congress on Justice, Law and Governance for Environmental Sustainability, held in Rio de Janeiro in 17-20 June 2012; foster a greater understanding of the importance of the judiciary in promoting sustainable development through the strengthening of the rule of law; Identify most urgent environmental issues that face the OECS and current mechanisms in place to address them; increase the awareness among the judiciary to environmental issues such as waste management enforcement; highlight the various avenues to justice in environmental matters including issues relating to standing and the public consultation process among others.

**78.** At an international level, UNEP also supported the Ninth Annual Course on MEAs with the University of Eastern Finland in St George's, Grenada, in August 2012. The course transfers past experience in the field of international environmental law to current and future negotiators of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). In addition, the course provides a forum to foster North-South co-operation and to take stock of recent developments in negotiations as well as in implementation of MEAs and diplomatic practices in the international environmental arena. This was the ninth year in which the Course was held, for the first time in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, organized in collaboration with the Government of Grenada and the UNEP Regional Office. Each course is based on a specific theme. The special theme of the Ninth Course was "Ocean Governance", and it also addressed general issues relating to international environmental law-making and diplomacy.

**79.** The emerging issue of Green Economy Transformation was started in the Caribbean. The initial project was undertaken in Barbados with the preparation of a Scoping Study. Subsequently, UNEP, in cooperation with the CARICOM Secretariat and with financial support of the European Union, is supporting the region through a Caribbean Green Economy Initiative. The project will move forward the implementation of the concept note "Advancing Caribbean States' Sustainable Development Agenda through Green Economy Policies" (ACSSD-GE) endorsed by the Thirty-Seventh Special

Meeting of The Council for Trade and Economic Development COTED from the Caribbean Community CARICOM on Environment and Sustainable Development held in September 2011. In the same meeting, Caribbean countries agreed that UNEP's assistance and lead was required in developing a green economy initiative in close collaboration with the Caribbean Community Secretariat and its member states, with inputs from relevant regional and international organizations.

**80.** In terms of UNEP's contribution to the Third International meeting on SIDS an Inter-Divisional Group has been established to oversee its preparation. To date the Inter-Divisional Group has reported the Committee of Permanent Representatives in Nairobi, Kenya. In addition, it has begun the preparation of a UNEP SIDS Strategy Paper and a Communication Strategy which will be submitted to the UNEP Senior Management Team for consideration.

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