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A. PREPARATORY MEETING OF EXPERTS

**Review of existing intergovernmental priorities on
sustainable development, with an emphasis on
environment, in Latin America and the Caribbean**

Purpose and scope of this report

1. The Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean will be considering, at its upcoming session, a revision to the Latin America and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC).

2. This document aims to inform the discussion by summarizing the priorities of a number of regional and subregional forums and instruments addressing sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean, on which the new priorities of ILAC could be based, and on which they can build and reinforce. The document aims to cover the main mechanisms with broader coverage of environment and sustainable development issues, but by no means all are included—this is especially the case for thematic instruments, including a large number of river basin agreements and mechanisms (e.g., La Plata, Orinoco, Titicaca, see UNEP and FAO 2002).

Summary and main messages

3. There are a large number and diversity of existing regional and subregional mechanisms on sustainable development in Latin America, including those focused on the environment. Some mechanisms focus on the political level. Others combine this with a defined agenda, strategy, monitoring mechanism at the operational level, as well as a secretariat (e.g., OECS, ACTO, Andean Community). Secretariats or coordination mechanisms of course require funding – either from countries inside or outside the region, or international organizations, something that is often a significant constraint. Many mechanisms involve meetings of Environment Ministers, varying in frequency between different mechanisms from biannual to once every few years.

4. Some organizational priorities and agendas are quite broad, covering a comprehensive set of environmental issues. Others are more focused on issues of transboundary or common interest (e.g., Andean Community, Meso-American Environmental Strategy). Others develop their agenda on a case-by-case or as-needed basis.

5. Finally, the role of United Nations agencies (such as UNEP, ECLAC or UNDP) varies between the mechanisms. Some have a defined role in certain strategy documents (e.g., UNEP and Inter-Agency Technical Committee partners with respect to ILAC and the Forum of Environment Ministers, as well as the Montego Bay Action Plan; ECLAC in partnership with other agencies with respect to the Sustainable Development Goals process). More commonly, they work in partnership with regional and subregional mechanisms and their Secretariats to implement projects.

6. The priorities set by a regional or subregional mechanism may partly reflect the priorities of its member States, but may also reflect the type and overall purpose of

the mechanism itself. In this respect, it may be worth distinguishing at least four different purposes of regional and subregional mechanisms that address sustainable development (with many contributing to more than one):

- a. To influence and coordinate regional positions in global negotiation processes.
- b. To strengthen political, trade and economic ties between member States, while minimizing adverse impacts on the environment or social development.
- c. To strengthen regional, South-South and technical cooperation on issues relating to sustainable development.
- d. To cooperate with respect to a well-defined set of trans-boundary issues that need to be jointly managed by the countries concerned.

7. This paper starts with a brief summary of a number of regional mechanisms addressing sustainable development and environment, then discusses subregional mechanisms in the Amazon, Andes, the Caribbean, Central America, the Mercosur region, Pacific Rim, and South America. This paper aims to cover the most important intergovernmental strategy documents, although it is impossible to be comprehensive in a short paper such as this. The paper also focuses more closely on priorities on the environment, with a broader coverage of priorities related to sustainable development as a whole.

8. Some judgment calls have been made in regarding whether to list a mechanism as “regional” or “subregional”, something that also does not much affect the substance of the mechanism’s priorities. For instance, ALBA has been included as a “regional” mechanism since it includes countries in Central and South America and the Caribbean, and includes countries with a common approach rather than geographical proximity, even though many countries in the region are not members. On the other hand, Mercosur is listed as a subregional mechanism since the original members were located in the Southern Cone, although now it includes countries outside this area, and (together with other subregional mechanisms) often includes additional countries in meetings as observers or additional States.

9. Aggregating different regional and subregional priorities into a single list that could form the basis for a set of priority issues to be addressed through ILAC is complicated by at least two factors. First, the list of issues covered by different mechanisms is quite comprehensive and even when a particular environmental issue is not listed as a thematic priority in a particular subregion, it is often addressed in a cross-cutting manner. Secondly, the language used to describe a particular issue varies from one mechanism to another, often reflecting different perspectives about the nature of the issue concerned or the way it should be addressed. With those points in mind, an aggregated list of the existing priorities identified by different regional and subregional mechanisms in Latin America and the Caribbean could include the following as well as many others: air pollution; biodiversity; chemicals and wastes; climate change; desertification and drought;

energy; environmental governance; fisheries; food security; forests; health and disease; housing and human settlements; indicators of sustainable development; indigenous peoples; land use planning; marine and coastal management; natural disasters; noise; poverty eradication; science, innovation and knowledge; social policies; South-South and regional cooperation; sustainable tourism; and water resources management.

10. In considering priority goals for the region, it is also important to take into account global processes such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the ongoing process for developing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The ILAC initiative has established a list of indicators to complement those of the MDG, with the objective of providing support to the monitoring of the information on MDGs produced by national statistical agencies. On the other hand, a revised ILAC might choose to focus on regional priorities that are not already covered by the MDG or SDG frameworks, either by selecting complementary priorities, or by tailoring SDG priorities to the regional context.

Latin American Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC)

11. This section contains a brief recap of ILAC itself, adopted in 2002 by the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and welcomed by paragraphs 73 and 74 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. A more detailed review is contained in the document “Review of Experiences: Modalities for Dialogue and Implementation of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (UNEP/LAC-UNEP/LAC-IC.1.2012/3, available at <http://www.pnuma.org/forodeministros/19-reunion%20intersesional/documentos.htm>). ILAC provides a framework of priority areas and specific activities aimed at integrating the environment perspective in the social, economic and institutional sectors. It also includes a set of guiding goals and indicators, in seven areas. ILAC is implemented by the activities of governments through the Regional Action Plan (RAP), a biennial-cycle matrix.

ILAC at a glance (UNEP/LAC-UNEP/LAC-IC.1.2012/3, Annex 3)

ILAC AREA	RAP PRIORITIES
Climate change	The linkages between climate change and all ILAC areas are recognized (including renewable energy and energy efficiency)
Biodiversity	Increase of the forest area
	Genetic resources—equitable sharing of benefits
Water Management	Watershed management
	Management of marine and coastal

	areas and their resources
Vulnerability, human settlements and sustainable cities	Vulnerability and risk management
	Waste management
Social issues, including health, inequity and poverty	Health and environment (pollution and chemicals)
Economic issues, including competitiveness, trade and production and consumption patterns (energy)	Sustainable Production and Consumption
Institutional arrangements	Evaluation and indicators
	Environmental education

12. The Forum of Ministers of Environment itself is supported by an Inter-Agency Technical Committee (ITC), whose main functions are to offer technical and operational guidance, and to facilitate the mobilization of funding for implementation of the Forum's regional agenda. The ITC is currently composed of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and UNEP, which acts as the ITC coordinating agency and Secretariat of the Forum.

13. Sustainable development trends in the region, measured based on the ILAC indicators, are summarized in documents that could be taken into account in a future ILAC revision: an ILAC Regional Indicators Revision 2011 (UNEP 2011) and earlier a report on ILAC five years after its adoption (UNEP 2008), and a series of national ILAC reports from eight countries, with more under development.

Regional level: Latin America and the Caribbean

Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean on Integration and Development (CALC) and the Rio Group

14. The **Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)** was established through the Cancun Declaration of 23 February 2010, adopted at the Latin American and Caribbean Unity Summit in Riviera Maya, Mexico, a decision reaffirmed by the Caracas Declaration "In the Bicentenary of the Struggle for Independence Towards the Path of Our Liberators" of December 2011 (para. 3). CELAC was launched as a representative mechanism for political consultation, integration and cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean, a mechanism for dialogue and consensus uniting all 33 countries of the region, as a common space to ensure the unity and integration of the region, and in the development of economic complementarities and South-South cooperation (paras. 27, 28 and 31).

CELAC builds on and brings together two pre-existing regional mechanisms, the Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean on Integration and Development (CALC) and the Rio Group.

15. One important document to mention with respect to CALC is the **Montego Bay Action Plan of 2009**, developed to implement commitments undertaken within the framework of the Declaration of Salvador, adopted by the CALC Summit in Costa do Sauípe, Brazil, 16-17 December 2008. The Montego Bay Action Plan has been recognized in the context of CELAC and was attached as an Annex to the Cancun Declaration of 2010 (para. 87). The Action Plan includes initiatives in the following nine areas:

- a. Cooperation between regional and sub-regional integration mechanisms;
- b. International Financial Crisis;
- c. Energy;
- d. Infrastructure;
- e. Social development and eradication of hunger and poverty;
- f. Food and nutritional security;
- g. Sustainable development;
- h. Natural disasters; and
- i. Climate change

16. Expanding on area of priority VII on Sustainable Development, the Montego Bay Action Plan lists the following specific actions:

- a. Information exchanges and strengthening of cooperation within the framework of regional and sub-regional integration mechanisms;
- b. Assess cooperation in the sustainable management of natural resources and protected areas and in biodiversity, ecosystem conservation and water resources;
- c. Exchange of information on sustainable development practices, with the aim of incorporating the environmental aspects in a cross-cutting manner in regional actions and policies to achieve sustainable development, in addition to increasing contacts between key regional environmental agencies such as UNEP—Regional Caribbean Coordinating Unit (UNEP RCU), as well as UNEP-Latin American and Caribbean Office-Panama;
- d. Promotion of cooperation measures in sustainable development, including South-South cooperation, based on the various agreements, declarations and legally binding instruments for the Latin American and Caribbean countries, including the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and its subsequent agreements, and the Millennium Development Goals;

- e. Promotion of initiatives to stimulate participation of all sectors of the society in public policies based on the objective of sustainable development;
- f. Cooperation with the United Nations and its competent regional agencies and organizations in order to achieve the Sustainable Development of the Millennium Goals (Goal 7), particularly with respect to basic sanitation services;
- g. Exchange of practical and successful initiatives to support the participation of communities in the management of protected areas and ecotourism, with a view to guaranteeing environmental sustainability;
- h. Completion of an exhaustive evaluation of the level of compliance with the commitments undertaken by the region in order to identify priority projects that must be executed jointly by Latin America and the Caribbean for the sustainable development of its peoples;
- i. Political impetus to the implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development, which is an important regional strategy to promote sustainable development.

17. The Cancun Declaration itself highlights areas of cooperation including sustainable development (paras. 54-59, including a decision in para. 56 to strengthen ILAC); climate change (paras. 60-63); and natural disasters (paras. 64-70).

18. The Caracas Declaration (para. 30) adopted, under the principles of flexibility and voluntary participation, various declarations and documents adopted in specialized ministerial meetings on the following themes: social development and eradication of hunger and poverty; environment; energy; financial crisis and foreign trade; regional and sub-regional integration mechanisms, in the economic-commercial, production, and social and institutional fields; physical integration of transport and telecommunication, as well as border integration; humanitarian assistance; and migrant protection. The Declaration (para. 35) also invited the Pro-Tempore Chairmanship of CELAC to implement, during its Presidency, the Caracas Action Plan, particularly in the social, environmental, energy, economic and cultural areas, and other priority areas established in the **Caracas Action Plan of 2012**.

19. The Action Plan contains the following actions in the area of "Environment":

- a. To constitute a working group within CELAC devoted to address the environmental issues of the Region. This will serve to strengthen cooperation by fostering the coordination, harmonization and complementation of national public policies in the environmental field, as well as to generate and implement common regional plans, policies and programmes in the priority areas for sustainable development.
- b. This group will be in charge of preparing a draft regional environmental agenda.

- c. To convene a Ministers of Environment Meeting prior to the Rio+20 Summit to follow up the agreements of the Caracas Ministerial Environmental Declaration, and contribute to the success of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).
- d. To evaluate the creation of a multidisciplinary knowledge centre that allows strengthening the institutions and training the communities in the elaboration of a common agenda for managing water resources.

20. The first CELAC Summit was held on 27 and 28 January 2013 in Santiago, Chile, and adopted a Santiago Declaration. Among other things, this Declaration reaffirmed commitment to achieving internationally agreed objectives including the Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals under development (para. 54), highlighted the importance of objectives under the post-2015 Development Agenda being voluntary, universal, clear, quantifiable and adaptable to distinct national realities (para. 55), reiterated commitment to eradicating hunger and poverty in the region (para. 56), recognized the importance of results achieved in the Rio+20 outcome document “The Future we Want” (para. 57), welcomed the development of a globally binding document on mercury (para. 58), noted decisions at the 18th session of the Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (para. 59) and appreciated initiatives for regional implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration (para. 60).

21. Based on the Santiago Declaration, the CELAC Santiago Plan of Action for 2013 was adopted by the V Meeting of CELAC National Coordinators in May 2013. It covers the following 17 areas: (1) humanitarian assistance in case of disasters and other complex emergencies; (2) culture; (3) productive and industrial development; (4) social development; (5) education; (6) energy; (7) finance; (8) cooperation; (9) Latin American and Caribbean Preferential Tariff; (10) infrastructure; (11) environment; (12) migration; (13) world drug problem and crime prevention; (14) science and technology; (15) integration mechanisms; (16) indicators for integration; and (17) international policy. Actions under environment include:

- a. To hold in 2013 a meeting of the Working Group on Environment, as agreed at the I Meeting of Environment Ministers of CELAC of 3 February 2012 in Quito, Ecuador, to elaborate an environmental agenda and evaluate the creation of a multidisciplinary knowledge centre that allows strengthening of institutions and capacity building for communities in water resource management, taking into account existing initiatives on this subject;
- b. To convene, in 2014, the II Meeting of Environment Ministers of CELAC with the aim of evaluating implementation of the Quito Declaration and defining necessary follow up actions.

22. An EU-CELAC Summit was held concurrently on 26-27 January 2013 (continuing a tradition of Rio Group dialogue with the EU), under the theme “Alliance for Sustainable Development: Promoting Investments of Social and Environmental Quality”. At the Summit, among other things, Heads of State and Government expressed commitment to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions: economic, social and environmental, in an integrated and balanced way, welcomed the outcome of Rio+20, underscored the importance of a strengthened institutional framework for sustainable development, including by strengthening the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the UN Environment Programme and the prompt establishment of the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (Santiago Declaration, paras. 1, 13, 14). The Summit also adopted an EU-CELAC Action Plan 2013-2015 covering the areas of: (1) Science, research, innovation and technology; (2) Sustainable development, environment, climate change, biodiversity, energy; (3) Regional integration and interconnectivity to promote social inclusion and cohesion; (4) Migration; (5) Education and employment to promote social inclusion and cohesion; (6) The world drug problem; (7) Gender; and (8) Investments and entrepreneurship for sustainable development.

23. The First Meeting of the Environment Working Group of CELAC was held on 1-3 April 2013. The Quito Declaration, adopted at the meeting, declared among other things that, in the framework of adoption of a regional environment agenda (a draft of which was included in the working documents for the meeting), South-South cooperation will be strengthened for effective articulation of the pillars of sustainable development in a balanced, comprehensive and global manner, with the preparation of integral tools to support planning (para. 19).

Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA)

24. The ALBA group, which includes Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Venezuela, has coordinated joint statements on environment and climate change issues. The Joint Declaration of Heads of State (ALBA 2004) establishes 12 principles and priorities, including:

- Cooperation and solidarity as expressed in special plans for the least developed countries in the region, including a Continental Plan to combat Illiteracy, using modern technologies;
- Creation of an Emergency Social Fund;
- Actions to promote sustainable development through environmental protection laws, stimulating a rational use of resources and avoiding the proliferation of wasteful consumption patterns outside the realities of our peoples;

- Defense of the Latin American and Caribbean culture and the identity of peoples in the region, with particular respect to local and indigenous cultures.

25. Joint statements of ALBA countries have included a Special Declaration and a Special Communication on Climate Change (from the VII and VIII ALBA Summits respectively), and a Declaration of Ministers of Environment in the preparatory process for Rio+20 (see Quito Declaration, Preamble). The ALBA structure includes a Committee for Nature Protection, composed of Ministers of Environment, and the ALBA Group has also developed two “grannacional” projects on the environment, one on water, sanitation and hydrographic basins, and another for the creation of a Grannacional Forest Enterprise.

Ibero-American Forum of Ministers of Environment

26. This Forum held nine annual meetings, with the most recent in Chile, 11 September 2009. Water resources was a particular priority for the Forum, with a yearly Conference of Ibero-American Directors of Water (CODIA) reporting to the Forum, and development of an Ibero-American Water Programme. An Ibero-American Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change (PIACC) was also developed. In addition, recent Forum meetings discussed issues such as innovation and knowledge, biodiversity and ecosystem management, environmental quality (with an emphasis on chemicals and waste), international environmental governance, and social cohesion and social policies for more inclusive societies. The Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, to which the Forum reports, has also addressed issues of environment, recently with Special Communications on Rio+20 and on Protection of the Environment, Including Preservation of Biodiversity and Natural Resources, at the XXII Summit in Cadiz, Spain, 2012.

Latin American Integration Association (ALADI)

27. ALADI was created through the Montevideo Treaty of 1980 with the objective of pursuing Latin American integration and, in the long term, a gradual and progressive move towards a Latin American Common Market. While ALADI’s emphasis is on trade, the importance of regulations and cooperation on issues such as tourism and the environment is emphasized in Article 14 of the Treaty, and Article 50(d) states that nothing in the Treaty should prevent states from adopting measures to protect the life of humans, animals and plants.

Organization of American States (OAS)

28. OAS brings together 35 States of the Americas, and has granted permanent observer status to 67 other States, with the objective “to achieve an order of peace and justice, to promote their solidarity, to strengthen their collaboration, and to defend their sovereignty, their territorial integrity, and their independence,” and

purposes including “to promote, by cooperative action, their economic, social and cultural development.”

29. The OAS Secretariat includes a Department of Sustainable Development, and OAS Summit Declarations and Action Plans have included a number of mandates on the environment, many emanating from the Summit on Sustainable Development in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, 7-8 December 1996, which adopted a Declaration and a Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of the Americas, including initiatives in the areas of health and education; sustainable agriculture and forests; sustainable cities and communities; water resources and coastal areas; energy and minerals; institutional arrangements; financing; science and technology transfer; and public participation.

30. OAS has held two Inter-American Meetings of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development, the first in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, 4-5 December 2006, and the second in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 17-19 November 2010. One of the main outcomes of these meetings is the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2006 for the period 2006-2009, then extended in 2010 through the Santo Domingo Declaration for the period 2010-2014. The Inter-American Programme includes the following strategic areas of action:

- a. Sustainable agriculture and the sustainable management of forests and other natural resources;
- b. Water resources, land and health;
- c. Natural hazards risk management;
- d. Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
- e. Coastal zone management and adaptation to climate change;
- f. Renewable energy and energy efficiency promotion;
- g. Capacity building and institutional strengthening for sustainable development and environmental management.

Rio+20 follow-up and Sustainable Development Goals process in the region

31. The Rio+20 Outcome Document, “The Future we Want”, endorsed by General Assembly resolution, 66/288, resolved to establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process to develop a set of global sustainable development goals. As part of this process, relevant bodies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, were requested to support the regional economic commissions in collecting and compiling national inputs in order to inform this global effort (para. 251).

32. One outcome of this process in Latin America and the Caribbean was a United Nations document (United Nations 2013) entitled “Sustainable development in Latin

America and the Caribbean: Follow-up to the United Nations post-2015 agenda and Rio+20". The document summarizes advances and gaps in sustainable development in the region, includes a number of messages and elements to consider in the post-2015 development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the following lessons learned from the MDGs process:

- a. The MDG agenda was successful as a common framework for action, but needs to be adapted to regional specificities through an agenda at multiple levels and following a multi-dimensional development process;
- b. Development is not one-dimensional and does not only concern economic growth; inter-dependence, mainstreaming and synergies are of primary importance;
- c. Advances of the past decade could be lost unless construction of resilience, vulnerability reduction and crisis prevention are given priority;
- d. Development depends on the management capacity of institutions—a broad agenda of institutional strengthening needs to be implemented at the regional, national and subnational levels;
- e. Solutions are not technocratic, nor do they come from outside; endogenous development of policies and ownership of the agenda is critical.

33. On the issue of Rio+20 follow-up in the region, paragraph 88 of the Rio+20 Outcome Document is also important to mention, which established universal membership of the UNEP Governing Council (thereby giving all member States in the region a voice in the Council for the first time), and also requesting UNEP to strengthen its regional offices.

Development banks and bilateral donors

34. Environment and sustainable development is financed in the region through national governments, international organizations (in particular the Global Environment Facility (GEF)—focusing on global environmental benefits in connection with specific conventions and topics) and a range of bilateral donors. Some of these actors have been important funding sources to put into practice regional and subregional strategies on sustainable development.

35. The contribution of development banks—such as the Latin American Development Bank (CAF), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Central American Economic Integration Bank (CABEI), the Caribbean Development Bank, and the Banco del Sur—is especially important to mention since some of these institutions combine both regional strategies on sustainable development as well as dedicated resources to implement them. On the other hand, it is important to mention that much development bank financing is in the form of loans, with

normally smaller components of grant financing. This paper will focus on the region-wide banks: CAF and IDB.

36. Sustainable development and regional integration are pillars in the mission of the **Latin American Development Bank (CAF)**, created in 1970 and currently including 18 members in Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe as well as 14 private banks in the Andean region. CAF's Environmental Strategy is founded on four thematic axes:

- a. Responsible management of ecosystems and shared natural resources of regional and international importance, as well as harmonization of the region's environmental policies;
- b. Capitalization of opportunities and management of risks and impacts brought about by physical integration;
- c. Conservation of natural heritage and continued survival of the functional relationships of ecosystems that guarantee life;
- d. Raising of environmental awareness in the region so as to encourage the strategic appreciation of its natural capital.

37. In general, the environmental work of CAF falls into two categories: (1) work to ensure environmental and social issues are properly considered throughout the work of CAF; and (2) specific lines of work to support environmental management in CAF member countries. CAF's Institutional Plan for Environmental Management contains the following 10 strategic lines of work:

- a. Nature conservation;
- b. The yield and sustainable use of natural and genetic resources, and biodiversity;
- c. Strengthening of natural capital and valuing of services furnished by nature;
- d. Promotion of the use of clean and alternative energy, and energy efficiency;
- e. Creation and support for the development of environmental markets;
- f. Streamlining of urban and industrial environmental management;
- g. Prevention and treatment of risk associated with adverse natural phenomena;
- h. Support for the incorporation and development of environmental and social management by financial institutions;
- i. Support for the institutional management and strengthening of public, private, and civil society environmental organizations;
- j. Support and strengthening of civic participation in environmental management and dispute settlement processes.

38. The **Inter-American Development Bank** includes 48 member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as Asia, Europe and North America. Current strategic priorities of the Bank area reflected in the Report on the Ninth General Increase in Resources of IDB (GCI-9), and include: "Protect the environment, respond to climate change, promote renewable energy, and ensure

food security.” GCI-9 also selected the following five regional goals to track the outcomes of IDB’s work in this area:

- a. CO₂ emissions (kilograms) per US\$1 gross domestic product (GDP) (baseline 0.29 in 2006);
- b. Countries with planning capacity in mitigation and adaptation of climate change (baseline of 3 in 2009);
- c. Annual reported economic damages from natural disasters (baseline of US\$ 7.7 billion in 2007);
- d. Proportion of terrestrial and marine areas protected to total territorial area (baseline of 21% in 2009);
- e. Annual growth rate of agricultural GDP (baseline of 3.5% in 2007).

39. The GCI-9 results framework also includes a specific annual lending target for climate change initiatives, renewable energy and environmental sustainability, aiming to increase this from 5% up to 25% at the end of 2015 (para. 3.22). To help achieve this commitment, IDB developed an Integrated Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, and Sustainable and Renewable Energy (CCS). Paragraph 4.10 lists specific priority sectors to be supported under the strategy (land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF); agriculture and livestock; water resource management and sanitation; sustainable energy; sustainable urban transport; ecosystems management and biodiversity; integrated urban development and climate-resilient cities; and disaster risk management and climate change). The annexes also analyze priorities in the areas of “climate change vulnerability and adaptation”, and “climate change impacts and mitigation”. According to its 2012 Sustainability Report, IDB lending on climate change, clean energy and the environment already reached 33% that year.

40. Two IDB strategies from 1998 cover coastal and marine resources management, and integrated water resources management. CGI-9 also commits to strengthening the IDB safeguard system, among other measures through an Independent Advisory Group on Sustainability, a number of safeguard policies and a target that 85% of projects with high environmental and social risks are rated satisfactory in this respect by 2015.

Amazon

Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization

41. The Amazon Cooperation Treaty was adopted on 3 July 1978 by Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Surinam and Venezuela. Through Article 1 of the treaty, Parties agree to undertake joint actions and efforts to promote the harmonious development of their respective Amazonian territories in such a way that these joint actions produce equitable and mutually beneficial results and

achieve also the preservation of the environment, and the conservation and rational utilization of the natural resources of those territories.

42. The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), established in 1998, was strengthened through a Declaration of 26 November 2009, Manaus, Brazil where Heads of State of ACTO Member Countries decided to build an integral regional Amazonian cooperation vision incorporating economics, environment, health, indigenous and tribal peoples, education, science and technology, water resources, infrastructure, commercial navigation and facilitation thereof, tourism and communications, with a view to promoting the harmonious and sustainable development of countries' respective Amazonian spaces. It also agreed to incorporate sectoral ministerial meetings as part of the process of implementing the Strategic Agenda.

43. Ministers of Foreign Affairs, in their X meeting, approved an Amazon Strategic Cooperation Agenda with an eight year implementation horizon. The Agenda includes two cross-cutting axes: (a) Conservation and sustainable use of renewable natural resources; and (b) sustainable development (improving quality of life for the Amazon region's inhabitants). The Agenda is organized under eight topics (each with a specific objective) and, under some, a number of subtopics, each with short-medium- and long-term actions. The eight topics are as follows:

- a.** Conservation, protection and sustainable use of renewable natural resources (subtopics: 1. forests; 2. water resources; 3. management, monitoring and control of wild fauna and flora species endangered by trade; 4. protected areas; 5. sustainable use of biodiversity and promotion of biotrade; 6. research, technology and innovation in Amazonian biodiversity);
- b.** Indigenous affairs;
- c.** Knowledge management and information sharing (activities include the development of an integrated information system and standardized regional indicators);
- d.** Regional health management;
- e.** Infrastructure and transport;
- f.** Tourism;
- g.** Institutional, financial and legal strengthening; and
- h.** Emerging topics (subtopics: 1. climate change; 2. regional development; 3. energy)

44. In the Declaration of El Coca, Ecuador, on 3 May 2013, member countries of ACTO renewed their firm decision to continue strengthening the ACTO and its Permanent Secretariat both institutionally and financially, providing new and additional resources for the full implementation of the mandates entrusted to it and the Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda.

Andes

45. The Andean Community was established in 1969 and currently includes Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru as full members. In 2001, the Andean Community of Environmental Authorities (CAAAM) approved "Guidelines for Environmental Management and Sustainable Development in the Andean Community". Through Decision 596 of 2004, it created an Andean Council of Ministers of Environmental and Sustainable Development Affairs.

46. This Council approved an Andean Environmental Agenda 2006-2010, and in 2012 an Andean Environmental Agenda 2012-2016. Both the previous and current Agendas include the same three thematic axes: biodiversity, climate change and water resources. The 2012-2016 agenda is structured as follows:

- I. Biodiversity axis:
 - a. Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
 - b. Strengthening of knowledge on biodiversity;
 - c. Effective implementation of the just and equitable distribution of benefits arising from the sustainable use of biodiversity;
 - d. Regulations for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;
- II. Climate change axis:
 - a. Andean strategic framework on climate change;
 - b. Scientific knowledge of climate change;
 - c. Vulnerability;
 - d. Adaptation;
 - e. Mitigation;
 - f. International negotiations;
 - g. Instruments and tools;
- III. Water resources axis:
 - a. Integrated management of water resources.

47. The Agenda also includes four cross-cutting priorities:

- a. Research and information for environmental management;
- b. Environmental communication and education;
- c. Strengthening institutional capacities in environmental management;
- d. Patterns of sustainable production and consumption in harmony with nature.

48. The Andean Environmental Agenda 2012-2016 incorporates two thematic strategies previously adopted by the Andean Community: a Regional Biodiversity Strategy for Tropical Andean Countries, approved in July 2012 (Decision 523), and an Andean Strategy for the Integrated Management of Water Resources, approved in August 2011 (Decision 763).

49. The Regional Biodiversity Strategy includes six main objectives:

- a. To conserve and sustainably use ecosystems, species and genetic resources in situ, and carry out complementary actions ex situ;
- b. To equitably distribute the resulting benefits with due account of a correct economic valuation of the various biodiversity components;
- c. To protect and nurture the knowledge, innovations and practices of the indigenous, Afro-American and local communities on the basis of the recognition of their individual, communal and collective rights;
- d. To develop scientific knowledge, innovations and technologies for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity while preventing or minimizing risks to the environment and human health;
- e. To ensure that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are built into sectoral policies and development projects with a subregional impact; and
- f. To develop international negotiation capabilities regarding the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Andean Community.

50. The Andean Strategy for the Integrated Management of Water Resources also includes six lines of action:

- Promote capacity building and education;
- Strengthen governance and equity;
- Generate knowledge;
- Strategic understanding of water and its sustainable use;
- Combat climate change;
- Manage shared river basins.

Caribbean

Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

51. A number of priorities relating to sustainable development are reflected in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas Establishing the Caribbean Community including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. These include sustainable tourism development (Article 55), agriculture, including efficient management and sustainable exploitation of the region's natural resources, including forests and the living resources of its exclusive economic zone (Article 56(f)), natural resource management (Article 58), fisheries management and development (Article 60), forest management and development (Article 61), and environmental protection (Article 65). Environmental protection objectives and safeguards are also reflected in Article 67 (standards and technical regulations), Article 140 (development of maritime transport services), Article 185 (protection of consumer interests in the community) and Article 226 (general exceptions, stating that nothing in the Chapter shall be construed as preventing the adoption or enforcement by any Member State

of measures relating to the conservation of natural resources or the preservation of the environment). Article 141 of the Treaty establishes the Caribbean Sea as a Special Area requiring protection from the potentially harmful effects of the transit of nuclear and other hazardous wastes, dumping, pollution by oil or by any other substance carried by sea or wastes generated through the conduct of ship operations.

52. The CARICOM Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED), established under Article 15 of the Treaty, has responsibilities including to “promote and develop policies for the protection and preservation of the environment and for sustainable development.” A number of meetings of COTED on Environment and Sustainable Development have been held, the most recent in April 2012 mandated to prepare a CARICOM position for negotiations at Rio+20. CARICOM has made a number of recent declarations on subjects such as climate change and transboundary movement of hazardous and nuclear waste. It is also linked with a number of thematic programmes such as the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), the Caribbean Fisheries Mechanism (CFM) and the Task Force of the Regional Energy Policy.

53. The Port of Spain Accord on the Management and Conservation of the Caribbean Environment was issued by the First CARICOM Ministerial Conference on the Environment, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 1989, and was instrumental in putting environment on the CARICOM agenda. Among other things, through the Accord, Environment Ministers agreed on the following principal areas on which strategies for action should be developed:

- a. Orderly land use planning and coordination;
- b. Housing and human settlements;
- c. Degradation of the coastal and marine environment;
- d. Prevention and mitigation of the effects of oil spills;
- e. Solid and liquid waste management;
- f. Management of toxic and hazardous substances including the control of agricultural residues;
- g. Dumping of extra-regional, hazardous and toxic wastes in the Region;
- h. Water quality and supply;
- i. Forest and watershed management;
- j. Preservation of genetic resources;
- k. Vector control;
- l. Disaster preparedness;
- m. Preservation of cultural, archaeological and historical resources;
- n. Air and noise pollution.

54. The Accord also identified a number of strategic approaches to solution of the above problems (e.g., public education and awareness, training and development of human resources, development of policies, plans and legislative frameworks).

55. A CARICOM Environment and Natural Resources Policy Framework is under development, and was discussed at a COTED meeting on 17-18 April 2008, Georgetown, Guyana. Issues raised at the meeting included water resources management, management of the Caribbean Sea, disaster management, climate change, social elements of the Mauritius Strategy, implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) on chemicals, capacity building on MEAs, international governance, environmental data and information, and financing environmental management in the Caribbean.

56. A Special Communiqué on the Sustainable Development of the States Members of CARICOM was also issued within the framework of CELAC in Caracas, Venezuela, 3 December 2011, reaffirming the continued validity of the Barbados Programme of Action, and highlighting issues such as technology transfer and development and capacity building. Indeed, reference should be made to the Barbados Programme of Action and Mauritius Strategy as key strategy and priority documents for Caribbean countries, although they have a more general scope, covering small island developing States not only in the Caribbean but also in the Pacific and other regions.

Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

57. OECS includes nine small island members and associate members in the eastern Caribbean. At the third meeting of the OECS Ministers of Environment Policy Committee (EPC) in September 1999, the OECS Secretariat was to prepare an “OECS Charter for Environmental Management” and “a regional strategy... that will become the framework for environmental management” in the region. The St. George’s Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS (SGD) was signed by the OECS Ministers of the Environment in April 2001. Following a comprehensive revision of SGD starting in mid-2005, the revised SGD is structured around 4 major goals (each with a set of outcomes), 21 principles, and a number of targets and supportive actions, as well as a framework for monitoring progress towards goals through the use of common regional indicators. In accepting the revised SGD in November 2006, Member States of OECS re-affirmed their shared commitment to sustainable development, and accepted the challenge of meeting the SGD targets.

58. The 21 SGD principles are as follows:

Principle 1—Foster improvement in the quality of life;

Principle 2—Integrate social, economic and environmental considerations into national development policies, plans and programmes;

Principle 3—Improve on legal and institutional frameworks;

Principle 4—Ensure meaningful participation by civil society in decision making;

- Principle 5—Ensure meaningful participation by the private sector;
- Principle 6—Use economic instruments for sustainable environmental management;
- Principle 7—Foster broad-based environmental education, training and awareness;
- Principle 8—Address the causes and impacts of climate change;
- Principle 9—Prevent and manage the causes and impact of disasters;
- Principle 10—Prevent and control pollution and manage waste;
- Principle 11—Ensure the sustainable use of natural resources;
- Principle 12—Protect cultural and natural heritage;
- Principle 13—Protect and conserve biological diversity;
- Principle 14—Recognise relationships between trade and environment;
- Principle 15—Promote co-operation in science and technology;
- Principle 16—Manage and conserve energy;
- Principle 17—Negotiate and implement multilateral environmental agreements;
- Principle 18—Co-ordinate assistance from the international donor community towards OECS;
- Principle 19—Implementation and monitoring (including a common set of regional indicators);
- Principle 20—Obligations of Member States (including reporting and review of National Environmental Management Strategies);
- Principle 21—Review (e.g. of progress towards the goals, targets and indicators in SGD).

Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and the Caribbean Sea Commission (CSC)

59. ACS was established through the Cartagena Convention of 1994 and includes 25 Member States in the Greater Caribbean Region. ACS priorities include sustainable tourism, disaster risk reduction, and preservation and conservation of the Caribbean Sea.

60. On the latter issue, the ACS and partners have been pursuing the Caribbean Sea Initiative since 1998, and ACS established the Caribbean Sea Commission (CSC) in 2008 to promote and oversee the sustainable use of the Caribbean Sea. According to its Operating Statute, CSC gives priority to cooperation in the following areas:

- marine science, ocean services and marine technology;
- living resources;
- non-living resources;
- ocean law, policy and management;
- tourism, marine transport and communications;
- marine environment; and
- other fields relevant to cooperation in marine affairs.

61. A detailed report on the work of CSC is annexed to the Report of the Secretary-General "Towards the Sustainable Development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations", prepared in response to general Assembly Resolution 65/155 of 25 February 2011, and referencing a number of additional subregional plans and programmes on issues such as oil spill response and marine litter.

Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region

62. This Convention was adopted in 1983 and entered into force in 1986, and has been ratified by 25 UN Member States in the Wider Caribbean Region. The convention covers various aspects of marine pollution that the Contracting Parties must adopt measures to address, in particular:

- a. pollution from ships;
- b. pollution caused by dumping;
- c. pollution from sea-bed activities;
- d. airborne pollution; and
- e. pollution from land-based sources and activities.

63. The Convention is supplemented by three protocols, on (1) oil spills, adopted in 1983 and entering into force in 1986, (2) specially protected areas and wildlife, adopted in 1990 and entering into force in 2000, and (3) pollution from land-based sources and activities, adopted in 1999 and entering into force in 2010. UNEP's Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit (CAR/RCU) serves as Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention.

Central America

Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD)

64. CCAD is the organ of the Central American Integration System (SICA), which includes Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, and Mexico as an observer, relating to the regional agenda for environment and development (CCAD 2009). A number of thematic protocols have been developed through the CCAD framework, covering biodiversity conservation and protection of priority natural areas (1992), transboundary movement of hazardous wastes (1992), climate change (1993), management and conservation of natural forest ecosystems and development of forest plantations (1993). On 12 October 1994, member states of SICA adopted an Alliance for Sustainable Development in Central America, covering four priority areas: (1)

democracy; (2) social and cultural development; (3) economically sustainable development; and (4) sustainable management of natural resources and improvement of environmental quality. The Alliance also established 41 specific objectives, including 9 in the area of environment, and established a Central American Council for Sustainable Development, which has met nearly forty times.

65. For instance, the XXXVIII Special Meeting of the Council of Ministers, held from 8-9 May 2012 in Zamorano, Honduras, discussed a common position on key issues to be discussed at Rio+20, approved a CCAD restructuring, and discussed preparations for the next Mesoamerican Congress on Protected Areas. Under the CCAD restructuring, the Secretariat would be organized under two work areas: Environmental Governance and Integration; and Cooperation, while various existing working groups would be grouped together under three standing Technical Committees: Climate Change; Nature; and Environmental Quality Management. This session also approved creation of the first Scientific Council on Biodiversity for the Central American Integration System (SICA) which, among other things, would create a network of biodiversity experts to recommend new policies for SICA member countries.

66. The Environmental Plan of the Central American Region (PARCA) is the principal instrument to coordinate actions of CCAD. The first PARCA was adopted in 1999 covering the period 2000-2005, and was oriented to operationalize the Central American Alliance for Sustainable Development (ALIDES) and initiate the consolidation of CCAD as a whole. PARCA II covered the period 2005-2009 and included a logical framework centred on the development of instruments for environmental management and the establishment of regional, inter-sectoral partnerships.

67. PARCA III, covering 2010-2014 is focused on environmental governance based on national and international instruments, and a strong emphasis on inter-sectoral and inter-institutional work that incorporates environment in the SICA agenda and in the strategies and policies of different sectors. The main objective of the Plan is to “make the added value of regional environmental management a reality, assisting countries with the implementation of regional and national instruments for environmental management, and promoting the development of agreements and coordination mechanisms to incorporate the environmental dimension into the agendas of SICA and regional bodies responsible for sectoral policies and strategies.”

68. PARCA III includes four strategic areas, each with a number of strategic objectives, and each of which contains a number of lines of action. The strategic areas and objectives are as follows:

- **Strategic area 1: Environmental governance—influence and mainstreaming of regional policies**

- 1.1 Strengthen the application of and compliance with regional environmental policy instruments;
 - 1.2 Promote mainstreaming of environmental management and inter-institutional coordination;
 - 1.3 Promote citizen participation and public-private partnerships;
 - 1.4 Strengthen international policy management;
 - 1.5 Promote effective and coherent management of international cooperation.
- **Strategic area 2: Strengthening of national institutions and management of environmental quality**
- 2.1 Modernize and strengthen environmental legislation and norms;
 - 2.2 Promote inter-institutional arrangements to strengthen national systems of environmental management;
 - 2.3 Strengthen environmental assessment systems;
 - 2.4 Strengthen efforts to reduce pollution;
 - 2.5 Promote cleaner production and sustainable consumption;
 - 2.6 Catalyze the application of economic instruments for environmental management;
 - 2.7 Strengthen instruments for urban development and planning.
- **Strategic area 3: Management of natural heritage and priority ecosystems**
- 3.1 Promote conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
 - 3.2 Revitalize the Meso-American Biological Corridor;
 - 3.3 Strengthen the Meso-American System of Protected Areas;
 - 3.4 Promote coherent policies and governance for forest ecosystems;
 - 3.5 Promote integrated management of water resources and shared river basins;
 - 3.6 Strengthen management of marine and coastal resources and shared marine ecosystems.
- **Strategic area 4: Climate change adaptation and mitigation and integrated risk management**
- 4.1 Promote vulnerability reduction and adaptation to climate change;
 - 4.2 Promote reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and take advantage of opportunities offered by carbon markets;
 - 4.3 Promote capacity development and knowledge management;
 - 4.4 Promote integrated management of disaster risks.

69. Details of activities, responsibilities, resources and indicators of success are included in Annual Implementation Plans prepared by the CCAD Executive Secretary. In addition, the Plan recognizes a number of cross-cutting elements as a fundamental basis for work carried out under it: strengthening the sustainability of development; an integrated vision of environmental management; social participation; social equity; multiculturalism; the gender perspective; decentralized

environmental management; efficiency and effectiveness of environmental management; and reduction of social and ecological risks.

70. In 2009, SICA itself formulated its first Multi-Year Plan, incorporating the Environmental Subsystem (CCAD, CEPREDENAC¹ and CRRH²) and establishing objectives, challenges and common areas of work for the next three years as a way to incorporate issues relating to the environment, integrated management of water resources, and integrated disaster management in the System. This Multi-Year Plan, presented in the Summit of Presidents, consolidates a multi-sectoral approach to sustainable development in the region through institutions and harmonized policy and planning instruments, promoting social equity, governance, economic growth, and integrated management of the environment, water resources and risk. With this objective in mind, the Multi-Year Plan establishes the following policy priorities (see CCAD 2009, page 14):

- Strengthen coordination and cooperation instruments of the Environment Subsystem, based on a common agenda and agreements;
- Intensify efforts for institutional strengthening of the Secretariat and Specialized Institutions of the Subsystem;
- Adopt policies related to water and risk reduction, and put into operation institutional and financial mechanisms identified in both policy instruments;
- Articulate, align, update and approve, in the appropriate bodies, regional strategies and plans of the Subsystem;
- Define a Regional Climate Change Strategy, following the Guidelines approved in the Presidential Summit of Central America and the Caribbean on Climate Change and Development, May 2008 (which calls for work on regional and national strategies and plans to reduce vulnerability, promote climate change adaptation and make use of opportunities to participate in global mitigation efforts, through participation in international carbon fixation markets);
- Identify regional standards for Central America, for which to establish specific coordination and management mechanisms on risk, water and the environment.

71. The above Regional Strategy for Climate Change (ERCC) was finalized in late 2010, and envisages actions by governmental authorities, the private sector and civil society in six strategic programme area (each containing a number of operational objectives and specific lines of action):

¹ Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America

² Regional Committee for Water Resources

- Vulnerability and adaptation to climate change variability, and risk management;
- Mitigation;
- Strengthening institutional capacities;
- Education, awareness raising, communication and citizen participation;
- Technology transfer;
- Negotiations and international management.

72. A number of additional Central American agreements, strategies and institutions relating to the environment are important to mention. These include the Central American Policy for Integrated Disaster Risk Management (PCGIR), the Regional Agro-environmental and Health Strategy of Central America 2009-2024 (ERAS), the Central American Alliance on Energy and Environment (AEA), the Central American Housing Strategy 2009-2012, and the Central American Convention on Water, incorporating a Central American Plan and Strategy for Integrated Water Resources Management (PACADIRH and ECAGIRH).

Meso-American Strategy for Environmental Sustainability (EMSA)

73. The **Meso-American Strategy for Environmental Sustainability (EMSA) and Plan of Action 2013-2016 (P-EMSA)** are based on a process of consensus among Ministers of Environment in the region, with the support of CCAD and the Meso-American Project for Integration and Development, and include Central American countries, Colombia, the Dominican Republic and Mexico. EMSA's structure includes (among other things) a Council of Ministers and Technical Committees on priority themes. The Strategy aims to be a flexible mechanism that deepens and expands existing cooperation between the participating countries in three priority areas: (1) biodiversity and forests; (2) climate change; and (3) sustainable competitiveness.

74. The current Plan of Action (P-EMSA), approved at the Council of Ministers meeting on 20 May 2013, covers the period 2013-2016 (the previous Plan of Action covering 2010-2013) and establishes the following priorities and cooperation actions under each of the three EMSA priority areas:

- Under **biodiversity and forests**:
 - Priority: forest fires;
 - Regional cooperation actions:
 - Strengthen the Meso-American Biological Corridor (CBM) and coordination of biological corridors in the region;
 - Regional system of protected areas and connectivity;
 - Network of experts on the integrated management of hydrological basins;
 - Meso-American system for economic and social valuation of ecosystems.

- Under **climate change**:
 - Priorities: international negotiations; systems of monitoring and analysis for climate change;
 - Regional cooperation actions:
 - Programme of adaptation for communities, production systems and ecosystems, and climate change mitigation;
 - Network of Local Plans of Action for Climate Change (PLACC);
 - Meso-American Network to Strengthen Technical Capacities for Conservation of Forests and their Ecosystem Services;
 - Meso-American Programme for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine and Coastal Resources.
- Under **sustainable competitiveness**:
 - Priorities: measurement and labelling of carbon and water content and ecological footprint.
 - Regional cooperation actions:
 - Network of Experts for Integrated Waste Management;
 - Programme to Strengthen National Capacities for Environmental Management, Reducing Asymmetries and Law Enforcement;
 - Implementation strategy for good practices in eco-competitiveness that promote sustainable production and consumption;
 - Programme for the development of instruments and mechanisms of control and minimization of regional environmental impacts.

Gran Chaco Americano

75. A Framework Agreement for the Subregional Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of the Gran Chaco Americano was signed on 15 March 2007 between Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay. The Agreement makes reference to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNCCD), and the Framework Agreement was signed during a meeting of the Review Committee for UNCCD implementation. The Programme of Action itself was initiated in 1996 at the First Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean on Desertification in Buenos Aires, with the objective to improve socio-economic conditions of the population in the Gran Chaco Americano, preserving, conserving and restoring the ecosystem through common action for the sustainable use of natural resources, through a participatory model that takes into account the needs, expectations and demands of different stakeholders.

Mercosur

76. Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela are members of Mercosur. Environmental protection is mentioned in the preamble of the Asunción Treaty that established Mercosur and, in 2001, the Mercosur member States adopted a Framework Agreement on the Environment of Mercosur, listing 14

priority actions (Article 6). Priority thematic areas are listed in the Annex to the agreement as follows:

1. Sustainable management of natural resources:
 - a. Wild fauna and flora
 - b. Forests
 - c. Protected areas
 - d. Biological diversity
 - e. Biosecurity
 - f. Water resources
 - g. Fisheries and aquatic resources
 - h. Soil conservation
2. Quality of life and environmental planning
 - a. Basic sanitation and drinking water
 - b. Urban and industrial waste
 - c. Hazardous waste
 - d. Hazardous substances and products
 - e. Protection of the atmosphere/air quality
 - f. Land use planning
 - g. Urban transport
 - h. Renewable and/or alternative energy sources
3. Environmental policy instruments
 - a. Environmental legislation
 - b. Economic instruments
 - c. Environmental education, information and communication
 - d. Environmental monitoring instruments
 - e. Environmental impact studies
 - f. Environmental accounting
 - g. Environmentally conscious business management
 - h. Environmental technologies (research, processes and products)
 - i. Information systems
 - j. Environmental emergencies
 - k. Valuation of environmental products and services
4. Environmentally sustainable productive activities
 - a. Ecotourism
 - b. Sustainable agriculture
 - c. Environmentally conscious business management
 - d. Sustainable forest management
 - e. Sustainable fishing

77. In addition to a Protocol on Cooperation and Assistance in case of Environmental Emergencies, a number of the above areas of work have been pursued further through dedicated Mercosur policy statements. These include the Declaration of Principles of Cleaner Production (9 October 2003), the Policy for

Promotion and Cooperation in Sustainable Consumption and Production (Declaration 26/07 of 28 June 2007), and the agreement on the project for “Promoting environmental management and cleaner production in small- and medium-sized enterprises” (Decision 03/02 of 18 February 2002). Some existing Mercosur policies have been complemented with an environmental dimension, such as the General Plan of Reciprocal Cooperation and Coordination for Regional Security (complemented with respect to environmental crimes through Decision 10/00 of 29 June 2000) and the Programme for Competitiveness in MERCOSUR Production Chains (complemented with respect to environmental management and cleaner production through Decision 14/06 of 20 July 2006).

78. In 2006, Mercosur also concluded an Agreement on the Mercosur Policy for Environmental Management of Special Wastes of Universal Generation and Post-consumption Responsibility, where the member countries agreed to develop common standards for the management of wastes such as batteries, electronic waste, various mercury-containing materials (e.g., mercury lamps, thermometers), used tyres, cell phones and certain types of food waste.

79. Mercosur has held 17 regular meetings and one extraordinary meeting of its Environment Ministers (often joined by Chile as an associated State). The Meeting of Environment Ministers was established through Declaration 19/03 of 15 December 2003, and has been held twice per year most years. The most recent meeting (24 May 2013) discussed cooperation with the European Union and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), national experiences with environmental information and indicators, solid waste management, the Mercury Convention, Mercosur participation in Global Environment Facility (GEF) negotiations, the role of UNEP, and the Mercosur environmental agenda post Rio+20. The meeting also adopted a Declaration of Mercosur and Associated States on the Management of Chemical Substances and Products, and Wastes.

80. The Mercosur framework also includes a Sub Working Group No. 6 on Environment, established in 1995 through its Resolution 20/95, with ad hoc working groups on themes such as environmentally sound waste management and post-consumer responsibility; competitiveness and the environment (CyMA); combating desertification and drought; environmental goods and services; biodiversity; air quality; environmentally sound management of chemical substances and products; and the Mercosur Environmental Information System (SIAM).

Pacific

Pacific Alliance and APEC

81. The Framework Agreement establishing the Pacific Alliance was adopted on 6 June 2012 in Antofagasta, Chile, aimed at strengthening integration, growth and

competitiveness, free movement of goods, services, capital and persons, overcoming inequality, and promoting policy articulation in the region, as well as relations outside the region, with a focus on Asia and the Pacific. Broader areas of cooperation within members of the Pacific Alliance include small- and medium-sized enterprises, environment and climate change, innovation, science and technology, and social development, academic, tourism and student exchange. Initial projects include a Network of Scientific Research on Climate Change. Chile, Mexico and Peru are also members of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), again with a primary focus on trade and economic links, but with a broad scope of work including many environmental issues such as climate change and illegal logging.

South America

Union of South American Nations (UNASUR)

82. The Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) was created through a Constitutive Treaty of 23 May 2008, among 12 countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela. The objective of UNASUR (Article 2) is to set up, in a participatory, agreed manner, a space for integration and union among its peoples in the cultural, social, economic and political fields, prioritizing political dialogue, social policies, education, energy, infrastructure, financing and the environment, among others, with a view to eliminating socioeconomic inequality, in order to achieve social inclusion and citizen participation, strengthen democracy and reduce asymmetries within the framework of bolstering the sovereignty and independence of the States. Specific objectives (Article 3) include:

- (b) Social and human development with equity and inclusion to eradicate poverty and overcome inequalities in the region;
- (d) Energy integration for the integrated, sustainable use of the region's resources, in a spirit of solidarity;
- (g) The protection of biodiversity, water resources and ecosystems, as well as cooperation in preventing catastrophes and combating the causes and effects of climate change.

83. At the VI Regular Meeting of the UNASUR Council of Heads of State and Government, 30 November 2012, the Secretary General of UNSAR organized a UNASUR Conference on Natural Resources and Integrated Development of the Region. The Declaration of the above meeting highlighted, among other things, the following priorities:

- a. Three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental), with special emphasis on the eradication of poverty and concerns with the adverse effects of climate change (para. 41).

- b. The results of Rio+20, especially the outcome document “The Future we Want”, and progress of negotiations on a global instrument on mercury (para. 42).
- c. Concern with the great human impact and economic and social consequences of natural and anthropogenic disasters affecting countries in the region, and committing to continue developing public policies and strategies to prevent, respond to and mitigate their effects, as well as mechanisms for coordination and cooperation between countries in the region for reconstruction and assistance to affected populations (noting with satisfaction the holding of a High-Level Meeting of authorities for disaster risk management in the second trimester of 2013), with the aim of proposing a UNASUR mechanism that would address this theme in a comprehensive manner (para. 43).

84. Also, at the request of the Secretary General of UNASUR, ECLAC produced a report entitled “Natural resources within UNASUR: status and trends for a regional development agenda” focusing on the mining and hydrocarbon sectors as well as water resources management.

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