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

Los Cabos, Mexico

A. PREPARATORY MEETING OF HIGH-LEVEL EXPERTS
11 to 12 March 2014

Distribution:
Limited

UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIX/2
Thursday 27 February 2014
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Annotated Provisional Agenda of the Preparatory Meeting of High-Level Experts

I. Introduction

1. In the Eighteen Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (Quito, Ecuador, 31 January to 3 February 2012), the Ministers decided to continue the implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC), which is part of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.
2. Twelve years have past since the approval of ILAC. During that period, the countries of the region made significant progress in implementing ILAC, in order to move forward towards the implementation of item 7 of the Millennium Development Goals, and in implementing the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building and relevant international agreements on environment and sustainable development.
3. Following the Eighteenth Meeting of the Forum, important decisions were adopted within the framework of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development of 2012 (Rio +20), the United Nations General Assembly and the UNEP Governing Council regarding the renewal of the commitment to sustainable development and the promotion of an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for our planet and for present and future generations. In addition, the meeting reaffirmed the need to strengthen international environmental governance in the context of the institutional framework for sustainable development to promote the balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and coordination within the United Nations system.

II. Meeting Objectives

5. The Meeting of the High-Level Experts of the Nineteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean will be held from 11 to 12 March 2014 in Los Cabos, Mexico.
6. The primary aim of the Meeting of High-Level Experts is to make specific recommendations to the Ministers of Environment in light of the decisions taken by the Forum of Ministers of the Environment at their last meeting, as well as any other emerging issue that is a priority for the region. To this end, the Secretariat made the UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIX/3 document available to countries, which provides a brief description of activities implemented in the intersessional period.
7. In addition, experts will review the reports regarding the recommendations generated by the meetings of the ILAC Work Group on environmental indicators, the Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production, the Environmental Training Network and the Regional Intergovernmental Network on Air Pollution.

III. Comments on the items of the agenda of the Meeting

Item 1 of the agenda: Opening of the meeting

9. The meeting will begin with an opening ceremony on Tuesday 11 March 2014 at 8:30 a.m. with remarks from a representative of the government of Ecuador, as well as a representative of the government of Mexico, who are the outgoing and incoming Chairs of the Forum, respectively, and from a representative of UNEP, which acts as the Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. The representatives of the Interagency Technical Committee (ITC) member agencies will be invited to make two general statements.

Item 2 of the agenda: Organization of the work

2.1. Adoption of the rules of procedure of the meeting

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

2.2. Election of the Bureau

11. A proposal is made at the Preparatory Meeting of Experts that, in accordance with the practice established at previous meetings of the Forum, the Bureau shall be comprised by one Chairperson, seven Vice-Chairs, and one Rapporteur, as per the criteria of geographical representativeness and rotation established by the ministerial meetings.

2.3. Adoption of the meeting agenda and programme of sessions

12. Under this item, the experts will consider the Provisional Agenda, the Annotated Provisional Agenda and the Calendar of Sessions proposed by the Secretariat and will adopt them after incorporating the changes deemed necessary. The Calendar of Sessions appears as Annex I of this document.

Item 3 of the agenda: Follow-up to the Eighteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (Quito, Ecuador, 31 January to 3 February, 2012)

13. For discussion of this issue, the Expert Meeting will feature a series of papers and reports prepared by the Secretariat, which communicate the results of the implementation of the decisions of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers as well as the activities of the working groups or networks established by the Forum itself.

3.1 Evaluation, strengthening and governance of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean

14. In the Eighteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, it was agreed that proposals for strengthening the Forum, referred to in document UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVIII/4, would be revised based on the results of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development of 2012 (Rio +20).

3.2 Regional environmental agenda

15. To facilitate the analysis by the experts, the Secretariat prepared the document UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIX/8: Review of existing intergovernmental priorities on sustainable development, with emphasis on the environmental dimension, in Latin America and the Caribbean.

3.3 Environmental Training Network

16. During the previous meeting of the Forum of Ministers, it was agreed to continue and strengthen the activities of the Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean, and promote South-South cooperation among countries in the region, among other agreements. In the document UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIX/9, the Secretariat presents the Report of Activities of the Environmental Training Network. In addition, the document UNEP/LAC.IGWG.XIX/Ref.3 presents the report requested by governments on the activities of the Network for the period December 2008 to December 2011, which was circulated to countries of the region in April 2012.

3.4 Working Group on Environmental Indicators

17. For the discussion of this item the recommendations of the Working Group on Environmental Indicators of the ILAC contained in the document UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIX/4 will be considered, together with reference documents UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIX/Ref.1 relative to the report of the Working Group on strengthening regional networks and national capacities in terms of environmental information, and UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIX/Ref.2, which focuses on Caribbean Small Island Developing States.

3.5 Report of the Seventh Meeting of the Regional Council of Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production

18. The country representatives will have an opportunity to comment on the activities undertaken during the intersessional period by the Network of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production. In addition, the recommendations of these meetings (document UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIX/5) will be submitted for consideration by the High-Level Experts, and will be endorsed or amended for presentation to the ministerial segment for possible adoption.

3.6 Proposed Plan of Action on Air Pollution in Latin America and the Caribbean

19. Following decision 4 of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, the country representatives will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed Regional Plan of Action on Air Pollution and the draft recommendation, prepared by the experts of the Intergovernmental Regional Network for Atmospheric Pollution,

which may be found in the document UNEP/LAC.IGWG.XIX/7 Rev.1. The High-Level Experts may make recommendations that correspond to the Forum of Ministers.

3.7 Small Island Developing States

20. The international community has declared 2014 as the International Year of Small Island Developing States. Countries will establish a dialogue about the events carried out during 2014 in preparation for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (Apia, Samoa, 1 to 4 September) and possible cooperation actions that contribute to the sustainable development of the Caribbean SIDS.

3.8 Regional Initiative on Rio Principle 10

21. The country representatives of the region will be informed about the Declaration for the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration in Latin America and the Caribbean, which promotes access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters, and the activities carried out since its adoption in June 2012. The Declaration seeks a common vision on the values that should guide a future regional agreement or instrument on this subject. It will also report on the regional capacity building workshops for the implementation of the right of access at the national level conducted in 2013 (Document UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIX/Ref.4 and UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XIX/Ref.5).

Item 4 of the agenda: Conclusions and recommendations for the ministerial segment

22. The Experts will approve the recommendations, which will be submitted for consideration by the Forum of Ministers.

Item 5 of the Agenda: Review and approval of the Draft Report of the meeting and the Declaration of Los Cabos

23. Under this item, the delegations will review the draft of the Final Report to be presented by the Rapporteur for adoption, as well as the draft Declaration of Los Cabos for approval to submit for consideration to the ministerial segment, after incorporating the changes deemed necessary.

Agenda Item 6: Other matters

24. The country representatives will address any other relevant matter that has been agreed to and included on the agenda.

Agenda Item 7: Closing of the meeting

25. The meeting will conclude on Wednesday, 12 March at 12:30 p.m.

Annex I

Calendar of Sessions of the Segment of High-Level Experts

MEETING PROGRAMME

Tuesday 11 March

08.30-09.00	Opening of the Meeting of High Level Experts of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean <i>2.1. Adoption of the rules of procedure of the meeting</i>
09.00-09.30	Organization of the work <i>2.2. Election of Officers</i> <i>2.3. Approval of the Agenda and Schedule of the meeting</i>
09.30-11.15	Follow up of the Decisions of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean <i>3.1 Assessment, strengthening and governance of the Forum of Ministers of Environment</i>
11.15-11.30	Coffee break
11.30-12.30	<i>3.2 Regional Environmental Agenda</i>
12.30-13.30	<i>3.3 Environmental Training Network</i>
13.30-15.00	Lunch Side Event: Environment and Health
15.00-15.45	<i>3.4 Working Group of ILAC Environmental Indicators: next steps</i>
15.45-16.30	<i>3.5 Report of the Seventh Meeting of the Regional Sustainable Regional Council of Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production</i>
16.30-16.45	Coffee break
16.45-17.30	<i>3.6 Proposed Regional Action Plan on Air Pollution in Latin America and the Caribbean</i>
17.30-18.00	<i>3.7 International Year of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS)</i>
18.00-18.30	<i>3.8 Regional Initiative on Principle 10</i>

Wednesday 12 March

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| 8.30-10.00 | <i>4. Conclusions and recommendations of the experts for the ministerial segment on the issues raised in paragraph 3 of the agenda</i> |
| 10.00-10.15 | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 10.15-11.30 | <i>5. Review and approval of the Draft Report of the meeting and the draft Ministerial Declaration</i> |
| 11.30-12.00 | <i>6. Other matters</i> |
| 12.00-12.30 | <i>Closing of the Preparatory Meeting of High-Level Experts</i> |