

WORKING DOCUMENTS

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FIRST MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP OF THE COMMUNITY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES



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Definition and positioning of the Ministers of Environment of CELAC like the representative mechanism of political agreement.

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) was created, as expressed by the Heads of State in the decision of Caracas, 2011, and has generated the bonding process of multiple political elements in a common system, which allows political agreement and region integration. The circumstances that make this possible refer to the common aspiration to build fair, democratic and free societies to enjoy their natural resources in a sustainable manner over time while ensuring a good quality of life for the present and future generations.

In this context CELAC is currently going through an institutional development process that takes into account bilateral links between its country states as well as institutional development of its sub-regions.

And so, in the strategic environment axis, the meetings of Ministers of Environment of CELAC should be positioned as the headspace of Latin American and Caribbean coordination, that will act as an interlocutor of and in the region for environmental matters in the in the international system. Its Working Group as will function as the high technical level space, responsible for conducting the analysis and recommendations on environmental matters.

Therefore, CELAC will coordinate, organize and prioritize lines of action through its environmental agenda, which will seek to coordinate activities between countries, regional and subregional blocks and will maintain its coordinator position over time.

The environmental axis of CELAC will boost the work done by countries, regional and subregional blocs. It will avoid duplication of efforts and optimize resources. It will not allow for the merging of incompatible activities or the opposition of efforts that halt the execution of the activities and make sure that the transitions are always under consensus and will ensure the necessary resources for implementation.

So, CELAC will be the space where the progress of the regional environmental agenda will be evaluated. The agenda will promote the convergence of regional blocks into one. And it is in this context, the environmental policies will be lined up in the short, medium and long term, producing a strong and prosperous regional integration. In this space new initiatives and paradigms will be proposed. The implementation of decisions to Member Countries in environmental matters will be promoted.

CELAC will be the political space for the coordination of international positions, as well as the official interlocutor of the region and the entity in charge of defining the priority needs of the countries and will lead the decisions making within multilateral environmental agreements and interaction with multilateral agencies.



DRAFT

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA OF THE COMMUNITY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES

INTRODUCTION

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), named as such since December 3rd, 2011, in Caracas - Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, groups 33 countries and an approximated population of 603,174,000 habitants in an area of 20,453,008 km ² ¹. CELAC is the largest regional mechanism for dialogue and political agreement and represents a space for strengthening our political, economic, social and cultural linkages on the basis of welfare, peace and safety for our people, in order to consolidate a regional community.

Given that the structure of CELAC seeks to strengthen the region, it needs to have an environmental agenda to coordinate the work of the region on environment issues, to structure and prioritize the needs that must be addressed to achieve a better quality of life to its population, in harmony and respect to the rights and life cycle of nature and to compromise and lead the region to sustainable development.

CELAC is mega-biodiverse and multicultural. In this sense, the importance of recognizing the different national policies, cultural and social strategies for their implementation, as well the economic, social and environmental relationships, with its own mechanisms and regulations for environmental matters needs to be highlighted. CELAC also seeks to preserve its natural heritage, improve and create a comprehensive and harmonious society with its natural environment, with life and the welfare of the present and future generations.

CELAC is committed to the political will of Member Countries and responsible institutions regarding environment to achieve the goals set in the various commitments, international agreements and declarations.

The Environmental Agenda of CELAC is a road map that gives coherence to regional initiatives in different areas such as: biodiversity, climate change, sustainable consumption and production, management of marine and coastal resources and water resources. The Environmental Agenda promotes cooperation for the accomplishment of international agreements that address environmental issues. It also provides the coordination of common policies for environmental protection and conservation of natural resources. It gives special impetus to the promotion of sustainable development and exchange of successful national experiences, as well the building of a regional position enabling to act as a bloc in international environmental negotiations.

The Environmental Agenda of CELAC is an instrument intended to complement national policies and strategies, integrating them and putting them into operation in the short and medium term, for a real and gradual conditioning with the region characteristics.

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GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the Environmental Agenda of CELAC 2013 – 2015 is:

• To design environmental policies and strengthen national, subregional and regional capabilities on environment matters. The agenda will work on basis of the agreement, prioritization and coordination of activities in the regional and subregional forums, working groups, committees, programs, plans, etc, as well on the prioritization of financing instruments and mechanisms of implementation.

PARAMETERS OF THE AGENDA

1. Political character. In accordance with the Declaration of Caracas, the Ministers of Environment of the CELAC will be the representative mechanism for agreement on environmental policy, integration and cooperation on environmental issues of Latin American and Caribbean States as a common area to ensure the unity and integration of our region.

2. Regional dimension. The Agenda builds on the experience gained on designing and implementation of environmental agendas of the Member Countries, regional and subregional blocs.

3. Contribution of national, subregionl, regional environmental agendas. The Agenda recognizes and reflects the interests and priorities agreed by the member countries of CELAC, guiding the political environment of each member country and regional and subregional integration.

4. Foster synergies and avoid duplication of efforts. The Agenda is committed to the efficient use of technical and financial resources from cooperation and the avoidance of the duplication of effort. It intends to generate synergies with an integral vision of its topics and coordinate political positions of the various international instruments.

COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The Environmental Agenda of CELAC fosters the teamwork of many organizations and government agencies in each of the member countries, led by the Ministries of Environment of each of the Member Countries.

Coordination is headed by the Ministers of Environment of CELAC, who define, harmonize and adopt the guidelines, objectives and strategies on regional environmental policy. It delegates the responsibility of monitoring the commitments to meet the goals outlined in the Environmental



Agenda of CELAC to its Working Group .

Member Countries will regularly update information about the focal points of contact through the Governmental Institution responsible of Environment of the Pro Tempore President Country of CELAC.

MECHANISMS OF MONITORING AND EVALUATION

For the monitoring of the Environmental Agenda of CELAC, Annual Action Plans will be formulated, adopted and implemented to gather specific commitments on priority activities. These Plans will be establish deadlines, indicate the source for financial resources and register the institutional responsibilities of each country. Coordination will be made with the mechanisms mentioned above.

Furthermore, the Ministers of Environment of CELAC will define the indicators and means of verification in order to assess the implementation of the Agenda and its compliance at the end of each period.

FINANCING MECHANISMS

Member Countries are the main financial source of the Agenda. It may also have the support of various sources of international cooperation.

Management of resources will be in charge of the implementing country of each activity or program in close coordination of the Ministry of Environment that carries the Protempore Presidency.

ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA

ALTERNATIVE TEXT No 1

The Environmental Agenda have the following estrategic themes:

- Biodiversity
- Climate change
- Sustainable consumption and production
- Management of marine and coastal resources
- Water resources

Biodiversity

Objectives:

- To implement the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 and the Aichi targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- To identify, prioritize and agree on programs and initiatives at a regional level for the



conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits.

• To organize and coordinate programs and regional and subregional plans to ensure efficient use of resources and avoid duplication of activities.

Action Line No1

To update the national biodiversity strategies in the framework of the needs and views of the region.

Action Line No2

To implement the Nagoya Protocol for fair and equitable distribution of genetic resources derived in the framework of the Member Countries.

Action line No3

To strengthen and foster the exchange of information using an updated database to generate political positions concerning the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Action Line No 4

To prioritize and maintain the continuous monitoring of programs and regional and subregional plans relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well boosting the creation of marine and land conservation corridors.

Action Line No5

To prioritize and monitor international instruments that allow for the proper monitoring of forests.

Action Line No6

To agree and promote policies to control the commerce of wildlife.

Action Line No7

To agree on management policies and identification of innovative financing mechanisms.

Action Line No8

To prioritize programs and projects for capacity developing and technology transfer on biosafety matters in the region.

<u>Climate Change</u>

Objectives:

- To promote political dialogue and policy agreement on mitigation and adaptation to climate change, as well as the monitoring and prevention of natural disasters caused by this phenomenon.
- To identify, prioritize and agree on programs and initiatives at a regional level to counter the effects of climate change and reverse the trend of global warming as possible.
- To organize meetings for the exchange of positions on climate change policies, aimed at the adoption of a common regional vision for the international climate change negotiations.
- To organize and coordinate programs and regional and subregional plans to ensure efficient use of resources and avoid duplication of activities.

Action Line No 1

To strengthen the exchange of information, policy positions and their implementations, concerning



mitigation and adaptation to climate change. To Promote scientific research aimed at defining the region's vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change in various medium and long term (2020-2050) scenarios

Action Line No 2

To create and maintain an updated database of programs and plans that the region has on climate change.

Action Line No3

To prioritize and maintain continuous monitoring of programs and regional and subregional plans relevant to the fight against climate change, mitigation and adaptation and strengthen capacities for adaptation and mitigation of climate change in the region.

Action Line No4

To promote environmental policies that promote mitigation, adaptation and climate change financing through innovative mechanisms like Net Avoided Emissions (NAE). To promote regional initiatives regarding the strengthening of climate change adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer, financing and capacity building actions.

Sustainable Consumption and Production

Objectives

- To promote agreement and political dialogue on sustainable development and sustainable consumption and production through mutual support between environmental, economic and social sectors, avoiding measures that restrict or distort, in an arbitrary or unreasonable manner, the free movement of goods and services, using clean technologies that optimize natural resources, among member countries of the region.
- To identify and prioritize programs and regional and subregional plans to ensure the proper management of urban, industrial and hazardous waste; considering the precautionary principle and the concept of product life-cycle.
- To maintain a continuous monitoring, reporting and verification system, enhancing compliance with international commitments, programs and regional and subregional plans that ensure the protection of ecosystems and environmental quality by promoting new patterns of consumption and production.

Action Line No1

To identify, align, and prioritize regional policies and regulations to promote the externalization of environmental costs and their transparency. Goods and Services life cycles must be taken into account and tools that allow the free movement of environmentally friendly designed.

Action Line No2

To increase the exchange of information, for the consultation and harmonization of laws, regulations, procedures, policies and practices relating to sustainable consumption and production, as well as its social, cultural, economic and health aspects.

Action Line No3

To prioritize and monitor plans and programs to ensure access to clean and renewable energy sources.



Management of Coastal and Marine Resources

Objectives:

- To promote political dialogue and policies agreement to ensure sustainable fisheries and sustainable use of marine and coastal resources, including tourism.
- To identify and prioritize the programs, regional and sub regional plans for the conservation and efficient use of marine and coastal resources.

Action Line No 1

To strengthen the implementation of integrated coastal management as a tool for sustainable development of the coastal areas of our countries.

Action Line No 2

To promote technical assistance to ensure the maintenance of the goods and services that oceans provide.

Action Line No 3

To strengthen governance on marine and coastal biodiversity, especially in the management of fisheries.

Action Line No 4

To create and maintain an updated database of programs and plans and other initiatives in the region on the management of marine and coastal resources.

Water resources

Objectives:

- To promote political dialogue and policies agreement that foster joint actions for an integrated management, development, strengthening and sustainability of water resources.
- To identify, prioritize and agree on programs and initiatives at a regional level to guarantee the sustainable use of water resources.
- To organize and coordinate programs and regional and subregional plans to ensure the efficient use of water resources, favoring fair and equitable access to water for vulnerable populations, and avoid duplication of activities.
- To promote commitment for the region to have access to enough water for human consumption (preferably drinkable and with sufficient environmental sanitation).

Action Line No 1

To strengthen governance of water resources.

Action Line No 2

To create and keep the knowledge related to water resources updated through a database that includes the programs and plans of the region and sub regions that will be managed by the Multidisciplinary Centre.

Action line No 3

To prioritize and maintain an updated regional and sub regional database on water resources



through the Multidisciplinary Centre that allows knowledge of trends in supply and demand, with the use of new technologies for information and communication, as well as a unified system for decision making.

Action Line No 4

To favour social water management with the participation of public, private and community actors that will benefit from water resources management and are committed to their efficient and sustainable use.

Action line No 5

To create and implement programs related to stakeholder capacity building and water users, and to favor the creation of a "culture of water" for organized civil society to recognize the environmental and socio-economic cost of water.

Action line No 6

To standardize protocols for the inventory of water resources, the management of water quantity and quality and the development of a regional and sub regional information on water resources.

Cross Curricular Topic 1

Information and environmental statistics

Objectives:

• To reach a political consensus to achieve a harmonization of information and environmental statistics.

Action Line No1

To prioritize information needs of the region and its indicators.

Action Line No 2

To perform proper monitoring and harmonize programs and plans of information and environmental statistics at the regional and subregional levels.

Cross Curricular Topic 2

Investigation and environmental education

Objectives:

- To reach a policy consensus and harmonize environmental education and research, to support compliance with the goals outlined in the Regional Environmental Agenda of CELAC.
- To promote coordination of policy makers in the environmental, education and science and technology fields in the region countries for the implementation of public policies in local environmental management, formal education and citizenship, knowledge generation, innovation and technological adaptation.
- To prioritize the technical and financial support to the plans, programs and projects of environmental education and research for sustainable development of the region, seeking



their articulation with the strategic priorities of the regional environmental agenda of CELAC.

Action Line No1

To identify and evaluate the compliance of politics, plans and national programs, subregional and regional in order to promote environmental education and research.

To develop policies and guidelines for environmental education and research considering their relationship with the strategic priorities of the Regional Environmental Agenda.

Action Line No 2

To support the exchange of experiences among the public and private actors, environmental educators and researchers in the framework of bilateral and multilateral cooperation. To strengthen the continuing joint work of the National Institutions responsible of environment, education, science and technology for the development of environmental education and research.

Action Line No 3

To drive approaches and components of education and research in the planning, monitoring and evaluation of the strategic Environmental Agenda of CELAC.

To manage and optimize technical cooperation and funding for the implementation of plans, programs and projects on environmental education and research for sustainable development.

Action Line No 4

To strengthen and expand the mechanisms for information, communication and dissemination of environmental research and education in order to provide feedback information for the development of policies and strategies in the region.

<u>ALTERNATIVE TEXT No 2</u> (Note.- during the meeting the Working Group will prioritize the themes).

The Regional Environment Agenda of CELAC in coordination in coordination with the international adopted commitments and collected in "The Future We Want", recognizes the importance and will work on political agreement and regional integration of the following themes:

- Water and sanitation
- Energy
- Sustainable tourism
- Sustainable transport
- Sustainable cities and human settlements
- Oceans and seas
- Small island developing States (SIDS)
- Landlocked least developed countries
- Regional efforts
- Disaster risk reduction
- Climate change
- Forests
- Biodiversity
- Desertification, land degradation and drought
- Mountains



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- Chemicals and waste
- Sustainable consumption and production
- Mining
- Education
- Gender equality and women's empowerment on environmental matters



Innovative financial mechanisms: Strengthening of the cooperation, coordination and harmonisation of environmental public policies.

We are convinced that unity and political, economic, social and cultural integration in the context of sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean is the fundamental aspiration of the people of the region.

Since the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States is the mechanism for politics and integration of the region, it is imperative that the environmental axis defines and prioritizes the funding sources that will allow to fulfill the goals outlined in the Environmental Agenda of CELAC and to ensure the development of the region in harmony with nature and respecting its rights.

The Region recognizes the valuable role played by multilateral organizations and international cooperation, regional and sub-regional blocs of the world, which have been contributing and contribute with the development of the people of the region, respecting the decisions and requirements of the countries and avoiding the imposition of conditions on official assistance for development and funding.

Thus the Working Group for Environmental Issues of CELAC recommends Environment Ministers the following:

- To organize and coordinate with the actors of cooperation in the technical and financial sphere (refundable and nonrefundable), recalling that in the medium and long term the countries of the region should be prompted become the main source of economic, technical and human resources and also to position themselves as a supplier of horizontal cooperation for countries that require it.
- To achieve technical cooperation agreements, capacity building, technology transfer and financing. Therefore, maintaining and approaching multilateral organizations, countries, regional and sub-regional blocs to contribute with the sustainable development and the implementation of projects, programs, agendas in the region that allow fulfilling the proposed objectives, prioritized and systematized in the AACELAC, is recommended.
- To coordinate and organize the funding sources that currently exist in the region within the countries, sub- regional and regional blocks in order to avoid duplication, ineffective use of resources, halting or delaying the implementation of projects, programs or agendas in the region.
- To promote the fulfillment of the activities that are currently in progress and share the positive results and experiences in the region.
- To use traditional mechanisms for technical and financial cooperation that exists nowadays. Countries in the region are called upon to implement innovative financial mechanisms as sources of funding for the environmental axis and to support environmental and sustainable development at the same time.
- To foster the implementation of programs and projects of Net Avoided Emissions (NAE) to



combat climate change as well as compensations based on bilateral cooperation. There are also opportunities regarding taxes applied in the usage of a global public good to finance the transition to a sustainable development model.

The region is called upon to embrace these proposals as well as present new ones and work together for a region designed to be fair, to live in harmony with nature and respect its rights.



MULTIDISCIPLINARY CENTRE OF KNOWLEDGE, RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR WATER RESOURCES INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States is worldwide considered like a "wet area" for the abundance of its water resources. Around 6% of the global population is in this area and approximately 26% of available worldwide water as well, and according to ECLAC data 71% of the surface flow in the region correspond to shared basins²:

- In South America drainage basins represent 75% of the flow.
- In Mexico and Centre America this figure reaches 24%.
- The Caribbean islands have only one cross border basin.
- 24.6% of the population of the region is located around international basins.
- In many cases, countries have not yet negotiated agreements on shared water resources.
- There are international basins with a high risk of conflicts between competing uses and users for the economic exploitation of the water.

Hence an official institution is required to provide the technical criteria to direct a latinamerican and caribbean agenda regarding the usage of water and to generate the knowledge needed for its proper management by the member countries, providing timely and relevant information to the public and developing capacities in communities and civil society to allow for the proper conservation and sustainable use of this important resource.

It is recognized that the water resource is vital for life in the planet and is also fundamental for inter alia agriculture, human consumption and the energy, tourism, industry, and transport sectors. This is the reasons why the creation of a Centre of knowledge, research, technology transfer and capacity building is considered. It must be of a multidisciplinary and comprehensive nature to meet the challenges of sustainable management.

Is is also stressed that an integrated management must consider the entire cycle of water resources, including its natural formation, watershed management, consumption and environmental management of landfills. Thus involving social responsibility, greater political commitment and considerations in the public health sector.

Considering CELAC as the mechanism of policy agreement with the objective of integrating the region, it requires coordination and organization of political decisions on water resources in the region. And for this reason, it has the need for timely and accurate information to enable decision making and drive changes through time.

We invite countries in the region to recognize the efforts of the different countries in the management of water resources and the exchange of experiences engaging and timely information exchange to the proper management with emphasis on the following elements of water resource management:

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- Inventory of water sources.
- Drainage basins management, including their protection and conservation.
- Hydrological and hydrometeorological information through ongoing monitoring of flow rates and rainfall.
- Study, analysis and solutions to contamination through monitoring of water quality.
- Study of impact on different sectors (agriculture, human consumption, energy, industry, transport, etc.).
- Coordination and integration of the various Centres and programs related to the study of water resources.

For this, we propose a multidisciplinary Centre that will be created according to the considerations presented by the Ministers of Environment for its approval, which will include the following proposed management model established on base of the following terms of reference:

- The multidisciplinary Centre will be form for one representative of four sub regions: Central America, Caribbean, Pacific and Atlantic. Its permanent venue will be in a specific country and the presidency will be alternated between their representatives, the presidency will be held for a period of two years and cannot be reelected immediately.
- The host country will provide the necessary resources for the functioning of multidisciplinary Centre, and this is to long-term commitment from the State .
- The country representative of each sub region will have a subsidiary office of the Multidisciplinary Centre and keep the same commitments as the host country, ensuring the inclusion of other countries in the sub region.
- The Multidiscipliary Centre will ensure the continuous collection of information of each sub region, yielding a product every three months, which will be presented to the respective headquarters for information management.
- The representative of each sub region is committed to consolidate information from the countries and will present it during the quarterly meeting convened by the headquarters, at its disposal.
- The headquarters will be responsible during each semester to make an enlarged meeting of all member countries to review the results, discuss the procedures and guidelines for the next semester.



DRAFT

MEETING REPORT FIRTST WORKING GROUP OF ENVIRONMENT OF THE COMMUNITY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES

Assembled in Quito, Ecuador, April 1st and 2nd, 2013, delegates of [] have formed the First Working Group of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States in the strategic environment sector and:

1. Recalling that the Heads of State and Government of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, decided in the Caracas Declaration, December 2011, to launch CELAC as the representative mechanism for political agreement, cooperation and integration of Latin American and Caribbean States, as a common area to ensure the unity and integration of our region.

2. Noting the decision of the Heads of State and Government to commit our governments to instruct the mechanisms and regional organizations in order to promote communication, cooperation, coordination, complementarity and international synergy, when appropriate and through their official channels, to help achieve the integration objectives outlined in the Declaration of Caracas and ensuring optimal use of resources and complementary efforts.

3. Considering the Caracas Declaration, where the Caracas Action Plan 2012 was incorporated, with the goal of bringing to reality our political commitment to defend the unity, integration, cooperation, complementarity and solidarity of the region.

4. Recalling that the Caracas Action Plan of 2012 decree that the first working group of CELAC is responsible for the preparation of a regional environmental draft agenda and for the evaluation of the creation of a Multidiscipliary Knowledge Centre to strengthen institutions and empower communities to implement a common agenda for the management of water resources.

WE CONCLUDE AND PUT INTO CONSIDERATION OF MINISTERS THAT:

5. The Ministers of Environment of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States will coordinate, articulate and agree the activities of the working groups, forums, programs, plans and regional and subregional spaces on environmental matters that are designed in the framework of CELAC and will determine their guidelines in order to strengthen regional positions on environmental issues and sustainable development to ensure effective actions.

6. The Working Group of the Ministers of Environment of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, as the mechanism of political agreement in the region, will act independently. However, the Working Group can meet together with other spaces, but not integrate or merge with them.



7. The Ministers of Environment of CELAC and its Working Group, will be in charge of monitoring and making recommendations to the full compliance of the goals and agreements adopted under the framework of CELAC.

8. The Environmental Agenda of CELAC (AACELAC) must be built in relationship with the agenda and the global environmental process and sustainable development agreements in the framework of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20) and based on the successful experiences generated in the region, and paying special attention to the articulation with the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

9. The AACELAC should include and prioritize the needs of the countries in the region independently and seek synergies, complementarity in efforts and flexibility for their implementation.

10. The main support for the implementation of AACELAC is the technical cooperation and financing of the region itself, as well the international cooperation on environmental matters. The Countries Members will seek to promote the use of new innovative financing mechanisms for environmental matters.

11. Is necessary to promote the creation of a Multidiscipliary Knowledge Centre funded by the CELAC members to exchange information and experiences, strengthen institutional and community capacities to implement a common agenda for the management of water resources.

12. It is request that the celebration of the Second Meeting of Ministers of Environment of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States be held in the opening of the XIX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

13. Environmental authorities are called upon to cooperate, adopt and put into operation the Environmental Agenda of CELAC (AACELAC) during the Second Meeting of Ministers of Environment of CELAC, after the respective consultations and negotiations based on AACELAC created and attached to this document as a result of the First Working Group of CELAC.

14. The action plan for the AACELAC must be implemented after the Second Meeting of Ministers of Environment of CELAC, after the respective consultations and negotiations based on AACELAC and it must be created and attached to this document as a result of the First Working Group of CELAC.