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Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean**

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the Eighteenth Meeting of the Forum
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Introduction

- 1.** Following the Rio +20 Summit last year in 2012, leaving behind the expectations of the outcome of the meeting, it is now time to face the new challenge of implementing the agreements approved by all participating countries.
- 2.** There is no doubt of the growing and urgent need to take action to address the challenges that we have today regarding environmental conservation. In this regard, it is important to have a regional body to strengthen the voice of Latin America and the Caribbean and to contribute substantively, as well as receive support, in the global context, towards sustainable development.
- 3.** With the emergence of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, an opportunity arises, to strengthen the work and unify the region, to support the progress of the Latin American and Caribbean countries in the global context.
- 4.** At the last meeting of the Forum of Ministers it was decided to review the issue of governance of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, which is one of the main agenda items of this meeting.
- 5.** In the Eighteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, Ministers adopted 10 decisions; this paper provides a brief overview of activities that were carried out in this context.

Decision 1

Governance of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean

- 6.** The Government of Ecuador, as current Chair of the Forum of Ministers invites the Member Countries and the Working Group to meet the objectives set out in the First Meeting of the Working Group on Environment of CELAC and the Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment current ALC.
- 7.** It also prioritizes the generation of texts for discussion and coordination of policies during the First Meeting of the Working Group on Environment of CELAC, and promotes the use of virtual methods for meetings.

Decision 2

Environmental Education for Sustainable Development

- 8.** Environmental Education is a priority in Latin America and the Caribbean in the way towards sustainable development, and actions are being continued in this regard to improve and enhance the development of programmes to educate and create awareness among people regarding the environment.

- 9.** 9. With respect to environmental education units within Ministries of Environment, in Colombia, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development has an Education and Participation Branch with the following functions: Design strategies and mechanisms of awareness and dissemination practices for promoting responsible consumption, efficient use and conservation of natural resources and energy, proper management and disposal of waste and conscientious environmental challenges; Propose, jointly with the Ministry of National Education, plans and programmes for teachers and curriculum at various national education levels to be placed in relation to the environment and renewable natural resources and to promote mechanisms for participation and access to environmental information, in accordance with the law and others. The Ministry of Environment of Peru has also strengthened the Department of Education, Citizenship and Environmental Culture, strengthening its relationship with regional and local governments.
- 10.** Also within the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Nicaragua, an Environmental Education and Community Participation Division was created within the Planning Unit, incorporating environmental education as a cross-cutting theme.
- 11.** On strengthening the activities of the Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean, Ecuador has conducted training programmes for children and youth about Coastal Marine Protected Areas; importance of coastal marine resources through events such as beach and coastal clean-up activities, environment films and awareness through fun activities. Ecuador has also implemented a strategy of Environmental Education and Social Ecological Project in Guayaquil, to rescue the Estero Salado. Since last year, up to his date, all activities have sensitized approximately 31,925 people in the field of environmental education.
- 12.** During 2012, the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador continued to promote environmental education, as part of the National Plan for Good Living and Environmental Policy. Emphasis was given to the implementation of the Citizens' Environmental Education Plan called "We are part of the solution".
- 13.** Nicaragua has also implemented the National Human Development Plan and the National Environmental and Climate Change Strategy in the new environmental agenda, developing capacities for the care of the environment, disaster prevention, and the promotion of values to strengthen the family unit. In the period of 2007-2011, environmental education and communication were developed and strengthened with the development of three environmental textbooks for 2nd, 6th and 9th graders in 2,000 schools selected by the Ministry of Education, benefiting more than 100,000 students and 2,300 teachers. It drew the participation of 1,633,118 inhabitants, ensuring processes of change

towards a new culture of care values to our Mother Earth in the educational community. For the 2012-2016 period there is a proposal to strengthen, support and promote the organization and development of children and youth environmental movements to volunteer for the processes of environmental education and awareness.

- 14.** In Peru, the Ministry of Environment has formally expressed its willingness to upgrade their coordination of the Amazonian Communication and Environmental Education Plan – (PANACEA for its initials in Spanish), as well as their interest to participate in the Global University Partnership for Environment and Sustainability (GUPES). The Peruvian Interuniversity Environmental Network has been incorporated into the Latin American Alliance of Universities for Sustainability and Environment (ARIUSA for its initials in Spanish).
- 15.** St Lucia prepared a Public Education Draft Strategy, and an Environmental Education Manual. They also developed a draft Memorandum of Understanding to start the implementation of a National Environmental Education Programme and prepared a climate change toolkit for educators. On the issue of awareness, the implementation of a Public Awareness Strategy will begin this year. Similarly, In St. Lucia a public service announcements for radio and television, including several issues related to climate change, chemicals, and energy have been developed, as well as quarterly newsletter, a weekly environmental column in a local newspaper, and surveys of knowledge, attitudes, and practices with respect to climate change.
- 16.** UNEP has also taken several actions. The GUPES for Latin America and the Caribbean was launched on 3 December 2012 at the University of Applied and Environmental Sciences in Bogota, Colombia. During this event, a cooperation agreement with the Iberoamerican Network Alliance of Universities Environmental Sustainability (ARIUSA), and it was agreed to translate into Spanish and adapt the GUPES documentation to the region, the preparation of the draft Document for membership to GUPES and support the organization of national forums on Universities, Environment and Sustainability. Support was also provided to the Guatemala National Forum "University Alliance for Environment and Sustainability" held on 14 February 2013, organized by the National Network for Environmental Education and Research and the University of San Carlos. UNEP also supported the participation of ARIUSA in the "Green Room Event" on "Innovations in Higher Education for Sustainability: Launch of the Platform for Sustainable Performance in Education" held on 20 February 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya on the occasion of the 27th Session of the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum of UNEP.
- 17.** To promote partnerships that support the development of local environmental policies, UNESCO and UNEP are jointly organizing a Preparative Regional Meeting for the World Conference on the Decade of

Education for Sustainable Development to be held on 16-17 April 2013, in San José, Costa Rica.

- 18.** Regarding the proposal to establish an Advisory Committee of Focal Points to enable a more continuous process of consultation and decision-making, including the programming and broadcasting of activities, and the selection of candidates to benefit from these activities of the Network, UNEP is convening a meeting of the Focal Points of the Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean on 18 April 2013, in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Decision 3

Regional Financial Strategy (EFIR)

- 19.** With respect to continuing the process of implementing the EFIR and the establishment of the Technical Management Secretariat to implement the EFIR, the terms of reference for conducting a regional workshop to establish the implementation process and the EFIR Technical Management Secretariat have been drafted.
- 20.** To start the work programme of the technical Management Secretariat some possible host institutions have been identified and processes have begun to schedule high-level meetings to present the EFIR project. Progress in the implementation of this decision has been limited by the lack of resources available.

Decision 4

Air Pollution in the framework of the Intergovernmental Regional Network

- 21.** In implementing this decision, a regional consultation process for the formulation of the action plan, starting with the intergovernmental consultation on short-lived pollutants, which explored the options on reducing the climate impact of short-lived pollutants, including black carbon, methane, tropospheric ozone, and hydrofluorocarbons in climate, health and food security in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Meeting of the Regional Intergovernmental Network on Air Pollution held from 30 October to 2 November in Bogotá, Colombia. During the meeting the draft Elements for a Regional Action Plan for intergovernmental cooperation on air pollution for Latin America and the Caribbean was discussed. At the moment there is a Regional Action Plan to be presented to the Ministers at the Meeting of the Forum as a tool to facilitate discussions of the Regional Intergovernmental Network on Air Pollution.
- 22.** Regarding the strengthening of initiatives to promote public transport and non-motorized transport, production and use of fuel efficient and cleaner vehicles, Ecuador has a Plan for Improvement of Fuel Quality that is implemented by PETROECUADOR with short, medium and long term activities. This plan has allowed the sulphur content of diesel to

decrease from 7000 ppm to 500 ppm being distributed nationally for use by motor vehicles.

- 23.** In Nicaragua, there is a proposed amendment to the Decree of vehicle emissions, which regulates some of these issues and the organization with the competence to regulate fuel quality is the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM). In addition, the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure (MTI) in Nicaragua has an office that coordinates the implementation of vehicle emission regulations and promotes periodic measurements of motor vehicles emissions nationwide. The National Police also addresses this issue through its General Directorate of Traffic.
- 24.** Also, in Peru, the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Transport and Communications has issued a regulation setting the entry of light and heavy vehicles Euro3 from 2014 and Euro4 for 2016. Colombia on their part, have implemented several actions to promote the use of efficient vehicles and fuels such as: the Permanent reduction of tariffs on buses and trucks that are electric, hybrid and that run on natural gas from 15% to 5%; approval of 300 import quotas with 0% tariff on hybrid light vehicles , electric and natural gas, including 50 electric taxis for Bogota (2009 and 2012), in contingency process for 2013-2017; possibility of having access to a Sales Tax deduction for hybrid, electric and natural gas vehicles, imported for use in public transport; and a GEF pilot project of electric buses in Bogota among others.
- 25.** The Government of Colombia also continues to develop the design, structuring and implementation of the programme of physical disintegration of Private Service Vehicles (scrapping) and an initiative to implement a multilateral fund (Canada-Germany) DOT (Transport Oriented Development) as a strategy type NAMA (Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action) by March 2013.
- 26.** To promote the strengthening of the institutional areas responsible for the control of air pollution, and ensure active participation of these institutions in regional activities related to this topic, the countries of the region have undertaken several actions. In Ecuador, the Ministry of Environment developed the National Air Quality Plan, which contains programmes and projects with the institutions responsible for the control of air pollution as a means of coordinating the activities of the institutions involved in the management of air quality. In Colombia the monitoring of air quality has been strengthened after the approval, in 2010, of the Protocol for the Monitoring and Tracking of Air Quality, currently with 19 Air Quality Surveillance Systems in 17 departments and in the city of Bogota. Also in Colombia, Air Quality Surveillance Systems (internationally known as air quality monitoring network), were implemented for the city of Cartagena and industrial areas, which will be operational from the second half of 2013. In addition, there have been

15 noise maps for urban areas with over 100,000 inhabitants, among others.

- 27.** Colombia is also in the process of re-activating the National Intersectoral Air Commission (Conaire), as a process for coordinating intersectoral public actions to prevent and control air pollution. There have also been some studies in Colombia for the economic valuation of externalities associated with air pollution (in mining areas), a comprehensive study to determine the costs associated with health conducted by the World Bank (2012) and two health studies (2012) to identify possible associations between air pollution and human health effects (populations surrounding mining areas of coal mining and neighbouring populations in controlled burning sugar cane crops).
- 28.** In Nicaragua a National Policy on Air Quality, which includes a review of information on this topic, institutions and priority issue has been developed, including air quality monitoring in Managua. And in Peru 31 cities were selected to implement prioritized action plans for air quality management. The Government of Peru also established the Agency for Assessment and Environmental Control to monitor compliance with the standards of protection of air quality. The MINAM is advising local governments in the formulation and implementation of network projects to monitor air quality. The MINAM also supports municipal authorities with local action plans for air quality.
- 29.** And in Saint Lucia, the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA for its acronym in English), are joining forces to establish a network for monitoring environmental quality. EPA also provided assistance for the development of an air policy. Finally, In Saint they are working towards the procurement of a monitor to serve as a Demonstration site.
- 30.** The region has also developed capacities for generating air quality information for decision-making at national level. In Peru the Ministry of Environment will include information in their Environmental Quality Information System SINIA. At the regional level, potential funding sources have been identified for projects to mitigate short-lived climate pollutants for approval by the Conference of the Parties.
- 31.** Concerning regulations, in 2013 Colombia will continue the development of:
 - Specific regulations for the prevention and control of the generation of offensive odours.
 - A guide for modelling of air pollutants (dispersion, photochemical, by receptor and noise pollutants) and meteorological parameters.
 - A programme for reducing pollution in source areas of air pollution for the Cesar coal zone where 50M/tones of mineral coal are exploited per year.
 - The development of "best practices" for fuel service stations, with the aim of reducing their emissions.

- The issuance of emission standards for vehicles that run on natural gas.
- 32.** In strengthening the public-private dialogue, the Colombian Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development has carried out workshops with productive sectors such as brick production companies, engineering sector and crematoria, and currently holding meetings with dry cleaners, and companies dedicated to the production of concentrates and thermal treatment of animal by-products, food and charcoal. Besides this, it is important to note that the issue of national standards on air quality is done in consultation with regulated industries, ensuring the protection of the environment, human health and economic development activities.

Decision 5

Environmental Indicators

- 33.** In the Eighteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, the countries decided to endorse the recommendations of the Working Group on Environmental Indicators (WGEI), the result of the meeting held on 11 and 12 October 2011 in Mexico City and accept the WGEI work plan to continue with the methodological development of environmental indicators, harmonized at regional level, and its adoption by the countries of the region.
- 34.** Currently, Ecuador and St. Lucia are developing their first ILAC reports, and the first ILAC report for Barbados will be published this year, the first report for the English Speaking Caribbean.
- 35.** Colombia is updating its report to be submitted in 2013 and also upgraded their ILAC indicators. Ecuador launched the first set of Environmental Indicators for Ecuador that consists of 22 indicators including some ILAC indicators. Additionally it has been strengthening environmental information generation leading to the development of new indicators taking into account those that have been agreed by the WGEI. Continuing with Ecuador, they also produced technical reports that are the basis for the formulation of environmental regulations with respect to various areas of aquaculture and fisheries, such as the regulation on trawling, and the issuance of an Agreement to regulate mariculture.
- 36.** Colombia has also been working on strengthening environmental indicators of international initiatives through the informal formation of an interinstitutional committee composed of the National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM) and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS). Since 2010, this committee is scheduling an annual national agenda of environmental indicators of international initiatives to be managed, in order to respond to the requirements of the initiatives. Furthermore, two new positions were created in the Planning Advisory Office of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in order to track the indicators of

international initiatives which strengthen the ministry in the development and monitoring of indicators such as ILAC.

- 37.** St. Lucia has developed a web application for sharing geospatial data and maps, called SLING Saint Lucia National Integrated GeoNode, <http://sling.gosl.gov.lc> available. This country also developed and implemented a harmonized protocol and strategy for integrating disaster risk reduction issues, into national environmental strategies.

Decision 6

Consumption and Production (SCP)

- 38.** At the last meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment, it was decided to support the adoption of the 10 Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20), according to the Final text approved at the 19th session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-19). In this regard Ecuador worked on an approach and identification of items in the portfolio of the National Institute of Public Procurement (INCOP), encouraging SCP in the public sector. In addition, the proposed mechanism for the Ecuadorian Environmental Recognition in eco-efficient constructions was edited. In Peru, MINAM approved three policy instruments for environmental management: the National Environmental Policy, the National Environmental Action Plan (PLANAA) and the National Environmental Agenda (AgendAmbiente 2013-2014).
- 39.** Regarding the incorporation of actions that promote and strengthen SCP, in national development plans, in the case of Ecuador, the topic of Sustainable Consumption and Production, is included in the National Plan for Good Living, the National Quality Plan, Production Code, and industrialization policy. In Colombia, in 2010 the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development formulated the Sustainable Production and Consumption Policy, which has broad goals to 2014 and 2019, and seeks to guide the changing patterns of production and consumption towards environmental sustainability, contributing to business competitiveness and the welfare of the population. The goals of this Sustainable Production and Consumption Policy are included in the National Development Plan 2010-2014 (National Energy consumption/GDP; National Water Consumption/GDP, % Sustainable Public Procurement).
- 40.** On the issue of public participation in Ecuador, there are plans to structure a dialogue for the participation of various sectors as a forum for discussion, monitoring and tracking to support national decisions. In Colombia the Sustainable Production and Consumption Policy was developed with the active participation of different sectors of society and a public consultation for observations and adjustments thereof. Currently, the policy is socialized through workshops for different sectors and has strategies and lines of action with the major applying sectors

(productive sectors, government agencies, chambers of commerce, unions, banks, universities, etc.).

- 41.** To ensure the allocation of national resources, additional to external financing for the implementation of SCP, in Ecuador, those responsible for monitoring issues of sustainable production and consumption are now consolidated as the Ministry of Environment Unit, which has a budget to develop planned activities. The Ministry of Environment in Ecuador also has a procedure for calculating green GDP.
- 42.** Regarding the use of local and national skills and potential to generate regional synergies to achieve greater opportunities for supply and demand for sustainable goods and services that contribute to the promotion of SCP, in Colombia through the Buying sustainable goods and service strategy, is looking for an impact on the purchasing decisions of producers and consumers of sustainable goods and services, and developed actions to implement sustainable public procurement in different regions of the country. To the extent that state entities include environmental quality criteria in their purchasing decisions, demand will promote innovation in more sustainable products and services in the regions. Furthermore, this strategy helps to spread the culture change towards sustainable consumption and production through example
- 43.** To promote the life cycle approach as a tool for the identification of sustainability criteria and transparency in reporting features and attributes of sustainability, in Ecuador, there have been studies of life cycles of certain products, as well specialized courses taught and SCP policies of the Ministry of Environment include the importance of using the product life cycle as a vital tool in decision making. In Nicaragua, the life cycle of products is a matter of Cleaner Production (CP) that is being considered.
- 44.** In support of research, innovation and technological development, aimed at efficient use of resources, the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador, has structured the process for the Ecuadorian Environmental Certification, implementing tax exemption issues, a Best Practices mechanism in public buildings: all based on cleaner production and resource optimization. While Nicaragua, has been supporting research, innovation and technological development through the National Cleaner Production Commission through training and outreach, and the promotion and implementation of the Cleaner Production National Award both at national and regional level, with the participation of the Cleaner Production Centre of Nicaragua.

Decision 7

Chemicals, Hazardous Wastes and Other Wastes

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- 45.** The actions included in this decision are part of the commitments made by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean as part of the

International Chemical Agenda, in this context, has the following progress has been made.

- 46.** To ensure the environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste, promoting collaboration among different public and private actors, taking into account the different possibilities of each country and the need for effective transfer of resources and technology, in Ecuador, the Ministerial Agreement 161 "Regulations for the prevention and control of pollution by hazardous chemicals, hazardous wastes and others" RO 631 of 1 February 2012; Ministerial Agreement 142 "Develop national lists of hazardous chemicals, hazardous wastes and others" RO 856 of 21 December 2012.
- 47.** In Nicaragua there have been alliances between the health, environment, labour, agriculture, NGOs, and industry sectors to work on this issue in the context of the National Pesticide Commission. Additionally, Nicaragua has a profile and National Capacity Assessment of Chemicals updated up to 2010 as well as their updated inventory of expired and non expired pesticides up to 2011. However, these require updates every 2 or 3 years. To control illegal mining Peru have issued laws such as the 1103 Decree on control measures and to control the distribution, transportation and marketing of chemical products such as mercury, cyanide and hydrocarbons that can be used in illegal mining .
- 48.** In 2012, UNEP and the Secretariats of the Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions as well as SAICM (Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management at international level) supported a project in Ecuador to promote synergies in the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements related to chemicals management. And in Panama a project on rational use of pesticides was also supported. In addition to this, workshops were organized including one on hazardous waste (Buenos Aires, Nov. 2012) and another on agricultural waste (Costa Rica, December 2012). A project for integrated waste management in municipalities of Honduras has also been initiated.
- 49.** UNDP and UNIDO are cooperating with the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador for the formulation of projects that will help to eliminate PCBs and the management of contaminated sites with GEF. With the support of UNEP, a diagnosis was made of the legal, institutional and operational framework for coordinated and synergistic implementation of the chemical conventions in Ecuador.
- 50.** Ecuador also supported and participated in several meetings related to chemicals: the Expert Committee meeting held in Geneva from 19 to 23 March 2012. At the meeting a criterion was consolidated for chemical pesticides and Trichlorfon Diclofon, which were subject to review during this Committee, a Meeting with the Ministry of Environment, Public Health and Foreign Affairs which reports the possibility that no country objects to the inclusion of chrysotile in Annex III to the next Conference of the Parties of the Rotterdam Convention, the Workshop to diagnose

the legal, institutional and operational framework for coordinated and synergistic implementation of the chemical conventions in Ecuador, the negotiation process, and the decisions of GRULAC, leading the contact group on health issues, which was finally accepted into the text of the binding document at the Fifth Meeting in Geneva. Also in the Andean Committee against illegal mining that aims to implement the provisions of Decision 774, commitments have been established on the principles of safety, prevention, comprehensive, and gradual cooperation in the fight against illegal mining. The Ministry of Environment has incorporated activities under the Zero Mercury Plan. In Peru, Decree 1103 has been issued for the control of illegal mining to establish laws to control the distribution, transportation and marketing of chemical products such as mercury, cyanide and hydrocarbons that can be used in the illegal mining. Ecuador is also developing the project for the creation of tariffs with the National Customs Service (SENAE) for the restriction or prohibition of chemicals under the Convention of Rotterdam

- 51.** With regard to the intergovernmental negotiations for the elaboration of a legally binding document on mercury, Colombia helped maintain and strengthen active and coordinated participation of the countries of the region in the context of these negotiations and in that regard, the Government of Colombia hosted the Fifth regional meeting of GRULAC in November 2012. The Minamata Convention on Mercury was adopted in January 2013 in Geneva. Ecuador has initiated activities aimed at the reduction and / or elimination of mercury use on the basis of the results obtained in the Mercury Emissions Inventory and Mercury-containing products, focused on mining and consumer products for which there is a Zero Mercury Plan.
- 52.** UNEP supported the organization of the regional meeting prior to INC4 (Brasilia, 21-25 May 2012) and INC5 (Bogotá, 26 to 29 November 2012). It is also developing a binational project for Mexico and Panama on storage and disposal of mercury. UNEP is also organising the Andean Forum and the Global Forum on Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining (ASGM) to be held in Colombia and Peru, respectively. Additionally, UNEP is developing the project "Development of inventories and management plans for Mercury in Latin America and the Caribbean" including Argentina, Colombia, Cuba, Nicaragua, Peru, Paraguay and Uruguay.
- 53.** With regard to the development and implementation of policies, programmes and projects for the integrated management of hazardous wastes and other wastes, in Ecuador electrical and electronic waste have been included under the principle of the "three Rs" (reduce, reuse, recycle), consistent with the Cartagena Declaration of the Tenth Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention. Also by Ministerial Agreement 191, this country issued the National Policy on Post-consumption of electrical equipment and obsolete electronic equipment.

- 54.** As for the Montreal Protocol, Saint Lucia is implementing the import licensing system for Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS), developing capabilities of officers to monitor and control these substances. Saint Lucia also hosted the 25th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol and launched the National Association of Air Conditioning and Refrigeration. On this matter in Peru the London, Copenhagen, Montreal, and more recently (26 September 2012) the Beijing Amendment have been ratified.
- 55.** Regarding the Quick Start Programme for the effective management of chemicals in St. Lucia many goals have been accomplished and are underway: Red flagging of banned and restricted chemicals. (March, 2013); Training of handlers of chemicals on safe handling of chemicals; Development of guidelines for safe handling, transportation and storage of chemicals and chemicals waste (DRAFT March, 2013); Updated national Profile/ Schools inventory (May,2013); Training of Medical Staff in the proper diagnosis and treatment of conditions related to chemical poisoning and exposure. (April, 2013); Assessment of port storage facilities for hazardous chemicals (March, 2013), among others. Separately, Peru, during the Third International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM.3) countries agreed to expand the QSP until 2015. At regional level financial resources have been accessed through the "Chemicals Safety Project" and the "Regional Project in South America on artisanal and small scale gold mining ", both developed by the Peruvian General Directorate for Environmental Health (DIGESA) and coordinated by UNIDO and UNEP, respectively. QSP, in the framework of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, has a strategic partner to strengthen the management of chemicals in Colombia.
- 56.** In Nicaragua a Chemical Safety Node is being developed in the SINIA-MARENA platform, where the progress in the fulfilment of agreements can be uploaded, allocating human resources to constantly feed the information continuously and link with other relevant institutions.
- 57.** Peru is receiving technical assistance from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization - UNIDO and UNEP through the implementation of projects aimed at the environmentally sound management of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) including regulatory and operational activities that promote meeting the goals set out in the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, that for 2025 PCBs are eliminated and for 2028 PCB waste have been eliminated. Also in cooperation with UNIDO, a project of integrated measures to minimize releases of mercury from the activities of artisanal gold mining affecting Puyando River basin in Ecuador and the Tumbes River in Peru is under implementation. This project receives funding from the Global Environment Fund.

- 58.** Regarding the Ban Amendment to the Basel Convention, it is important to mention that the process of ratification by Colombia is well advanced, currently pending to be presented before the Congress by Bill No.112/11 "Amendment to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal of 22 March 1989, adopted by the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Geneva on September 22, 1995 ". It is expected to be adopted in April 2013 and to deposit the instrument of ratification before the end of this year. In Peru, the position to proceed with the ratification of the Ban Amendment to the Basel Convention is supported. Following this review the MINAM has been working on the supporting documentation which will also have favourable opinions of DIGESA and PRDUCE (Ministry of Production), as competent authority and focal point, prior to submission to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. For Nicaragua, a consultation is required to notify all sectors that could be involved with the initiative to be sent to the National Assembly for its legalization.
- 59.** With respect to the consultation processes, it is considered that there is still no common position from GRULAC on the level of support that should be given, a situation that was reflected in the last UNEP Governing Council (February 2013) where it was not possible to adopt a final decision on the result of the initiative of the Executive Director.

Decision 8 Landlocked Countries

- 60.** No information reported.

Decision 9 Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

- 61.** 59. UNEP is committed to supporting the Caribbean SIDS, particularly on the issue of greening their economies. To date a scoping study on Green Economy in Barbados was made, the first in Latin America and the Caribbean. Currently there are ongoing discussions between the Government of Barbados and UNEP on the next steps. UNEP also obtained funding from the European Union to implement a project called "Advancing the Caribbean States towards sustainable growth through Green Economy (ACSSG-GE). The overall objective of this project is to enable countries to promote sustainable development through the design and implementation of policies that result in a strong and sustainable economy that is environmentally responsible and socially inclusive. So far three pilot countries have been selected Haiti, Jamaica and St. Lucia to carry out preliminary studies over the coming months. A regional meeting in support of the project is also planned.
- 62.** Within SIDS, negotiations at the Doha Climate Change Conference were also undertaken under the umbrella of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

Decision 10
Central American and Caribbean Countries

63. St. Lucia, as a country of the Caribbean, participated at Rio +20, Prepared Synthesis Report around the themes of the conference; held Green Economy national consultations, and was selected as one of the Caribbean countries to participate in the Advancing Caribbean states Sustainable Development Agenda through Green Economy project sponsored by UNEP and CARICOM.

