



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة
联合国环境规划署



**Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of
Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean
Mexico City, Mexico
9-11 November 2015**

Distribution:
Limited

UNEP/LAC—IC.12015/4
14 February 2015
Original: Spanish

0

Report of the Meeting of the Regional Intergovernmental Network on Air Pollution of Latin America and the Caribbean

**Mexico City, Mexico
11-13 February, 2015**

Content

I. Introduction.....	2
Item 1. Opening of the meeting of the Regional Intergovernmental Network on Atmospheric Pollution.....	2
Item 2. Background	3
Item 3. Initiatives and activities developed by countries in the region on issues related to air pollution.....	3
a) Presentation of countries in the region and UNEP.	3
b) Regional Assessment on short-lived climate pollutants.....	7
Item 4. Debate on the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action on Atmospheric Pollution.....	8
a) Development and capacity building.	8
b) Policy dialogue, coordination and cooperation.	9
c) Monitoring and evaluation of the Regional Plan of Action	10
Item 5. Closure of the meeting	10
Annex 1. Decision 8. Regional Plan of Action on Atmospheric Pollution for Latin America and the Caribbean adopted by the XIX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean	10
Annex 2. Annotated agenda of the Meeting of the Regional Intergovernmental Network on Atmospheric Pollution of Latin America and the Caribbean	13
Annex 3. Workplan of the Regional Intergovernmental Network on Atmospheric Pollution 2015- 2016	17
List of participants	21

I. Introduction

1. Following Decision 8 adopted (annex I) by the 19th Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, by which a Regional Action Plan on Atmospheric Pollution was adopted, as an option of voluntary guide for the development of national action plans appropriate to the particularities of each country with emphasis on technical exchange, capacity building and design alternatives to reduce air pollution; the Intergovernmental Regional Network on Atmospheric Pollution of Latin America and the Caribbean met in Mexico City from 11 to 13 February 2015.
2. The Network focussed on the following areas for the implementation of the Plan of Action: 1) to progress on the guidelines for the development of national plans on atmospheric pollution; 2) to define the main elements of a regional cooperation programme; 3) to establish the Regional Action Plan Steering Committee; and, 4) to define the specific elements of a workplan of the Network.

2

Item 1. Opening of the Meeting of the Regional Intergovernmental Network on Atmospheric Pollution

3. The meeting began at 9:30 am on Wednesday, 11 February 2015. Enrique Lendo, Coordinator of International Affairs, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico (SEMARNAT). He noted the importance of the meeting for the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Atmospheric Pollution and emphasized the opportunity to enhance the regional and triangular cooperation schemes.
4. The UNEP Deputy Regional Director, Mara Murillo in her role as representative of the Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, thanked the Government of Mexico for its hospitality and support in organising the meeting. She underscored the importance that the topic of atmospheric pollution has gain at the global level. She mentioned that during the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 23 to 27 June 2014, a resolution on air quality was adopted, where Mexico, as current President of the Forum of Ministers of Environment, shared the results of the XIX Meeting of the Forum, in particular the decision on the Regional Action Plan. She highlighted the leadership from the region for positioning this topic in the environmental international agenda.
5. During the opening session, the General Director of Air Quality Management and Registry of Pollutant Releases and Transfer of SEMARNAT, M.I. Ana Patricia Martínez Bolívar, noted the relevance of the work undertaken by the Network and the process that led to the adoption of the Regional Action Plan on Atmospheric Pollution. These actions will promote the improvement of the



Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean
Mexico City, Mexico
9-11 November 2015

Distribution:
Limited

UNEP/LAC—IC.12015/4
14 February 2015
Original: Spanish

air quality in the region and will strengthen the institutional arrangements in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

6. Víctor Hugo Páramo Figueroa, the Coordinator General of Pollution and Environmental Health of the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change in Mexico, thanked the members of the Network and highlighted the relevance for Mexico of the implementation of actions at a regional level.

7. Once the opening ceremony was concluded, the Secretariat submitted the agenda and the annotated agenda (annex 2) for the consideration of the participants, which was approved.

Item 2. Background

8. The Secretariat presented the background of the Network from its establishment in the XVI meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment held in 2008 to the adoption of the Regional Plan of Action in the XIX session that took place in Los Cabos, Baja California Sur, Mexico in March 2014. She invited the governmental representatives to share their experiences, progresses and challenges to improve air quality in their respective countries.

Item 3. Initiatives and activities developed by countries in the region on issues related to air pollution.

a) Presentation of countries in the region and UNEP.

9. The Mexican delegates shared information regarding the institutional arrangements, management instruments and the legal framework that currently exists in the country for air quality management. Among the current activities it was noted the elaboration of a national registry of emissions that will gather information about greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), criteria pollutants, and short-lived climate pollutants. Mexico also offered to share the guides for the elaboration of air quality programmes that SEMARNAT has developed and that serve as guidance to local authorities in the design of their own programmes. With regard to instruments and management programmes



**Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of
Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean
Mexico City, Mexico
9-11 November 2015**

Distribution:
Limited

UNEP/LAC—IC.12015/4
14 February 2015
Original: Spanish

in Mexico, it was mentioned that 31 of 32 states have equipment to measure air quality; there are also available National Reports; a national air quality index; a National Emissions Inventory; a permit System and Registry of Pollutant Release and Transfer; 11 management programmes to reverse the deterioration of air quality (ProAire) and 7 more in process. In the case of mobile sources, there is a Clean Transportation Programme, a vehicle inspection and measurement with remote sensor programme.

10. The representative of Colombia noted that air pollution is a concern due to the increased risk of mortality and associated costs (5.7 billion/year, equivalent to 1.1% of GDP). The delegate presented the legal framework for addressing air quality. Due to the jurisdiction of local authorities for this topic, the Ministry organises regional and sectorial round-tables. These round-tables serve as a cooperation and concurrence mechanism for the design and implementation of public policies aimed at reducing air pollution in critical areas. Regarding the current challenges, he mentioned the relevance of enhancing the surveillance and information management systems, as well as harmonise all local inventories available to elaborate the national inventory. Another challenge is the implementation of tributary benefits that unleash the technological conversion in the transport sector.

11. The representative from Guatemala noted that air quality became relevant in the country as a result of the climate change policy, which was launched in 2009 and the Climate Change Act passed in 2013. This law is currently being implemented, and its main focus is adaptation, mitigation and air quality. Guatemala emphasized transportation (a sensitive issue, since 80% of the vehicles are used), is an area in which a diagnosis is being developed to establish actions to reduce emissions. Additionally, to reduce emissions from stationary sources, legislation is being developed and exists alongside a low emissions strategy. The strengthening of capacities was also highlighted as an important step.

12. The Argentinian delegate informed about the internalisation process of the activities of the Network and the adoption of the Regional Plan of Action on Atmospheric Pollution and a national plan published in the Official Gazette of a resolution. The National Action Plan of Argentina foresees to have an atmospheric pollution monitoring and control network to reduce emissions of pollutants, as well as to coordinate all data and measurements with other jurisdictions, and achieve regulation-compliance in air quality, protecting human health and the environment. The delegate underscored the efforts undertaken by Argentina in the areas of transport regulation and the



**Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of
Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean
Mexico City, Mexico
9-11 November 2015**

Distribution:
Limited

UNEP/LAC—IC.12015/4
14 February 2015
Original: Spanish

technological challenges encountered for the installation of vehicular verification centres.

13. The delegate from El Salvador's noted that the monitoring of air quality, including volcanic emissions, in the country is reflected in a weekly report available on the Internet to inform the public. This monitoring uses the Central American Air Quality Index, which provides quality ranges (good, moderate, harmful, very harmful, dangerous) for ozone, particulate matter (PM), carbon monoxide (CO), sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). During his presentation, he also noted that public transport is the major source of urban air pollution of greater San Salvador, and the need to create an air quality unit within the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

14. The delegate from Cuba commented that the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment is currently working on a Monitoring Network with intermittent data analysis and 16 monitoring stations. Last year, they began developing an inventory of emissions from both stationary and mobile sources to provide provinces with a guide and be able to have a national inventory within two years time. Furthermore, it was mentioned that Cuba has a National Climate Change Strategy. In addition, actions have been carried out in the transport sector, in response to the recent increase of the cargo vehicle fleet seeking to reduce the use of fuel with high sulphur content. Among the challenges is the need to improve the development of inventories. The country has local studies that have identified priority cities in which to fight air pollution; however, there is no national evaluation. Another challenge is the involvement of other ministries in the management of air quality.

15. During her presentation, the delegate from Ecuador noted that the country has an Environmental Management Act that establishes the principles and guidelines of environmental policy. This legal framework establishes the permissible limits, controls and sanctions in environmental matters, including regulations for the control of emissions from stationary and mobile sources and air quality measurements. Furthermore, there is in place a National Air Quality Plan, which incorporates three programmes: one on control and surveillance, another for improvement of air quality and prevention of its detriment, and other one on measures to be instrumented during alert situations. The cities of Quito, Cuenca and Guayaquil have automatic monitoring stations. There are also available inventories of emissions of criteria pollutants and green house gases in 16 cities. The delegate shared that based on a diagnosis evaluation on air quality, which showed that the main pollutant is particulate matter (PM), a national monitoring network of



**Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of
Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean
Mexico City, Mexico
9-11 November 2015**

Distribution:
Limited

UNEP/LAC—IC.12015/4
14 February 2015
Original: Spanish

PM10 and PM2.5 was implemented, prioritizing areas where agricultural burning occurs and volcanic zones. Regarding the fleet of vehicles, there is an effort to modernize taxis and passenger trucks. The sulphur content of fuel is also being reduced nationwide. There are technical revision centres for vehicles in Quito and Cuenca that undertake static tests.

16. During her presentation, the delegate from Costa Rica commented that the country has a monitoring network with 10 centralised stations in the metropolitan area of the country to measure particulate matter (PM10), which will seek to expand the network nationwide. They have technical vehicle inspection centres including static testing and they are currently evaluating the inclusion of dynamic tests. The main source of air pollution in the country is transportation. It was noted that there is currently broad legislation on the subject, much of which needs to be updated and other legislation that is not being applied. Regarding the import of vehicles, Costa Rica is working on establishing a tax tied to fuel efficiency. Among the main challenges for Costa Rica are the need to update current regulations; taking the technical vehicle inspection to the next level, as well as the promotion of synergies between the topics of climate change and air quality in order to realise co-benefits.

17. During his intervention, the representative from Saint Kitts and Nevis commented that as a small island country—the smallest in the Americas, both in size and population (approximately 38,958 inhabitants)—it does not have much industry. Historically, it had several sugar mills, however the sugar industry stopped production in 2003, diversifying the activity to other sectors of the economy. Currently, vehicles are the main source of air pollution. Saint Kitts and Nevis has a National Environmental Action Plan, which includes a strategy for managing environmental issues at the national level, including air pollution. The country has implemented actions to reduce the emissions of pollutants, including the import of cleaner fuels. Furthermore, there are other initiatives that promote the change in the use of low-carbon fuels, such as a programme to replace traditional bulbs with LED technology and the promotion of wind energy production.

18. In her presentation, the delegate from Brazil offered an overview of regulations, laws and institutions for air quality management. She noted that the 1986 Act is the regulatory reference for government action on the issue. In addition, two resolutions on pollutant emission standards for stationary and mobile sources were issued, that apply to the entire country and to which the National Programme for Control of Regional Emissions is aligned with. States and municipalities have autonomy in air quality management. Concerning the



**Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of
Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean
Mexico City, Mexico
9-11 November 2015**

Distribution:
Limited

UNEP/LAC—IC.12015/4
14 February 2015
Original: Spanish

expansion of the monitoring network, the federal government has provided funding however States do not always have the resources to continue to monitor and maintain the equipment. It was noted that Brazil has in place vehicle inspection programmes in two cities- Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. It was also noted that Brazil's regulatory framework and programme on air quality are currently under review, launching a national discussion in 2014 to promote the adoption of the guiding values of the World Health Organization on air quality over the next 15 years.

19. The Secretariat presented the support provided by UNEP through different initiatives and projects, and referring to the UNEA resolution 1/7 about "strengthening the role of UNEP in promoting air quality". Among the initiatives highlighted were the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC) and the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV). During UNEP's presentation it was underscored the importance of building synergies with the Regional Intergovernmental Network on Atmospheric Pollution; the need to achieve a better understanding of applicable measures for Latin America and the Caribbean; the importance of having reliable information for air quality management, as well as for the development of national policies and plans. These could be achieved through awareness workshops, the elaboration of studies, capacity building and the exchange of knowledge and experiences.

20. In between each country presentation, a dialogue was developed through question and answer sessions, which enriched the discussion and exchange of experiences.

b) Regional Assessment on short-lived climate pollutants.

21. At the close of the first day, Graciela Raga, researcher from the Atmospheric Science Centre of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, gave a presentation on the progress of the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Assessment on Short-Lived Climate Pollutants, an initiative supported by the CCAC. This initiative involves scientists and experts from the region. She emphasised the importance of having an assessment on short-lived climate pollutants in the region, since it is a mean for promoting cooperation among different actors as well as a source of regional information. Furthermore, the Assessment will include proposals for addressing knowledge gaps and promoting the development of capabilities. The assessment aims at establishing the basis for scientifically sound and effective decision making in



Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean
Mexico City, Mexico
9-11 November 2015

Distribution:
Limited

UNEP/LAC—IC.12015/4
14 February 2015
Original: Spanish

Latin America and the Caribbean. It was agreed that a questionnaire would be sent to the members of the Network, so that countries that voluntarily wish to participate, can provide the available information to this regard.

22. Based on the meeting agenda and after a brief summary of the first day discussions on the morning of February 12, it was recalled that some of the main issues on atmospheric pollution in the region had been identified, such as transport, agricultural burning and other activities related to oil and gas production and mining activities.

8

Item 4. Debate on the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action on Atmospheric Pollution

a) Development and capacity building.

23. Regarding the elaboration of guidelines for the development of national plans, participants exchanged information about the relevant elements that should be considered as well as the mechanisms used by the countries. It was agreed to take as basis for the elaboration of such guidelines, the ones elaborated by Mexico for the ProAires. UNEP was requested to develop a first proposal containing the following chapters:

- Establishment of stakeholders National Committee for the elaboration of the Plan
- Diagnosis: air quality, emissions inventory, impacts in human health and ecosystems, current regulation and policy, synergistic measures and other legal aspects
- Objectives, goals and indicators
- Policy Measures: standards, technical content, costs, implementation time frames, investment requirements and financing.
- Cost-benefit modelling
- Research
- Education, communication and awareness raising



Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean
Mexico City, Mexico
9-11 November 2015

Distribution:
Limited

UNEP/LAC—IC.12015/4
14 February 2015
Original: Spanish

○ Monitoring and Evaluation

24. The proposal will be sent for comments from the countries and finalised, accordingly to the established calendar of the Workplan approved by the Network (annex 3)

25. Regarding South-South and North-South cooperation programme, the members of the Network agreed a set of activities to promote air quality in the region. It was also agreed to explore possibilities of staff exchanges through cooperation mechanisms and the mobilisation of resources from other sources, even internal ones. Such activities are reflected in the Workplan approved by the network (annex 3).

26. With the aim to promote the exchange of knowledge and experiences, the Network has requested to set an online platform as stated in the Workplan approved by the Network (annex 3)

b) Policy dialogue, coordination and cooperation.

27. As a follow up of paragraph 86.a of the Regional Plan of Action, participants agreed on the constitution of the Steering Committee of the Regional Plan as follows:

- Southern cone: Brazil and Argentina
- Mesoamerica: Mexico and El Salvador
- The Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda and Dominican Republic¹
- The Andean region: Colombia and Ecuador will undertake consultations with the countries of the sub-region. They will send the information to the Secretariat before the end of February 2015.

28. It was agreed that the Steering Committee will be constituted by two representatives per sub-region, who will rotate every two years in the Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment. The Steering Committee will meet electronically once a month (First Thursday of each month). UNEP will elaborate a calendar of the meetings to be circulated among the members of the Committee for their approval. A draft agenda will be also circulated by UNEP for their consideration in advance of each meeting.

¹ Dominican Republic will be consulted. Given the case their participation is not possible, St. Lucia will take the role.



Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean
Mexico City, Mexico
9-11 November 2015

Distribution:
Limited

UNEP/LAC—IC.12015/4
14 February 2015
Original: Spanish

c) Monitoring and evaluation of the regional action plan

29. Regarding this item, participants designed and approved the Workplan 2015-2016 (annex 3) of the Network. They also agreed to continue working in order to include in the Workplan, a common frame of indicators for its monitoring and evaluation at national and regional scales taking into consideration current indicators.

30. Participants welcomed the representative from the Mario Molina Centre of Mexico and his presentation about atmospheric basins as concept and management tool for air quality. He highlighted the usefulness of this kind of tools for addressing air quality in a preventive and consistent manner in comparison to other kind of conventional schemes. Being the later usually reactive and restricted by political frontiers. Furthermore, he noted among the advantages of managing atmospheric basins, the flexibility for monitoring inter-annual changes in the sizes of the basins that are associated to possible changes in the circulation patterns. Other related challenges were also mentioned.

Item 5. Closure of the meeting

31. During the closure of the meeting, the Government of Mexico thanked participants for their active participation and the impetus provided to the work of the Network as well as their commitment to the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action on Atmospheric Pollution. Furthermore, Mexico endorsed its commitment to technically assist the countries of the region, considering the progress reached in the country in terms of air quality.

32. The Secretariat thanked participants for propelling the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action, with concrete activities that will contribute to the improvement of quality of life in the region. Similarly, the Secretariat reiterated its gratitude to the Mexican government for their support provided in the organisation of the meeting and during the event.

33. The representatives of the countries thanked the Mexican government for their hospitality and all the logistical arrangements for the gathering of the Network. In the same lines, they expressed their gratitude to UNEP for the organization of the meeting and the support for reaching concrete results. Finally they endorsed their commitment to the implementation of the Regional Plan of Action.

34. The Meeting concluded at 12:00 hours of 13 February 2015.

Annex 1. Decision 8. Regional Plan of Action on Atmospheric Pollution for Latin America and the Caribbean adopted by the XIX meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean

Decision 8 Regional Plan of Action on Atmospheric Pollution

Conscious that atmospheric pollution is a serious threat to public health, human welfare and ecosystem integrity;

Concerned about the effects and costs of air pollution in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and in the potential development of the countries of the region;

Recognizing that rapid urban, agricultural, industrial and fleet growth in the region has made air pollution a growing concern for the region;

Taking note that it is becoming increasingly clear that air pollution is a regional and global phenomenon, due to the ability of pollutants to transform and travel long distances across national boundaries and continents, so that effective cooperation at regional and subregional level is required;

Aware of the benefits of reducing air pollution and their impacts on health in the region and the contribution in the fight against climate change and its consequent effect at the local, regional and global levels;

Encouraged by the significant progress made in some cities in Latin America and the Caribbean in improving air quality as a result of both air quality management plans and other sectoral interventions;

Reaffirming that regional cooperation contribute to maximise resources, synergies and co-benefits to simultaneously address the issues of air quality problems related to the short-lived pollutants , as well as their social, environmental and health effects;

Recalling decision 4 adopted at the XVIII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, in which the Ministers instructed the Intergovernmental Regional Network on Air Pollution to continue working on the development of a Regional Action Plan on Atmospheric Pollution for Latin America and the Caribbean and submit it at its next meeting;

DECIDE

- To adopt** the regional plan of action on Atmospheric Pollution as an option of voluntary guide for the development of national action plans appropriate to the particularities of each country with emphasis on technical exchange, capacity building and design alternatives to reduce air pollution.



Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean
Mexico City, Mexico
9-11 November 2015

Distribution:
Limited

UNEP/LAC—IC.12015/4
14 February 2015
Original: Spanish

2. **To update** this regional plan of action every four years and, due to the relevance of the issue of air quality for the healthy development of our peoples and the conservation of the environment, and **encourage** governments to identify the economic resources needed for the sustainability of the air quality monitoring networks as an essential and priority element for decision-making.
3. **To request** UNEP's support for the establishment of the general criteria to prioritize actions and the organisation of the modalities of mutual assistance based on the intergovernmental diagnosis set forth in this Regional Plan of Action.
4. **To strengthen** public-private dialogue and the role of all sectors and levels of government involved in the promotion of commitments and actions to implement this Regional Action Plan in all priority areas defined, in the context of regional, subregional and national planning.
5. **To ensure** coordination among initiatives promoted in the framework of the Intergovernmental Regional Network with activities developed in the context of other agreements made by countries of the region on issues related to air pollution.
6. **To call upon** the ITC, in particular the WHO/PAHO, to support governments in the development of epidemiological studies in relation to health damages associated to air pollution in the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

Annex 2. Annotated agenda of the Meeting of the Regional Intergovernmental Network on Atmospheric Pollution of Latin America and the Caribbean

Meeting of the Regional Intergovernmental Network on Atmospheric Pollution

11-13 February 2015

13

1. Opening of the meeting

Welcoming remarks by UNEP

Welcoming remarks by the Government of Mexico

2. Background

UNEP will make a presentation on the background and objectives of the meeting.

3. Initiatives and activities developed in the context of other agreements made by countries in the region on issues related to air pollution

a) Presentation of countries in the Region and UNEP.

Participating countries will be invited to present initiatives and activities developed in the context of other agreements and contribute to the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Air Pollution.

UNEP will briefly present initiatives and activities being implemented, and that contribute to the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Air Pollution.

b) Regional assessment of short-lived climate pollutants

The National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change of Mexico will make a presentation on progress in the development of the regional assessment of short-lived climate pollutants.

4. Regional Action Plan on Air Pollution:

Country representatives of the region will discuss elements relevant for the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Air Pollution within the following areas:

a) Development and Capacity Building

i) Development and dissemination of guidelines for the development of national plans.

ii) South-South and North-South exchange programme.

iii) Regional online platform for knowledge sharing.

b) Policy dialogue, coordination and cooperation.



**Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean
 Mexico City, Mexico
 9-11 November 2015**

Distribution:
 Limited

UNEP/LAC—IC.12015/4
 14 February 2015
Original: Spanish

- i) Establishment and activities of the Regional Action Plan Steering Committee
- c) Monitoring and evaluation of the regional action plan
 - i) Elements to be included in the detailed work programme, including a common framework of indicators for monitoring and evaluation at national and regional levels, considering existing indicators.

5. Conclusions and next steps

The chair of the meeting will present the conclusions of the discussions as well as the next steps in implementing the Regional Action Plan and possible recommendations to the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

6. Closure of the meeting

Proposed Programme of the Meeting

Wednesday 11 February

09:00-09:30 hrs.	Registration
09:30-10:00 hrs.	1. Opening of the Meeting
10:00-10:30 hrs.	2. Background
10:30-11:00 hrs.	Coffee break
11:00-13:00 hrs.	3. Initiatives and activities developed in the context of other agreements made by countries in the region on issues related to air pollution. a) Presentation of countries in the region and UNEP.
13:00-14:30 hrs.	Lunch
14:30 – 16:30 hrs.	3. Initiatives and activities developed in the context of other agreements made by countries in the region on issues related to air pollution. a) Presentation of countries in the region and UNEP.
16:30-16:45 hrs.	Coffee break



Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean
Mexico City, Mexico
9-11 November 2015

Distribution:
 Limited

UNEP/LAC—IC.12015/4
 14 February 2015
Original: Spanish

16:45 – 18:00 hrs.	3. Initiatives and activities developed in the context of other agreements made by countries in the region on issues related to air pollution. b) Regional assessment of short-lived climate pollutants.
--------------------	---

Thursday 12 February

09:00 – 09:30 hrs.	Summary of the discussions of the first day
09:30 – 10:45 hrs.	4. Regional Action Plan on Air Pollution: a) Development and capacity building i) Development and dissemination of guidelines for the development of national plans. ii) South-South and North-South exchange programme. iii) Regional online platform for knowledge sharing.
10:45 – 11:00 hrs.	Coffee break
11:00 – 13:00 hrs.	4. Regional Action Plan on Air Pollution: a) Development and capacity building i) Development and dissemination of guidelines for the development of national plans. ii) South-South and North-South exchange programme. iii) Regional online platform for knowledge sharing.
13:00 – 14:30 hrs.	Coffee break
14:30 – 15:30 hrs.	b) Policy dialogue, coordination and cooperation. i) Establishment and activities of the Regional Action Plan Steering Committee
15:30 – 17:00 hrs.	c) Monitoring and evaluation of the regional action plan i) Elements to be included in the detailed work programme, including a common framework of indicators for monitoring and evaluation at national and regional levels, considering existing indicators.

Friday 13 February



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة
联合国环境规划署



**Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of
Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean
Mexico City, Mexico
9-11 November 2015**

Distribution:
Limited

UNEP/LAC—IC.12015/4
14 February 2015
Original: Spanish

09:00 – 09:30 hrs.	Summary of the discussions of the first day
09:30 – 10:30 hrs.	c) Monitoring and evaluation of the regional action plan i) Elements to be included in the detailed work programme, including a common framework of indicators for monitoring and evaluation at national and regional levels, considering existing indicators.
10:30 – 11:00 hrs	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:30 hrs.	5. Conclusions and next steps
12:30 – 13:00 hrs	6. Closure of the meeting
13:00 – 14:30 hrs	Lunch

Annex 3. Workplan of the Intergovernmental Network on Atmospheric Pollution 2015- 2016

Regional Intergovernmental Network on Atmospheric Pollution Workplan 2015-2016

17

The expert members of the Regional Intergovernmental Network on Air Pollution recommend the following workplan to promote the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Atmospheric Pollution.

Areas of work:

1. Development of guidelines for the design of national action plans
2. Regional South-South and triangular cooperation
3. Online Platform
4. Regional activities
5. Meetings of the Regional Network of experts
6. Other topics

1. Development of the guidelines for the design of National Action Plans.

- Taking as inputs the official guideline of SEMARNAT to design ProAires in Mexico and the priorities discussed at the meeting, the Secretariat will prepare a proposal for guidelines to be submitted for consideration and comments from countries in late March.
- The guidelines will include:
 - Establishment of stakeholders National Committee for the elaboration of the Plan
 - Diagnosis: air quality, emissions inventory, impacts in human health and ecosystems, current regulation and policy, synergistic measures and other legal aspects
 - Objectives, goals and indicators
 - Policy Measures: standards, technical content, costs, implementation time frames, investment requirements and financing.



Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean
Mexico City, Mexico
9-11 November 2015

Distribution:
Limited

UNEP/LAC—IC.12015/4
14 February 2015
Original: Spanish

- Cost-benefit modelling
- Research
- Education, communication and awareness raising
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Countries will review the document and make the necessary comments to be sent to the Secretariat in late April.
- The Secretariat will incorporate comments and will work on a final version to be available in mid-May

18

2. Regional South-South and triangular cooperation

A. Workshops

a. The Secretariat will produce a calendar of events in the region from countries to share information on technical meetings or workshops on air quality. Countries are invited to submit such information by late February. Such calendar will be distributed by the Secretariat by beginning-March and it will be published in the UNEP/ROLAC webpage and in the official websites of the countries.

b. Online workshops (webinars)

i . topics:

- Air Quality Monitoring (Mexico) – Wednesday, 13 May
- Inventories (Brazil) - Wednesday, 17 June
- Vehicle inspection (Chile2) -July
- Emissions registers (Chile1 and Mexico), August
- Modelling (Colombia1), September

The workshops will be announced on UNEP/ROLAC website to promote the participation of experts on air quality in the region.

ii. Languages: two continuous sessions will be held to promote the participation of all countries; one in English and one in Spanish.

² To be consulted with Chile and Colombia.



Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean
Mexico City, Mexico
9-11 November 2015

Distribution:
Limited

UNEP/LAC—IC.12015/4
14 February 2015
Original: Spanish

B. Technical cooperation

This exchange will be performed in two ways: a. responsible and technicians on air quality participate in training or receiving technical assistance on air quality issues in other country; and b. experts travel to other countries to train experts or assisting technically in air quality issues.

The countries will explore the possibilities of organizing these exchanges through existing cooperation mechanisms and explore financing options.

C. Regional Air quality research centres and experts database

Countries will send information to the Secretariat on research centres and experts dedicated to issues related to air quality to the Secretariat in order to create the database – 27 May. The Secretariat will send a template to be filled in with such information by the end of February.

D. Linking expert national networks

Countries will promote linkages among their national networks of experts.

3. Online Platform

The Secretariat will support the design of the platform in a period of 2-3 months.

Information will be organised under the following thematic sections:

- Network members and related web pages (links)
- Plans or Programmes, Policies and Regulations
- Emission inventories and registries
- Research
- Methodologies and technologies
- Modelling
- Atmospheric monitoring
- Emission maps



Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean
Mexico City, Mexico
9-11 November 2015

Distribution:
Limited

UNEP/LAC—IC.12015/4
14 February 2015
Original: Spanish

Countries will be responsible for uploading information and keeping the platform updated.

The possibility of including discussion forums and online consultation will be explored.

20

4. Regional activities

Two regional activities were agreed:

- Agricultural burning and forest fires mapping (lead by Brazil and Argentina). The online platform of the network will host the information.
 - Mapping of agricultural burning and forest fires
 - The lead countries will contact the research centres to promote joint work to develop the map.
 - Brazil and Argentina will inform the steering committee in its next meeting (April) on progress and inform on the activities to complete the mapping, in order to define the date when the map might be concluded
- Environmental Health
 - Webinar on Methodologies on valuation of costs of impacts of air pollution on health, aimed at environment experts and health professionals. UNEP will support the organization of the webinar - July

5. Meetings of experts from the Regional Network

To the extent possible, the members of the network will meet at conferences and conventions on air quality to be carried out in the region in which they participate.

6. Other topics

Synergies with the Environmental Training Network – Participants expressed their interest in linking the Regional Network to the Universities



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة
联合国环境规划署



Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean
Mexico City, Mexico
9-11 November 2015

Distribution:
Limited

UNEP/LAC—IC.12015/4
14 February 2015
Original: Spanish

Network under the Environmental Training Network, so that the issue of atmospheric pollution is considered within the work of the universities in the region. The Secretariat will transmit this interest to the members of the Environmental Training Network that will meet in Paraguay soon.

To **promote synergies with other networks/councils in the frame of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean**, such as the Council for sustainable consumption and production and the working group of environmental indicators.

Promote the commemoration at national level of the **Inter-American Day of Air Quality** (2nd Friday of August).

21

List of Participants

Antigua & Barbuda

Ms. Lael Bertide Josiah
Scientific Officer
Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Housing and the Environment
St. John's, Antigua
Tel.: (1+268) 460-9425
Email: lael.bjosiah@gmail.com

Argentina



**Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of
Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean
Mexico City, Mexico
9-11 November 2015**

Distribution:
Limited

UNEP/LAC—IC.12015/4
14 February 2015
Original: Spanish

Mr. Norberto P. Vidal
Dirección Nacional de Control Ambiental
Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable Buenos Aires,
Argentina
Tel.: (+54 11) 4348-8490
Email: n Vidal@ambiente.gob.ar

22

Belize

Mr. Edgar Ek
Deputy Chief Environmental Officer
Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries, and Sustainable Development
Belmopan, Belize
Tel.: (+501) 822-2542/2819
Email: doe.dceo@ffsd.gov.bz

Brazil

Ms. Leticia Carvalho
Directora de Calidad Ambiental
Ministerio de Medio Ambiente
Brasília, D.F., Brasil
Tel.: (+55-61) 2028-2070 / 2073
Email: leticia.carvalho@mma.gov.br

Ms. Luciano Serrao
Primera Secretária
Embajada de Brasil en Mexico
Lomas de Virreyes, Miguel Hidalgo, México
Tel.: (+52-5) 5201-4531, r. 282
Email: luciana.serrao@itamaraty.gov.br

Colombia

Mr. Mauricio Gaitán
Dirección de Asuntos Ambientales Sectorial y Urbana
Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible
Bogotá, Colombia
Tel.: (+571) 332-3400 ext 1139
Email: MGaitan@minambiente.gov.co

Costa Rica

Ms. Carolina Flores
Dirección de Calidad Ambiental
Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía
San José, Costa Rica
Tel.: (+506) 2257-1417
Email: cflores@minaet.go.cr

Cuba



**Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of
Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean
Mexico City, Mexico
9-11 November 2015**

Distribution:
Limited

UNEP/LAC—IC.12015/4
14 February 2015
Original: Spanish

Ms. Idekich García
Especialista de la Dirección de Medio
Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología y Medio Ambiente
La Habana, Cuba
Tel.: (+537) 214-4256
Email: idekich@citma.cu

Ecuador

Ms. Ruth Molina
Dirección de Control Ambiental
Ministerio del Ambiente
Quito, Ecuador
Tel.: (593-2) 398 7600 Ext 1117
Email: ruth.molina@ambiente.gob.ec

El Salvador

Mr. Pablo Ayala
Meteorólogo Ambiental
Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
San Salvador, El Salvador
Tel.: (+503) 2132-9418
Email: payala@marn.gob.sv

Guatemala

Mr. José Manuel Moro Blanco
Asesor de la Unidad de Cambio Climático
Ministerio de Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala
Tel.: (+502) 24230500 ext. 1212
Email: jmoro@marn.gob.gt

Honduras

Ms. Yaris Zavala
Coordinadora de Contaminación Atmosférica del Centro de
Estudio y Control de Contaminantes
Secretaría de Recursos Naturales y Ambiente
Tegucigalpa, M.D.C., Honduras
Tel.: (+504)) 2232-2011
Email: yariszavala@gmail.com

Mexico



**Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of
Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean
Mexico City, Mexico
9-11 November 2015**

Distribution:
Limited

UNEP/LAC—IC.12015/4
14 February 2015
Original: Spanish

Mr. Víctor Hugo Páramo Figueroa
Coordinador General de Contaminación y Salud Ambiental
Instituto Nacional de Ecología y Cambio Climático
Distrito Federal, México
Tel.: (+52-55) 5424-6400 ext. 13180
Email: victor.paramo@ineec.gob.mx

Ms. Luz Cristal Rodríguez Fernández
Subdirectora de Asuntos Internacionales
Instituto Nacional de Ecología y Cambio Climático
Distrito Federal, México
Tel.: (+52-55) 5424-6400 ext. 13284
Email: cristal.rodriguez@ineec.gob.mx

Ms. Ana Patricia Martínez Bolívar
Directora General de Gestión de la Calidad del Aire y Registro de
Emisiones y Transferencia de Contaminantes
Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
Distrito Federal, México
Tel.: (+52-55) 5624-3500
Email: ana.martinez@semarnat.gob.mx

Ms. Mireille Linares Valencia
Subdirectora de Fronteras
Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
Distrito Federal, México
Tel.: (+52-55) 5490-0900 ext. 12217
Email: mireille.linares@semarnat.gob.mx

Ms. Gloria Yáñez Rodríguez
Subdirectora de Programas de Calidad
Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
Distrito Federal, México
Tel.: (+52-55) 5624-3580
Email: gloria.yanez@semarnat.gob.mx

Ms. Sofía Urbina Loyola
Coordinadora de Programas de Bromuro de Metilo
Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
Distrito Federal, México
Tel.: (+52-55) 5624-3552
Email: sofia.urbina@semarnat.gob.mx

Ms. María Guadalupe Rojas Torres
Subdirectora de Asuntos Multilaterales para la Agenda Gris
Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
Distrito Federal, México
Tel.: (+52-55) 5628-0600 ext. 12208
Email: maria.rojas@semarnat.gob.mx

Mr. Hugo Landa Fonseca
Subdirector de Gestión y Regulación
Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
Distrito Federal, México
Tel.: (+52-55) 5624-3561
Email: hugo.landa@semarnat.gob.mx

Mr. Ives Enrique Gómez Salas
Director para la Agenda Gris
Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
Distrito Federal, México
Tel.: (+52-55) 5628-0600 ext. 12206
Email: ives.gomez@semarnat.gob.mx

Ms. Luz María Ortiz Ortíz
Directora General Adjunta de Acuerdos Ambientales
Multilaterales
Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
Distrito Federal, México
Tel.: (+52-55) 5628-3908
Email: luz.ortiz@semarnat.gob.mx

Mr. Santos Roberto Hernández López
Subdirector de Medio Ambiente
Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores
Distrito Federal, México
Tel.: (+52-55) 3686-5100 ext. 7242

Ms. Sandra Denisse Herrera Flores
Asesora Principal
Cooperación Alemana al Desarrollo (GIZ)
Distrito Federal, México
Tel.: (+52-55) 5490-2135
Email: sandra.herrera@giz.de

Ms. María de Lourdes Becerra Delgado
Líder de Proyectos



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة
联合国环境规划署



**Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of
Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean
Mexico City, Mexico
9-11 November 2015**

Distribution:
Limited

UNEP/LAC—IC.12015/4
14 February 2015
Original: Spanish

Email: shernandez@sre.gob.mx

Mr. Alberto Cruzado
Ingeniero de Proyectos
Centro Mario Molina
Distrito Federal, México
Tel.: (+52-55) 9177-1670 ext. 219
Email: acruzado@centromariomolina.org

Centro Mario Molina
Distrito Federal, México
Tel.: (+52-55) 9177-1670 ext. 208
Email: lbecerra@centromariomolina.org

25

Ms. Graciela Binimelis de Raga
Investigadora
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)
Distrito Federal, México
Tel.: (+52-55) 5622-4248
Email: raga.graciela@gmail.com

St. Kitts and Nevis

Mr. Randolph Antonio Edmead
Director of Physical Planning and Environment Department
Ministry of Sustainable Development
Basseterre, St Kitts and Nevis
Tel.: (+1 869) 465-2277
Email: phyplskb@sisterisles.kn

St. Lucia

Ms. Maier Sifflet
Sustainable Development and Environment Officer
**Ministry of Public Service Sustainable Development,
Energy, Science and Technology**
Castries, Saint Lucia
Tel.: (+1-758) 451 8746 / 468-4401
Email: maiersifflet@gmail.com

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Ms. Janeel Miller-Findlay
Director/ National Ozone Officer
Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment
Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Tel.: (+1-784) 485-6992
Email: janeel.miller@gmail.com

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente
Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة
联合国环境规划署



Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean Mexico City, Mexico 9-11 November 2015

Distribution:
Limited

UNEP/LAC—IC.12015/4
14 February 2015
Original: Spanish

Ms. Mara Angélica Murillo Correa
Deputy Regional Director
United Nations Environment Programme
Panama, Republic of Panama
Email: mara.murillo@unep.org

Ms. Dolores Barrientos
UNEP Representative in Mexico
United Nations Environment Programme
Mexico City, Mexico
Email: dolores.barrientos@unep.org

Ms. Marisela Ricardes
Consultant
United Nations Environment Programme
Panama, Republic of Panama
Email: marisela.ricardez.affiliate@pnuma.org

Ms. Monica Torres
Consultant
United Nations Environment Programme
Mexico City, Mexico
Email: monica.torres.unepmx@gmail.com

Ms. Abi Márquez
Consultant
United Nations Environment Programme
Mexico City, Mexico
Email: abi.marquez.unepmx@gmail.com