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DRAFT

**Initiative of Latin American and the
Caribbean for Sustainable
Development: Moving together towards
a Sustainable Future**

Draft¹

Initiative of Latin American and the Caribbean for Sustainable Development: Moving together towards a Sustainable Future

I. Background

1. Almost 15 years after its adoption by the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) has played a pivotal role in making sustainable development one of the top priorities in the region. ILAC has been the source of a wide range of programmes and projects focused on promoting, facilitating and enabling the integration of the social, economic and environmental dimensions at various levels, from local to national and regional.

2. ILAC has also served as a regional platform for the implementation of multilateral agreements, such as the Agenda 21 (adopted at the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992); the Barbados Programme of Action (adopted by the 1994 United Nations Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States), and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action – the Samoa Pathway (adopted at the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Apia on 1 to 4 September 2014). In particular, since its inception 10 years after Rio-92, ILAC has helped to identify and propose solutions to some of the most pressing sustainable development challenges to be met in the region. The recently adopted 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development² provides a new framework for action; it is in this context that the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean have decided to renew, affirm and strengthen the ILAC as a strategic initiative to effectively support the region in its transition towards sustainability.

3. The ILAC has promoted actions at national and regional level to address environmental problems of the region. Likewise, it has supported the mobilisation of resources for cooperation, including South-South cooperation, aimed at strengthening the capacities of environmental authorities, institutions and other stakeholders to promote the integration of environmental sustainability into policies and programmes. Some examples of the accomplishments, which provide the foundations for a new phase of the ILAC, include the following:

¹ Prepared by the Secretariat at the request of the Meeting on the Update of the Latin American Initiative for Sustainable Development, based on the discussions of the intersessional meeting and the inputs sent by Member States.

² As a follow-up, on 25 September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity, which also seeks to strengthen universal peace and access to justice. Member States of the United Nations adopted a resolution recognising that the greatest challenge in the world today is to eradicate poverty. They reaffirmed that “Poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development”. The Agenda 2030 proposes 17 Goals and 169 targets for Sustainable Development, integrated and indivisible, and encompassing economic, social and environmental dimensions. In this regard, States expressed their resolve to protect the planet against degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, inclusive and quality education, sustainable management of natural resources and urgent measures to address climate change, in order to meet the needs of present and future generations; and to ensure that all human beings can enjoy a prosperous and fulfilling life.

- i. Progress on the mainstreaming of environmental sustainability in development and sectoral planning and programming at the national level and strengthening of the institutional capacity on environment at the subregional, national and local levels.
- ii. The establishment of networks³ of experts on ILAC priority areas, which have allowed the exchange of experiences, knowledge and information. These networks have focused on capacity building activities, experiences sharing and technical assistance, mostly on the basis of South-South cooperation, with the support of the Interagency Technical Committee.
- iii. The positioning of the interests and priorities of the region in international political fora and negotiations. This includes the cohesive contributions to the development of an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing, reflected in the Nagoya Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity; the regional meetings of climate change negotiators to share views, identify and discuss elements of convergence with regard to the international negotiations; the regional contribution to the adoption of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) in Rio+20; and, the region's leadership in the negotiations of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, among others.
- iv. The implementation of specific actions through the cooperation of developed countries, multilateral and regional organizations, including financing and strengthening of South-South cooperation.
- v. South-South cooperation activities promoted through the implementation of joint projects at the regional and subregional levels, and the development of technical studies and evaluations for informed decision-making on environmental policies, such as assessments on the environmental situation at regional, subregional or local levels, and others on emerging and priority issues for the region.

II. ILAC Objectives

4. In light of the results of the implementation of ILAC, as well as the commitments made by the region in the multilateral framework, and changes at regional and global levels, the objectives of the Latin American and the Caribbean Initiative are as follows:
 - a) To consolidate the ILAC as a platform for regional cooperation and policy dialogue to fast-track the transition towards sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean.
 - b) To continue and deepen the efforts being made by the governments and peoples of the region in the development of regional cooperation, based on the political will of States, to mobilise resources and leverage investments to support the implementation of an integrated approach towards sustainable development and sustainable productive activities

³ The network of ILAC environmental indicators, which has identified indicators to measure progress in its implementation, as well as common methodologies; the Council of Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production, which was key for the approval of the Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Conference on Sustainable Development, 2012, and that actively participates in its implementation; the Intergovernmental Network on Atmospheric Pollution, whose work led to the adoption and implementation of the Regional Plan of Action on Atmospheric Pollution; the Environmental Training Network through which an active community of practice has been consolidated among education units of Ministries of Environment, resulting in the exchange of experiences on policies and programmes on environmental education at national and local level as well as increased cooperation between universities and ministries of environment in the development of environmental indicators of universities.

and livelihoods, encouraging active participation of the private sector and civil society in these activities.

- c) To promote the implementation of sustainable development models backed by public policies and enabling conditions, which facilitate the development and application of clean technologies, financing sources, human resources capacity-building, and institutional strengthening for sustainable development.
- d) To assess on a regular basis the progress made by the region in its transition towards sustainability, particularly through the adoption and implementation of a common framework of sustainability indicators, taking into account each country's social, economic, environmental and political conditions, or to the needs of sub-regional groups of countries; and,
- e) To contribute to identifying and prioritising financial, technical and institutional mechanisms to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Samoa Pathway, as well as to contribute to the dialogue in the framework of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

5. This Initiative will also identify suitable topics for harmonization and cooperation with ministerial fora from other regions, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Asia and Pacific and the Council of Ministers of the Middle Eastern Region, among others.

III. Priority areas, Guiding Goals and Indicative Purposes

6. The proposals for action identified in this Initiative form the basis for future cooperation and high-level political and policy dialogue among and by the Latin American and Caribbean countries in terms on sustainable development imperatives, taking into consideration the progress that has already been made. The region recognizes that, to fully achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, means of implementation and possible partnerships must be identified and mobilised, both from national and international sources. The Guiding Goals and Indicative Purposes are presented below:

a) Protection and restoration of ecosystems and their biological diversity.

- ✓ Effective conservation of key ecosystems such as forests, mangroves and drylands.
 - i. Guarantee the sustainable management of key ecosystems in the region, ensuring the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in line with obligations under international agreements.
 - ii. By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, and significantly restore degraded forests and increase afforestation and reforestation globally.
- ✓ *Territory included in protected areas.*

- i. Significantly increase the territory in the region under protected area regimes, defining buffer zones and biological corridors, and with effective management plans in place.
 - ii. Enhance the effective protection of existing designated terrestrial and marine protected areas through south-south cooperation and capacity building initiatives.
- ✓ *Genetic resources - Equitable sharing of benefits.*
- i. Adopt regulatory frameworks for access to genetic resources, as well as for fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from their use, including the protection of traditional knowledge, compatible with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol.
- ✓ *Marine biodiversity*
- i. Ensure the conservation and proper use of the Caribbean Basin Countries' marine resources, with particular emphasis on marine and coastal ecosystems.

b) Water resources management

- ✓ Access to clean and safe water
- i. By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.
 - ii. By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.
 - iii. Substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater.
 - iv. By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.
 - v. Implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate and supporting the participation of local communities.
- ✓ *Watershed management.*
- i. Improve the institutional arrangements for the integrated management of water basins and aquifers, among other measures, by strengthening basin organisations and establishing water basin committees with the participation of all subnational levels of government, civil society, the private sector and all involved stakeholders.
- ✓ *Management of marine and coastal areas and their resources.*
- i. Implement local, sub-national, national, sub-regional and regional action plans to sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, and adopt measures for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.
 - ii. Prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds.

- iii. Adopt a holistic and integrated approach to the management of marine ecosystems, through the development of a comprehensive strategy for their conservation and sustainable use.
- iv. By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.
- v. Develop and strengthen regional, sub-regional and national systems to address overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

c) Climate change

- i. Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries through, among others stepping up investments in adaptation, including ecosystem-based approaches.
- ii. Develop and strengthen policies and programmes towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement and other climate agreements through, among others, the implementation of the iNDCs, the improvement of the sustainability of the energy mix in many countries, as part of the iNDCs; the mobilisation of resources for the investment in clean technologies, including from the private sector; acquisition, adaption and deployment of appropriate technology; and, strengthening of human and institutional capacity, including the design, promulgation, and effective enforcement of good environmental legislation.
- iii. Integrate climate change measures into all relevant national policies, strategies and planning.

d) Vulnerability, human settlements and sustainable cities

✓ *Land-use planning.*

- i. Implement land-use planning policies and plans from a sustainable development approach.
- ii. Incorporate risk management instruments in land-use planning.
- iii. Promote sustainable urban-rural linkages in land-use policies and plans.

✓ *Sustainable, resilient and inclusive cities*

- i. Substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements, including urban and suburban centres, adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and resilience to disasters.
- ii. Implement integral programmes towards sustainability in cities regarding, among others, proper management of solid waste and sanitation, urban energy supplies, building efficiency codes, improvement of air quality and transport systems. Implement programmes to ensure access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all.

✓ *Air pollution.*

- i. Regulate the pollutant emission sources to reduce the concentration in the air of polluting emissions.

✓ *Solid waste*

- i. Reduce significantly waste generation through policies for prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.
- ii. Implement integrated management of wastes (domestic and industrial), including appropriate treatment and final disposal.

✓ *Vulnerability to anthropogenic disasters and those caused by natural phenomena.*

- i. Implement and strengthen regional risk management cooperation mechanisms to lessen the impact of anthropogenic disasters and those caused by natural phenomena, including setting up a regional early warning system and forming immediate response groups.
- ii. By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters
- iii. Mainstream disaster risk reduction strategies in national development plans.

✓ *Vulnerability and risk management*

- i. Refine and apply vulnerability indicators and map the most vulnerable areas at the regional level.
- ii. Incorporate vulnerability and resilience indicators into national development plans.

e) Social issues, including health, inequity and poverty

✓ *Health and environment.*

- i. Implement policies and plans to reduce environmental risks that cause damage to health, in particular those transmitted by water, vectors, air pollution and exposure to chemical substances.
- ii. By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, and significantly reduce their release into air, water and soil.
- iii. Increase the proportion of green and healthy areas per inhabitant.

✓ *Environment and job creation.*

- i. Promote the formulation and implementation of sustainable development projects and programmes that will help to create jobs and avoid migration and displacement.
- ii. Support the development of climate-resilient and sustainable livelihood opportunities in local communities

✓ *Poverty and inequity.*

- i. Integrate environmental sustainability in the multidimensional poverty indexes.
- ii. Create sustainable livelihoods by developing micro-enterprises; and,

- iii. Formulate and implement strategies for women, youth, indigenous peoples, people of African descent, migrants, disabled and other minority groups of the region in accordance with human rights and fundamental freedoms.

f) Economic issues, including competitiveness, trade and sustainable patterns of consumption and production

- ✓ 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP)
 - i. Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency and sustainable patterns of consumption and production, to support the decoupling of economic growth from environmental degradation and resource use.
 - ii. Increase the regional support for the development and implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) and the SDGs and increase the regional participation in the development and implementation of the 10YFP programmes, considering the region's priorities.
 - iii. Provide further support for the development and/or implementation of regional, subregional and national SCP strategies/programmes with an active inter-ministerial and multi-stakeholder engagement.
 - iv. Consolidate and strengthen the regional network of Cleaner Production and Resource Efficiency Centres, in order to scale up the adoption of key SCP approaches.
 - v. Promote awareness raising and the enabling conditions (regulatory, economic and infrastructural) to adopt sustainable lifestyles in harmony with nature at regional, subregional and national levels.
- ✓ *Energy.*
 - i. By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the energy mix.
 - ii. Substantially increase energy efficiency in the region (lighting, appliances, buildings, and transport).
- ✓ *Economic instruments.*
 - i. Strengthen the use of economic and financial instruments to promote greater resource efficiency and an inclusive, low-carbon and sustainable growth, considering the new approaches at the global level.
 - ii. Development of methodologies for evaluating investments that maximize the economic, environmental and social benefits; and the establishment of standards, for example for transport and buildings.
 - iii. Establish a system of economic instruments and incentives to redirect investment in key economic sectors, as well as to enhance sustainable productive and industrial processing that will save natural resources and energy and eventually reduce the amount of effluents discharged into water, land and the air.

g) Governance and institutional arrangements

- ✓ Governance

- i. Develop and implement regulatory frameworks and sectoral regulations that include appropriate instruments and mechanisms to implement sustainable development policies, programmes and projects.
 - ii. Strengthen mechanisms and institutional coordination for compliance with and enforcement of environment law.
- ✓ *Environmental education.*
 - i. Improve and strengthen the incorporation of the environmental dimension into formal and non-formal education.
 - ii. Incorporate environmental sustainability as cross-cutting issue in primary, secondary and university education
- ✓ *Training and capacity building of human resources.*
 - i. Build capacities to address vulnerabilities in the region.
 - ii. Establish, for the public and private sectors and for the community in general, programmes for capacity building and the creation of new skills needed towards low-carbon, resources efficient and resilient economies in the transition to sustainable development.
 - iii. Build capacity among financial institutions in environmental and social risk analysis
- ✓ *Evaluation and indicators.*
 - i. Strengthen environmental information systems and effectively integrate them into national information systems for sustainable development.
 - ii. Develop and implement an assessment process to follow up the progress made towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, adopting national and regional sustainability indicators that respond to the region's unique social, economic and political features.
- ✓ *Participation of society.*
 - i. Establish appropriate mechanisms to ensure that environmental information is available to the public in a clear and accessible manner.
 - ii. Establish and strengthen participation mechanisms to deal with sustainable development issues, with representatives from government, non-government and major groups in all countries of the region, in accordance with Principle 10.
 - iii. Encourage corporate social and environmental stewardship

IV. Guiding principles for the Initiative

- 7. The operational guidelines of this Initiative are:
 - i. Make progress in the accomplishment of the multilateral commitments, including those under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Samoa Pathway, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Doha Declaration, as well as those

- reflected in the multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant global agreements;
- ii. Highlight the challenges that the countries of the region face as middle-income economies, particularly with regard to access to financing under preferential terms without conditions.
 - iii. Ensure the full implementation of Rio Principle 10, regarding access to information and environmental justice, strengthening the participation of relevant non-governmental stakeholders and the transparency in the decision-making processes and supported by adequate and relevant education, knowledge and skills.
 - iv. Contribute to an inclusive, resource efficient and resilient economic growth to face potential global and regional crises;
 - v. Move towards a development model that promotes transformational change, including changing the metrics of development and measuring profitability beyond economics and promoting the welfare of people and the planet, consolidating a new ethical practice for sustainable development.
 - vi. Recognise, demonstrate and incorporate the value of ecosystems and their services in public and private investment decision-making processes, prioritizing based on the environmental, social and economic impacts.
 - vii. Establish new and strengthen existing public-private partnerships and/or scientific panels to promote the technical-scientific progress contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and the implementation of an integrated approach to sustainable development.
 - viii. Promote a participatory and inclusive follow-up and monitoring process of ILAC.
 - ix. Fully implement the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities of States, and the respect for the sovereign rights of each country over its natural resources;
 - x. Reiterate the commitment to the precautionary principle as defined in the Rio Declaration, as a key component of environmental policy, so as to safeguard our natural and social heritage;
 - xi. Urge developed countries to fulfil their commitment to support Small Island Developing States of the region in the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, and countries of the region to support its implementation through regional cooperation and other means as appropriate.
 - xii. Mobilise resources and assistance from national and multilateral financial institutions, and global, regional and subregional cooperation organizations, as well as the private sector, including the financial sector, to support programmes and projects identified in the framework of this Initiative.

8. These guidelines will be followed when implementing the programmes and projects intended to face the region's sustainable development challenges, by:

- i. Supporting the implementation of public policies aimed at promoting sustainable economic growth reducing poverty and social inequality within the boundaries of the planet, by increasing resource efficiency, creating jobs and new opportunities for a sustainable development with justice, equity and social inclusion.
- ii. Implementing integrated human health and environment measures to ensure that more recognition is given to the health and well-being of the people of the region,

and that those measures are systematically and effectively translated into policies and programmes.

- iii. Underlining the urgency to achieve sustainable consumption and production patterns and its related economic, social and environmental benefits, promoting the enabling conditions for governments, enterprises and consumers to apply approaches and behaviours that imply social and environmental responsibilities.
- iv. Creating or strengthening regulatory, economic, tax and fiscal instruments to incentivize progress toward sustainable development, as well as stimulating the adoption, by governments and the productive sector, of voluntary instruments in order to create the enabling conditions for sustainable development.
- v. Initiating or continuing environmental or natural resources evaluation processes to make better use of the region's comparative advantages, incorporating sustainability indicators related to environmental liabilities and assets to permit their inclusion in national accounting systems and the metrics of sustainable development.
- vi. Strengthening cooperation with regional, sub-regional and national institutions, as well as sub-national mechanisms, to implement, follow up and monitor policies, programmes and projects deriving from this Initiative.
- vii. Formulating strategies to promote the transfer and development of appropriate technologies, to be supported by expanding the resource base of public financial institutions, and developing South-South and triangular cooperation for capacity building, knowledge sharing and education activities across all ILAC goals.