**XX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin American and the Caribbean**

28-31 March 2016, Cartagena, Colombia

**Decision 2. ILAC Indicators**

**The Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean,**

**Recognising** the need to promote further synergies among the global, regional, subregional and national initiatives involved in environmental integrated assessment, environmental monitoring and indicators in Latin America and the Caribbean, with emphasis on those most relevant for the ILAC, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Samoa Pathway;

**Reaffirming** the importance of environmental indicators in the achievement of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on access to environmental information and public participation;

**Considering** that one of the objectives of the ILAC is 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, legal and political conditions;

**Acknowledging** the work of the Working Group on Environmental Indicators (WGEI) and the progress achieved over the last eight years in developing a robust and clear set of ILAC indicators;

**Recognising** that although many countries in the region have advanced significantly in the implementation and consolidation of their national environmental information systems, important capacity gaps still exist, including –inter alia-, with regards to collection, processing, integration and analysis; regular monitoring and assessment; policies on full and open access to environmental data and metadata; and capacity building for the effective use of environmental data and indicators in policy and decision making;

**Considering** that the revision of the ILAC provides an opportunity to produce a new, more integrated and result oriented indicator framework, including a focus on indicators to assess the level of implementation of the various ILAC objectives, goals and activities;

**Noting** that effective communication of environmental issues should rely on highly interactive systems able to provide access to up-to-date data and statistics on the state of the environment as well as to tools and relevant information produced by UNEP and other agencies in the region;

**Recognising** the value and importance of strategic partnerships such the cooperation agreement between the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) and UNEP to support the ILAC on matters related to the development, implementation and use of indicators on Sustainable Consumption and Production;

**Taking into account** all the recommendations made in Decision 6 of the XIX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean;

**Decide**

1. **To take note** of the achievements made by the WGEI during the past biennium, as presented in the WGEI report on Decision 6 of the XIX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean (Document UNEP/LAC-IC.1.2015/3.Rev2);
2. **To request** the WGEI to coordinate with relevant regional initiatives and ILAC focal areas, also in light of the outcomes from the revised ILAC document, to propose new indicators and/or to update the existing ones, and to clearly define the mechanisms by which these indicators would be reported and used in the context of the 2030 Agenda;
3. **To recommend** the WGEI to consider in the construction of the indicators the various approaches and visions that the countries have to reach the sustainable and integral development
4. **To request** the WGEI to continue with the development of a set of indicators on Sustainable Consumption and Production in coordination with the Focal Points of the Council of Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production to advance the implementation and use of these indicators in the region;
5. **To request** the WGEI, with the support of the Secretariat, to promote subregional meetings for topics such as the construction and revision of the indicators, methodological sheets, protocols and guidelines;
6. **To request** the WGEI, with the support of the Secretariat, to prepare a proposal to advance the work on environmental indicators in LAC, including a resource mobilisation and allocation strategy, and taking into account the need for enhanced harmonisation between the ILAC and the SDGs indicators global and regional, based on the priorities, most relevant topics and the different capacity building needs across the region;

1. **To request** the WGEI, with the support of the Secretariat, to explore options to produce indicators using regional or thematic data sources, such as those from Earth observations or those from citizen science;
2. **To request** the WGEI to provide recommendations on how to improve and streamline the production, integration, communication and use of environmental indicators in LAC, including aspects related to their publication in platforms such as UNEP Live, and their use as the basis for integrated environmental assessments (such as the GEO regional, national and thematic assessments) and MEA reporting;
3. **To encourage** the use of indicators as a critical component of the science-policy interface on all issues related to sustainable development, promoting a broad social participation.
4. **To reiterate** the need to fully implement the actions derived from the Decision 6 of the XIX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, in particular the following action items:
* To encourage the development of environmental information systems on platforms accessible to the public;
* To promote the government programmes of South-South Cooperation that already exist and urge Governments to attach priority to cooperation in support of national environmental information systems, the transfer of good practices and the development of national capacities for statistics and geospatial information, with the aim of integrating environmental considerations in economic and social policies;
* To invite governments that do not participate in WGEI to designate focal points for the Working Group, through their Ministries of Environment and National Statistical Offices;
* To recognize the efforts of countries that have produced national reports on the ILAC indicators, calling on other countries to take forward similar efforts and, in particular, to use the indicators to keep the state of environment under review and to support policy making;
* To utilize resources effectively and avoid duplication of efforts through inter-institutional communication and the creation of synergies between environmental information initiatives, both at the national and international levels;
* To invite the agencies of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee and other international organizations concerned with the management of environmental information, in accordance with their respective mandates, to cooperate with the Working Group on Environmental Indicators of the Forum of Ministers.