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

**28-31 March 2016, Cartagena, Colombia**

**Decision 4. Environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

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

***Convinced*** of the importance of advancing the full and balanced integration of the environmental dimension as a cross-cutting compromise in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and poverty eradication;

**Acknowledging** that a healthy environment is an essential requirement and key enabler for sustainable development, as call for by the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)***;***

***Reiterating*** the need to strengthen United Nations system-wide coherence and coordination, while ensuring appropriate accountability to Member States, in order to enhance coherence in reporting and reinforce cooperative efforts under existing inter-agency mechanisms and strategies to advance the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development within the United Nations system;

***Reaffirming*** the importance of promoting a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, as well as coordination within the United Nations system;

***Recalling*** the commitment to strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment, as set out in the outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development

***Acknowledging*** the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development and that regional frameworks can complement and facilitate effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete action at the national level;

**Noting** also paragraph 2 of the United Nations Governing Council decision 27/8, in which the Council acknowledged, as well as paragraph 56 of the outcome document of the Rio+20 UN Conference on Environment, recognized that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools developed by States in order to achieve sustainable development, poverty eradication, based on national circumstances and priorities. And that “Mother Earth” is a common expression in many countries and regions.

***Welcoming*** General Assembly resolution 70/1, "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", which inter alia recognizes the importance of building on existing follow-up and review mechanisms at the regional level and allowing adequate policy space, encourages all member states to identify the most suitable regional forum in which to engage and United Nations regional commissions to continue supporting member states in this regard, and establishes guiding principles for follow-up and review processes at all levels;

***Further emphasizing*** the importance of system-wide strategic planning, implementation and reporting in order to ensure coherent and integrated support to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the UN system, including at the regional level, taking into account other regional and subregional processes.

**Decide**

1. ***To reaffirm*** that the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean constitutes one space for regional dialogue, exchange of good practices and experiences and follow-up of public policies, inter alia, the integration of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the 2030 Agenda implementation and its relationship with poverty eradication, [], as well as the challenges that the region faces in this regard. Therefore, the Forum will provide leadership, relevant inputs and contributions on the environmental dimension to the regional follow-up mechanisms of the implementation of 2030 Agenda in the region, as well as to the UNEA.
2. In that regard, also agree that the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean will, *inter alia*:
   1. Provide political guidance on recommendations regarding the environmental dimension of sustainable development at the regional level taking into account the decisions taken by relevant political instances;
   2. Promote the application of integrated and holistic approaches in the implementation of the Agenda 2030, in which the updated Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) can make meaningful contributions;
   3. Evaluate, with an integrated approach, the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda in the region; taking into account relevant mandates and the inputs from the Working Group on Environmental Indicators of the Forum, as contributions to the comprehensive process of revision of the 2030 Agenda implementation;
   4. Promote international and regional cooperation and national capacity-building for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through south-south and triangular cooperation;
   5. Identify regional and, as appropriate, national gaps, emerging challenges and common targets for effectively implementing the environmental dimension in the Sustainable Development Goals and their respective targets;
   6. Foster peer learning by sharing good practices, experiences and lessons learned;
   7. Encourage participation of all relevant stakeholders;
   8. Promote coordination and coherence of national development plans and strategies with global frameworks.
3. **To request** the Government of Colombia, as President of the Forum, to communicate this decision to the UNEA and to UNEP, as Secretariat of the Forum, to communicate it to the Secretariats of the relevant UN agencies, funds and programmes, including the regional economic commissions.