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**XX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment  
of Latin America and the Caribbean**  
Cartagena, Colombia

A. Preparatory Meeting of High Level Experts  
28 to 29 March 2016

**Distribution:**  
Limited

**UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XX/2**

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## **Annotated Provisional Agenda of the Preparatory Meeting of High-Level Experts**

## **I. Introduction**

- 1.** In the Nineteen Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (Los Cabos, Baja California, Mexico, March 2014), the Ministers decided to revise the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC), which is part of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, considering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Samoa Pathway.
- 2.** Thirteen years have passed since the approval of the ILAC. During that period, the countries of the region made significant progress in implementing ILAC, in order to move forward towards the implementation of Millennium Development Goal 7, and in implementing the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building and relevant international agreements on environment and sustainable development.
- 3.** Following the Nineteenth Meeting of the Forum, the first United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was held at UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, from 23-27 June 2014. The overarching theme of the session was "Sustainable Development Goals and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, including sustainable consumption and production." UNEA reaffirmed the commitment of Member States to the full implementation of the Rio+20 outcome document, The Future We Want, in particular the section on the environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development and paragraph 88 on strengthening and upgrading UNEP. UNEA -1 also adopted 16 decisions and resolutions that encourage international action on major environmental issues ranging from air pollution and the illegal trade in wildlife, to plastic debris in the oceans, chemicals and waste.
- 4.** During 2015, major summits adopted new global agreements such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Samoa Pathway and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

## **II. Meeting Objectives**

- 5.** The Meeting of the High-Level Experts of the Twentieth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean will be held from 28 to 29 March 2016 in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.
- 6.** The primary aim of the Meeting of High-Level Experts is to make specific recommendations to the Ministers of Environment in light of the follow-up of the decisions adopted by the Forum of Ministers of the Environment at their last meeting, the discussions and progress during the intersessional period, as well as any other emerging issues for the region. To this end, the Secretariat made the UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XX/X document available to countries, which provides a brief description of activities implemented in the intersessional period.

7. In addition, experts will review the reports regarding the recommendations generated by the meetings of the intersessional meeting, the Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production, the Environmental Training Network and the Regional Intergovernmental Network on Air Pollution, as well as the discussions regarding the update of the ILAC.

### **III. Comments on the items of the agenda of the Meeting**

#### **Item 1 of the agenda: Opening of the meeting**

8. The meeting will begin with an opening ceremony on Monday 28 March 2016 at 8:30 a.m. with remarks from a representative of the government of Mexico, as well as a representative of the government of Colombia, who are the outgoing and incoming Chairs of the Forum, respectively, and from a representative of UNEP, as Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. The representatives of the Interagency Technical Committee (ITC) member agencies will be invited to make general statements.

#### **Item 2 of the agenda: Organization of the work**

##### ***2.1. Adoption of the rules of procedure of the meeting***

9. It is proposed that the experts adopt, *mutatis mutandis*, the rules of procedure of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of UNEP to govern the procedures of the meeting.

##### ***2.2. Election of the Bureau***

10. The experts will make a proposal on the members of the Forum's bureau to be submitted to the Ministers for approval, in accordance with the practice established at previous meetings of the Forum. The Bureau shall be comprised by one Chairperson, seven Vice-Chairs, and one Rapporteur, as per the criteria of geographical representativeness and rotation established by the ministerial meetings.

##### ***2.3. Adoption of the meeting agenda and programme of sessions***

11. Under this item, the experts will consider the Provisional Agenda, the Annotated Provisional Agenda and the Calendar of Sessions proposed by the Secretariat and will adopt them after incorporating the changes deemed necessary. The Calendar of Sessions appears as Annex I of this document.

**Item 3 of the agenda: Brief summary of the results of the second Open-Ended Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the UNEP (15-19 February 2016, Nairobi, Kenya).**

**12.** For the discussion of this issue, the Experts' meeting will have as background documents the Chair's Summary of the second meeting of the Open Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (OECPR-2) and the Compilation of the clusters of resolutions as of 22 February 2016 (document UNEP/OECPR.2/10).

**13.** The representative of the Latin America and the Caribbean Group to the CPR in Nairobi will make a brief presentation on the issues discussed during the OECPR-2 and the negotiations going on in the CPR in preparation to the Second Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP, to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, 23-27 May, 2016.

**Item 4 of the agenda: Follow-up to the Nineteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (Los Cabos, Mexico, 11 to 14 March 2014)**

**14.** For discussion of this issue, the Experts' Meeting will consider a series of reports prepared by the Secretariat, which communicate the results of the implementation of the decisions of the Nineteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers as well as the activities of the working groups or networks established by the Forum.

***4.1 Governance and strengthening of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.***

**15.** During the XIX Meeting of the Forum, Ministers discussed ways to Strengthening the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and its impact at the global, regional and national levels. They also acknowledged the need to enhance the ability of the Forum of Ministers to articulate at the political level, considering the regional environmental priorities, in the light of opportunities and challenges emerging from the global environmental agenda. The Experts' will have the opportunity to discuss ways in which the Forum will increase its influence at the global level, as well as its linkages to the UNEA and its role in the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**16.** The Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC for its initials in Spanish) was adopted in 2002 by the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and endorsed by the Heads of State and Government (document attached) as part of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

**17.** Furthermore, decision 1 on Governance and Strengthening adopted at the XIX Meeting of the Forum of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, indicates the intention of countries "to undertake the update of

the ILAC based on the discussions of the Meeting of High Level Experts of this forum and identify priority issues in the intersessional meeting of the forum, with the support of the Secretariat, and report on its achievements to the XX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers”, to be held in 2016.

**18.** The Meeting of Experts for the review of the ILAC was held from 5 to 6 October 2015 in Mexico City, Mexico. The expert meeting's main objective was to conduct a review of the ILAC and identify areas that need to be updated in the light of the results of the summit on Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. Based on the discussions of that meeting, the secretariat prepared the first draft of the ILAC update for comments from the countries. The representatives of the countries then offered their comments addressing the substantial aspects of the contents of the document, as well as the work methodology to agree on the final document that will be presented to the XX Meeting of the Forum in March 2016

**19.** During the intersessional meeting that took place in Mexico City, Mexico, from 17 to 19 November 2015, participants agreed that the updating of ILAC should be based on the following elements: ILAC is a platform for sustainable development and an important contribution to advancing Agenda 2030 at the regional level; align ILAC to the Agenda 2030 and the Samoa Pathway to reflect the priorities where the Forum is able to contribute to the political dialogue and policies, that require regional cooperation; consider the progress/outcomes presented by various working groups and networks during the intersessional meeting; include a section on means of implementation, including South-South cooperation, technology, national resources, private and external resource mobilization, partnerships, among others; discuss the order of implementation of the priorities; and, include a section on monitoring and evaluation (indicators and data system). A schedule to finalize the revision was agreed.

**20.** In accordance with the agreed schedule, the Secretariat developed a new draft considering the intersessional discussions and sent it to the 33 LAC countries for its consideration on 19 December 2015. Three online sessions were organized (26 and 28 January, 3 February, 2016) to discuss the different sections of the draft. Few countries participated in the online sessions.

**21.** As a result of the discussion of this issue, specific recommendations will be made on the update of the ILAC, the strengthening of South-South cooperation in the region, and ways to increase the Forum's impact on the environmental and sustainable development agenda at the national, regional and global levels.

#### **4.2 Environmental Training Network**

**22.** During the previous meeting of the Forum of Ministers, it was agreed to continue and strengthen the activities of the Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean, and promote South-South cooperation among countries in the region, among other agreements. In the document UNEP/LAC-UNEP/LAC-IGWG.2016/3, the Secretariat presents the Report of Activities of the Environmental Training Network.

### **4.3 Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration**

**23.** At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012, the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development was signed. In this Declaration, signatory countries committed, with the support of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) as technical secretariat, to advance the implementation of a regional agreement for the full implementation of the rights of access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters. Between 2012 and 2014, four meetings of the focal points of the signatory countries and fourteen meetings of working groups were held. In November 2014, the countries launched the negotiation phase of the regional agreement and established a Negotiating Committee with a view to concluding its functions by December 2016.

**24.** Officials from the countries that signed the declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development—regarding access to information, public participation and justice in environmental matters—along with representatives of international organizations and civil society have participated in two rounds of negotiations to advance towards a regional agreement on these subjects.

**25.** At the end of the second meeting, the delegates agreed to draft a second version of the text that was compiled by the Committee's Presiding Officers and to continue negotiating articles 2 through 10 of that document during a third meeting of the negotiating committee, which will be held on April 5-8, 2016 in Uruguay.

### **4.4 Cooperation in chemicals and waste**

**26.** During the Nineteenth meeting of the Forum, a decision to strengthen cooperation on chemicals and waste was adopted. A series of activities and projects were developed and implemented during the intersessional period. A summary is provided in document UNEP/LAC-IGWG.2016/3.

**27.** High level experts will discuss on the progress made on the implementation of the SAICM and the chemicals and waste-related multilateral agreements, as well as of the cooperation activities implemented. They will also have the opportunity to consider the recommendations from the intersessional meeting held in Mexico on 17-19 November regarding a regional cooperation programme on chemicals and waste, and the establishment of an intergovernmental network.

### **4.5 Small Island Developing States**

**28.** The international community adopted the Samoa Pathway during the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (Apia, Samoa, 1 to 4 September) and possible cooperation actions that contribute to the sustainable development of the Caribbean SIDS.

**29.** High-level experts will discuss the progress made in the implementation of the decisions adopted by the Forum with regards to SIDS, and the ways to strengthen

cooperation to support SIDS in their efforts towards their sustainable development. They will also discuss the recommendations from the intersessional meeting which took place in Mexico on 17-19 November 2015.

#### ***4.6 ILAC Environmental Indicators***

**30.** High-level experts will assess the progress made in the implementation of decision 6 of the Nineteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers regarding to the ILAC Environmental Indicators, as well as the proposed activities regarding the update of the ILAC to be considered by the Twentieth Meeting.

**31.** They will also discuss the recommendations from the intersessional meeting which took place in Mexico on 17-19 November 2015.

#### ***4.7 Sustainable Consumption and Production***

**32.** The country representatives will have an opportunity to comment on the activities undertaken during the intersessional period by the Network of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production, including the update of the regional strategy. In addition, the recommendations of these meetings (document Recommendations of the Council for Sustainable Consumption and Production) and those from the intersessional meeting will be submitted for consideration by the High-Level Experts, and will be endorsed or amended for presentation to the ministerial segment for possible adoption.

#### ***4.8 Regional Plan of Action on Air Pollution in Latin America and the Caribbean***

**33.** Following the adoption of the Plan of Action on Air Pollution in Latin America and the Caribbean, during the Nineteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, the country representatives will have an opportunity to comment on the activities undertaken during the intersessional period, as well as considered the recommendations made during the intersessional meeting held in Mexico on 17-19 November 2015 to be submitted to the Ministers for their consideration.

#### ***4.9 Cooperation on Climate change***

**34.** The country representatives of the region will have the opportunity to discuss the major achievements in the global negotiations on climate change, as well as the draft Regional Cooperation Programme, including a cooperation platform, as follow-up of the decision adopted during the Nineteenth Meeting of the Forum.

**Item 5 of the agenda: Conclusions and recommendations for the ministerial segment**

**35.** The Experts will approve the recommendations, which will be submitted for consideration by the Forum of Ministers.

**Item 6 of the Agenda: Review and approval of the Draft Report of the meeting and the Declaration of Cartagena**

**36.** Under this item, the delegations will review the draft of the Final Report to be presented by the Rapporteur for adoption, as well as the draft Declaration of Cartagena for approval to submit for consideration to the ministerial segment, after incorporating the changes deemed necessary.

**Agenda Item 7: Other matters**

**37.** The country representatives will address any other relevant matter that has been agreed to and included on the agenda.

**Agenda Item 8: Closing of the meeting**

**38.** The meeting will conclude on Tuesday, 29 March at 5:30 p.m.

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## **Annex I**

### **Calendar of Sessions of the Segment of High-Level Experts**

**XX MEETING OF THE FORUM OF MINISTERS OF ENVIRONMENT OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE  
CARIBBEAN**

Cartagena de Indias, Colombia

<b>Time</b>	<b>HIGH LEVEL EXPERTS PREPARATORY MEETING</b>
	<b>Monday 28 March 2016</b>
08:00 – 08:30 (30min)	<i>Registration of Participants</i>
08:30 – 09:00 (30min)	<b>1. OPENING OF THE MEETING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Opening words from the Representative of the Government of Mexico, Mr. Enrique Lendo</li> <li>▪ Opening words from the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, Mr. Gabriel Vallejo López</li> <li>▪ Opening words from UNEP’s Representative, Forum Secretariat, Mr. Leo Heileman</li> </ul>
09:00 – 9:30 (30min)	<b>2. ORGANIZATION OF WORK</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 Adoption of rules of the meeting.</li> <li>2.2 Election of the Bureau.</li> <li>2.3 Adoption of the agenda and programme of sessions of the meeting.</li> </ul>
9:30 - 10:30 – (1h)	<b>3. BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS OF THE SECOND OPEN-ENDED MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OECPR-2</b>
10:30 – 11:00 (30min)	<b>4. FOLLOW UP OF THE DECISIONS OF THE XIX MEETING OF THE FORUM OF MINISTERS OF ENVIRONMENT OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (MEXICO, 2014).</b>

11:00- 11:45 (45min)	4.1 Governance and strengthening of the Forum of Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean, specifically the review of the ILAC.  Results of the Meeting of Experts and Results of the Intersessional Meeting (October-November respectively, Mexico)
11:45- 12:30 (45min)	4.2 Environmental Education for Sustainable Development.
12:30- 13:15 (45min)	4.3 Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration.
13:30 – 14:30 (1hr)	<b>Lunch</b>
14:30- 15:15 (45min)	4.4 Cooperation on Chemicals and Waste.
15:15 – 16:00 (45min)	4.5 Small Island Developing States.
16:00- 16:45 (45min)	4.6 ILAC Environmental Indicators Air Quality.
16:45- 17:30 (45min)	4.7 Sustainable Consumption and Production
17:30 – 17:45 (15min)	<b>Coffee Break</b>
17:45 – 18:30 (45min)	4.8 Regional Action Plan on Air Pollution
18:30– 19:15 (45min)	4.9 Cooperation on Climate change
19:15 – 19:20 (5min)	Closing words for the day by the Vice Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, Mr. Pablo Vieira.

**19:30 – 21:00      *Welcome for High Level Experts***

*The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development will welcome high level experts, delegations and other participants.*

<b>HIGH LEVEL EXPERTS PREPARATORY MEETING</b>	
<b>29 March 2016</b>	
<b>Time</b>	
9:00 – 10:30 (1h 30min)	<b>5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MINISTERIAL SEGMENT.</b>
10:30- 11:00 (30min)	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:00 – 13:00 (2h)	<b>5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MINISTERIAL SEGMENT (Continuation).</b>
13:00 – 14:00 (1h)	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 – 16:30 (2h 30min)	<b>6. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MEETING DRAFT REPORT AND THE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION.</b>
16:30 – 16:45 (15min)	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:45 – 17:30 (45min)	<b>7. OTHER MATTERS 8. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING</b>