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Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде

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Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean

**Mexico City, Mexico
17-19 November 2015**

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Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean Preliminary Annotated Agenda

Introduction

1. At the Nineteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (Los Cabos, Baja California Sur, 11-14 March 2014), the Ministers adopted the Declaration of Los Cabos as well as nine decisions to strengthen regional cooperation within the framework of the implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC).
2. After the Nineteenth Meeting of the Forum, important decisions in the framework of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012, Rio + 20, the United Nations General Assembly and UNEP's United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), in relation to the renewed commitment for sustainable development and promoting a sustainable future. Furthermore, the need to strengthen international environmental governance in the context of the institutional framework for sustainable development to promote the balanced integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development as well as coordination in the United Nations system was reaffirmed.

Meeting Objectives

3. The Intersessional Meeting of the Nineteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean will be held from 17-19 November in Mexico City, Mexico.
4. The main objective of the Intersessional Meeting is to follow up on the decisions taken by the Forum of Ministers of Environment at their last meeting, and prepare recommendations to be presented for consideration by Ministers at the next meeting on these matters or any other emerging issue that is priority for the region. To this end, the Secretariat made available to countries document UNEP/ LAC-IC.1.2015/3, a brief description of implemented activities in the intersessional period.
5. In addition, the delegates will have a dialogue about the preparations and issues to be discussed at the second session of the UNEA (23-27 May 2016), including in the Open Ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (15 to 19 February 2016), as well as joint regional positions in priority areas for the region.

Item 1. Opening of the meeting

6. The meeting will begin with an opening ceremony on Tuesday, 17 November at 9:00 am with opening remarks of the Representative of the Government of Mexico, as Chairman of the Forum of Ministers of Environment and UNEP, in its capacity as Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. Representatives of the ITC member agencies will be invited to make general statements.

Item 2. Organization of work

2.1 Adoption of the rules of the meeting

7. It is proposed that the delegates adopt, mutatis mutandis, the rules of the United Nations General Assembly on Environment of UNEP to govern the procedures of the meeting.

2.2 Approval of the agenda and programme of sessions of the meeting

8. Under this item, the delegates will consider the Preliminary Draft Agenda and the Annotated Agenda and Programme of Sessions proposed by the Secretariat and will adopt them after incorporating any changes they deem necessary. The Programme of Sessions appears as Appendix I of this document.

Agenda Item 3: Follow-up of the decisions adopted by the Nineteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (Los Cabos, Baja California Sur, Mexico 11-14 March 2014.)

9. To discuss this point, a series of documents and reports prepared by the Secretariat will be presented with the results of the implementation of the decisions adopted at the Nineteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers and of the activities of the working groups or networks established by the Forum itself. Document UNEP/ LAC-IC.1.2015/3, is a report on the activities implemented to follow up on the decisions of the Nineteenth Meeting of the Forum.

3.1 Evaluation, strengthening and governance of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean

10. In Decision 1, on Governance and Strengthening of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Ministers of Environment agreed on the intention of the 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 this 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

3.2 Environmental Training Network

13. During the last meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment, 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.

14. Delegates will have a dialogue on how this Network could contribute to the integration of environmental sustainability in the decision-making processes towards the sustainable development of the region.

3.3 Regional Initiative on Rio Principle 10

15. The representatives of the countries of the region will be informed about the process of regional negotiations on a regional instrument on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, following the Declaration for the implementation of Principle 10 of the Declaration of Rio de Janeiro in Latin America and the Caribbean.

3.4 Cooperation on chemicals and waste

16. In follow up to decision 4, countries will share information on key actions taken at national and regional level for the sustainable management of chemicals and waste. Delegates could have a dialogue on ways to strengthen regional cooperation towards that end in the framework of the recent developments on the chemicals and waste global agenda.

3.5 Small Island Developing States

17. Further to decision 5, countries will be informed of the main cooperation activities reported to contribute to the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean, as well as a series of initiatives that contribute to the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, that resulted from the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (Apia, Samoa. 1 - 4 September 2014).

18. Additionally, countries will review the various policy directives which could contribute to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs in Small Island Developing States. In this regard, the following issue will be considered, including, *inter alia*:

- i. Examine ways in which the Forum of Ministers, with the support of the ITC agencies, could support the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and the SDG in SIDS in the region.
- ii. Examine the potential role of the Forum of Ministers to facilitate exchange of experiences and lessons learnt on the implementation of the Samoa Pathway and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in SIDS in the region.

3.6 ILAC Environmental indicators

19. The representatives of the countries of the region will hold a dialogue on the actions undertaken within the framework of the Working Group on Environmental Indicators of ILAC, as well as on the contribution that the region could provide to the global discussion on indicators to monitor the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3.7 Regional Council of Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production

20. The representatives of the countries will have an opportunity to comment on the activities undertaken during the intersessional period by the Regional Council of Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production. Recommendations arising from those meetings will be presented for consideration of the meeting, as well as the linkages to the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, in particular the SDGs.

3.8 Plan of Action on Air Pollution in Latin America and the Caribbean

21. Following decision 8 of the XIX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, representatives of the countries have an opportunity to comment on the actions taken by the countries of the region in implementing the Regional Plan of Action on Air Pollution and regional cooperation actions conducted by the Regional Intergovernmental Network on Atmospheric Pollution.

3.9 Cooperation on Climate Change

22. The delegates will have an opportunity to discuss the actions taken during the intersessional period with regard to the adoption of the regional plan for cooperation on climate change and the actions that have been implemented.

Item 4. Recommendations for the XX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers

23. The delegates will discuss the main recommendations that will be presented for consideration of the next meeting of the Forum of Ministers.

Item 5. Information on preparations for the Twentieth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers

24. The representative of the government of Colombia will share with representatives of the region, the progress in the preparations towards the Twentieth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Cartagena, Colombia, on 28 - 31 March 2016.

Item 6. Regional Dialogue in preparation for UNEA-2

25. The Secretariat will make a brief presentation on the preparatory work of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, to be held from 23 to 27 May 2016, in Nairobi, Kenya, as a context to the Dialogue. It is anticipated that representatives from the region who are based in Nairobi and who participate in the work of the CPR, as well as the representatives of the countries representing LAC on the UNEA Bureau will also participate in the discussion, on this Agenda item. More specifically, these officials will be expected to provide their reflections on the work of UNEA to date and how the deliberations of the Forum of Ministers could be integrated, further, into the work of the UNEA.

26. In addition, the delegates will have the opportunity to engage in a dialogue on the issues to be discussed in the UNEA-2 and agree on regional proposals/positions to be presented at the meeting.

Item 7. Review and approval of the main conclusions of the meeting

27. Under this agenda item, delegations will review the draft conclusions of the meeting.

Item 8. Other matters

28. The representatives of the countries will discuss any other topic that has been agreed to be included under this agenda item.

Item 9. Closing of the meeting

29. The meeting will be closed on Thursday 19 November at 17:00 hrs.

Annex 1. Calendar of sessions

Tuesday, 17 November

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| 09:00-09:30 | 1. Opening of the meeting |
| 09:30-10:00 | 2. Organisation of the work |
| 10:00-10:45 | 3. Follow-up of the decisions adopted by the Nineteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (Los Cabos, Baja California Sur, Mexico. 11-14 March 2014) |
| | 3.1 Evaluation, strengthening and governance of the Forum of Ministers of |

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| | Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean |
| 11:15-13:00 | 3.1 Evaluation, strengthening and governance of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean |
| 13:00-14:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00-15:00 | 3.2 Environmental Training Network |
| 15:00-16:00 | 3.3 Regional Initiative on Rio Principle 10 |
| 16:00-16:15 | Coffee break |
| 16:15-17:00 | 3.4 Cooperation and chemicals and waste |
| 17:00-17:45 | 3.5 Small Island Developing States |
| 17:45-18:30 | 3.6 ILAC Environmental indicators |

Wednesday, 18 November

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| 09:00-09:45 | 3.7 Regional Council of Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production |
| 09:45-10:30 | 3.8 Plan of Action on Air Pollution in Latin America and the Caribbean |
| 10:30-11:15 | 3.9 Cooperation on climate change |
| 11:15-11:30 | Coffee break |
| 11:30-13:00 | 4. Recommendations for the XX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers |
| 13:00-14:30 | Lunch |
| 14:30-16:30 | 4. Recommendations for the XX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers |
| 16:30-16:45 | Coffee break |
| 16:45-18:00 | 5. Information on preparations for the Twentieth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers |

Thursday, 19 November

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| 09:00-11:00 | 6. Regional Dialogue in preparation for UNEA-2 |
| 11:00-11:30 | Coffee break |

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| 11:30-13:00 | 6. Regional Dialogue in preparation for UNEA-2 |
| 13:00-14:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00-15.30 | 7. Review and approval of the main conclusions of the meeting |
| 15:30-16.00 | 8. Other matters |
| 16:00-17:00 | 9. Closing of the meeting |