

## **Annex I**

### **Declaration of Santo Domingo**

**We, the Ministers of the Environment and Heads of Delegations gathered in the city of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, at the Sixteenth Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean,**

**Reaffirming** that the Forum constitutes the main body for regional inter-governmental political consensus building on environmental issues, which offers a space to agree on actions and reflect on the main challenges of the global and regional environmental agenda, in the context of sustainable development;

**Recognizing** the favorable situation in the Region for the promotion of sustainable development policies, as a result of greater public awareness, improved availability of information on the state and dimension of environmental challenges, and the manifested will of governments and societies to conserve the environment;

**Expressing our** concern about the negative environmental, social and economic impacts from climate change in view of the vulnerability of the Region, and in particular that of the Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS);

**Recalling** paragraph 169 of resolution A/RES/60/1 of the United Nations General Assembly, which recognizes the need for having a more coherent institutional environmental framework, including a more integrated and strengthened structure within the United Nations System;

**Reaffirming** the consultative process of the UN General Assembly known as the "Informal Consultative Process on the Institutional Framework for the United Nations' Environmental Activities of the UN General Assembly", which is a central platform for advancing and determining specific actions towards a greater coherence and efficacy of the international environmental institutional framework;

**Reaffirming that Global** Environmental Governance should support the effective implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs);

**Recognizing** that effective consensus on Global Environmental Governance will strengthen the efforts of the international community, towards sustainable development;

**Reiterating** that the provision of predictable, new and additional financial resources is crucial for the promotion and implementation of environmental policies and strategies;

**Acknowledging** the success in the fulfillment of the Montreal Protocol commitments in the Region, and the contribution of the Multilateral Fund in its effective implementation;

**Recognizing** the role of UNEP's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, in addressing the environmental priorities determined by the countries of the Region as well as the implementation of the decisions of this Forum;

**Reaffirming** the need that the agencies of the ITC committee provide a continuous support for the work of this Forum;

### **DECIDE TO**

**1. Reiterate** that the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) establishes a common regional agenda geared towards achieving sustainable development, whose main implementation tool, the Regional Action Plan's (RAP) structure and execute modalities, we commit to review in order to achieve greater effectiveness in attaining our objectives.

**2. Reaffirm** that a Global Environmental Governance system will only be effective if it has a clear and strong mandate, as well as appropriate, predictable and stable financial resources and the political will of the states to attain the proposed objectives.

**3. Reiterate** that Global Environmental Governance must result in improved environmental performance, as well as coordination and complementarity between MEAs at international, regional, subregional and national level.

**4. Participate** actively and constructively in the debate of Global Environmental Governance, particularly in the informal consultative process of the United Nations.

**5. Promote and contribute** to the regional debate on Global Environmental Governance encouraging the full and effective participation of the countries of the Region, with the purpose of building consensus on the issue and contributing to the process of the United Nations.

**6. Maintain** an active participation at international environmental fora and negotiations, promoting interaction and communication amongst Latin American and Caribbean countries, leading towards effective coordination and the adoption of shared positions.

**7. Assume** a proactive position in the design of a new climate regime, in the framework of the Bali Action Plan, reaffirming the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

**8. Promote** the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought, and its linkages with initiatives of mitigation and adaptation to climate change and integrated ecosystem management, considering the urgency to promote sustainable land use including avoided deforestation as a possible instrument for the Region. This requires a profound revision of available financing opportunities particularly the Global Environment Facility.

**9. To demand** developed countries to comply with their obligations of reducing their emissions of greenhouse gases in order to mitigate climate change, generate the financial flows, technology transfer, capacity building needs required for the adaptation and mitigation needs of the countries of the Region.

**10. Participate** actively in the negotiations for the adoption of an international legal regime on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Benefit Sharing under the Convention on Biological Diversity, to ensure that the needs and interests of the Region will be duly considered and protected.

**11. Increase** efforts for the conservation of biodiversity through the strengthening of national protected area systems, both terrestrial and marine, as well as other conservation mechanisms.

**12. Recognize** the importance of increasing protected areas, transition zones and biological corridors in the countries of the Region, and urge that the implementation process will combine efforts between new initiatives, such as the Caribbean Biological Corridor, as well as those already consolidated, to achieve concrete results and actions.

**13. Promote** South-South cooperation between the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, as a tool for transferring knowledge, best practices and technical and other resources.

**14. Promote** the mainstreaming of the environmental dimension in our countries' policies, to attain sustainable development.

**15. Highlight** that sustainable development can only be achieved through the participation of all sectors of society, and that therefore we will promote involvement of local communities and indigenous peoples in the policies and programmes for sustainable development.

**16. Continue** strengthening environmental education and public awareness for sustainable development in our Region through processes that include communication, cooperation and exchange between countries, such as the Latin American and Caribbean Program for Environmental Education (PLACEA).

**17. Reaffirm** the commitment of the Region in the implementation and enforcement of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration as a way to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of environmental policies in the Region.

**18. Urge** the further development and implementation of the Caribbean SIDS Programme, including the provision of predictable, new and additional financial and technical resources as well as a review mechanism to monitor its implementation, and to ensure that the goals and priorities emerging from the Caribbean SIDS are reflected.

**19. Appeal** to the members of ITC agencies to increase their support for the implementation of ILAC and particularly the RAP, also calling other agencies within and outside of the United Nations system to join in a concerted effort at the Forum Ministers, within their respective mandates and building on their skills and comparative advantages.

**20. Express our gratitude** to the people and government of the Dominican Republic for their warm welcome and hosting of delegations to this Sixteenth Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and congratulate for the successful outcome of this Meeting.

***Signed in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2008 by the Ministers and Delegates to this Sixteenth Forum of Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean.***

Mr. Dr. John Ashe  
Ministerial Representative for  
Sustainable Development Matters  
**Permanent Mission of Antigua  
and Barbuda to the United Nations**

## **Antigua and Barbuda**

Sr. Juan Pablo Ramos Morales  
Vice-Ministro de Biodiversidad,  
Recursos Forestales y Medio Ambiente  
**Ministerio de Desarrollo Rural  
Agropecuario y Medio Ambiente**

## **Bolivia**

Sr. Alvaro Sapag  
Director Ejecutivo  
**Comisión Nacional del  
Medio Ambiente (CONAMA)**

## **Chile**

Sr. Roberto Dobles Mora  
Ministro  
**Ministerio del Ambiente y Energía**

## **Costa Rica**

Mr. John Fabien  
Minister  
**Ministry of Health  
and the Environment**

## **Dominica**

Sra. Marcela Aguiñaga Vallejo  
Ministra  
**Ministerio del Ambiente**

## **Ecuador**

Mrs. Ann David-Antoine  
Minister  
**Ministry of Health, Social Security, the  
Environment and Ecclesiastical Relations**

## **Grenada**

Sra. Romina Picolotti  
Secretaria  
**Secretaría de Ambiente y Desarrollo  
Sustentable de la Nación**

## **Argentina**

Sra. María Cecilia Wey de Brito  
Secretaria de Biodiversidad y Florestas  
**Ministerio de Medio Ambiente**

## **Brazil**

Sra. Claudia Patricia Mora  
Viceministra  
**Ministerio de Ambiente,  
Vivienda y Desarrollo Territorial**

## **Colombia**

Sr. José Antonio Díaz Duque  
Viceministro  
**Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología  
y Medio Ambiente**

## **Cuba**

Sr. Omar Ramírez T.  
Secretario  
**Secretaría de Estado de Medio Ambiente  
y Recursos Naturales**

## **Dominican Republic**

Sr. Carlos José Guerrero  
Ministro  
**Ministerio de Ambiente  
y Recursos Naturales**

## **El Salvador**

Sr. Gabriel Roberto Motta  
Asesor de Despacho Superior  
**Ministerio de Ambiente y Recursos Naturales**

## **Guatemala**

Mr. Shyam Nokta  
Chairman  
**National Climate Committee of Guyana**

## **Guyana**

Sra. Yessenia Yamileth Moncada Ponce, Subsecretaria  
**Secretaría de Recursos Naturales  
y Ambiente (SERNA)**

## **Honduras**

Sr. Fernando Tudela  
Subsecretario de Planeación y Política Ambiental  
**Secretaría de Medio Ambiente  
y Recursos Naturales**

## **Mexico**

Sra. Ligia Castro  
Administradora General  
**Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente (ANAM)**

## **Panama**

Sr. César Villacorta Arévalo  
Secretario Ejecutivo  
**Consejo Nacional del Ambiente (CONAM)**

## **Peru**

Mr. John Calixte  
Deputy Permanent Secretary  
**Ministry of Economic Affairs, Economic Planning,  
Investment and National Development**

## **Saint Lucia**

Sr. Mariano Arana Sánchez  
Ministro  
**Ministerio de Vivienda, Territorio y Ambiente**

## **Uruguay**

Mr. Claude Jean Marie Germain  
Minister  
**Ministère de L'Environnement**

## **Haiti**

Ms. Leonie Barnaby  
Senior Director  
**Ministry of Land and Environment**

## **Jamaica**

Sra. Juana Argeñal  
Ministra  
**Ministerio del Ambiente y  
Recursos Naturales (MARENA)**

## **Nicaragua**

Sr. Carlos Ovelar  
Asesor  
**Secretaría del Ambiente**

## **Paraguay**

Mr. Douglas Slater, Minister  
**Ministry of Health and Environment**

## **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**

Ms. Joyce Amarello Williams  
Minister  
**Ministry of Labour, Technological  
Development and Environment**

## **Suriname**

Sr. Cristóbal Francisco  
Viceministro  
**Ministerio del Ambiente y  
de los Recursos Naturales**

## **Venezuela**