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**Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of
the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean**

**Panama City, Panama
26th to 30th April 2010**

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Final Report of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean

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Background

1. Seven years have elapsed since the adoption of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC in Spanish), as part of the Implementation Plan of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, South Africa; September-October 2002).
2. In the past seven years, Latin American and Caribbean countries have continued to make extensive efforts to reverse trends of environmental degradation, to raise the standard of living of their populations and to promote the growth of their economies. The progress made by countries in the region in these areas can be seen in the indicators and reports issued concerning the fulfillment of the goals set in the ILAC and in relation to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.
3. However, there are still major challenges in the region that have been identified in recent reports prepared by various agencies. The report "Millennium Development Goals: Advances in the Environmental Sustainability Development in Latin America and the Caribbean"¹, presented in February, 2010, said that the region has made considerable progress in environmental issues, such as the rise in protected areas rich in biodiversity, between 1990 and 2008, and the designation of maritime and terrestrial protected areas which has more than doubled. However, the region faces major challenges such as deforestation (the region lost 7% of its forest cover between 1990 and 2005).
4. Additionally, the Environment Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean (GEO-LAC 2009, forthcoming)², emphasizes that the region has one of the highest rates of habitat loss. The environmental diversity of the region is one of its essential characteristics. This report emphasizes that one of the main risks associated to the loss of biodiversity lies in changing land use, with a consequent reduction, fragmentation, and even loss of habitats.
5. It also highlights the pressure that the economic growth generates in most countries of the region on natural resources and the undertaking of infrastructure projects promoted by various productive and service sectors. Challenges like these make more relevant the need to promote environmental sustainability, as was established in the Millennium Development Goals.
6. At global level, the Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum is held during the International Year of Biodiversity, heading for the Tenth Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Sixteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Climate Change Framework Convention (COP16), and amid a global crisis of great social and economic impact with repercussions on the sustainability of the region and the world. Hence, it is appropriate for the Forum of

¹ United Nations, 2010 "Millennium Development Goals: Advances in the Environmental Sustainability Development in Latin America and the Caribbean", Santiago, Chile.

² UNEP, 2010. "Environment Outlook of Latin America and the Caribbean (GEO LAC 2009)", forthcoming.

Ministers to discuss priority issues for the region in the context of these global meetings and a Green Economy initiative.

Objectives of the Meeting

7. Given the background outlined in the preceding paragraphs, the Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers was convened in order to meet the following objectives:

- a) Make an assessment about the lessons learned and the challenges posed by the implementation of the RAP, and consider the proposal for its structure and content for the biennium 2010-2011;
- b) Exchange information and experiences on emerging issues of the international environmental agenda that are relevant to continue with the implementation of ILAC, such as climate change, biodiversity, and the integrated management of ecosystems, and the green economy initiative;
- c) Discuss the results of the eleventh special session of the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum at the Ministerial Level (Bali, Indonesia; 24 to 26 of February of 2010).

Attendance

8. The Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean was attended by 67 government representatives from 25 countries of the region, as well as 17 attendees from six programmes, secretariats and conventions of the United Nations system, 6 representatives from six intergovernmental agencies, 4 representatives from four Non-Governmental Organizations, and one special invitee. The List of Participants of this Meeting is available as **Annex III** to this document.

Agenda Item 1: Opening session of the meeting

9. The meeting began with an opening ceremony at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday April 29, 2010, with a welcoming speech by the Deputy Regional Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Ms. Mara Murillo, who introduced as part of the presidium the UNEP Deputy Executive Director Ms. Angela Cropper; the UNEP/ROLAC Regional Director, Mrs. Margarita Astrálaga; and the Director of Trade and Environment of the State Secretariat for the Environment of Dominican Republic, Ms. Rosa Otero, in representation of the State Secretary for the Environment of her country, Mr. Jaime Fernandez. Ms. Rosa Otero apologized for the absence of Mr. Jaime Fernandez, who was not able to arrive in time for the opening session. As the country hosting the meeting, Mr. Arias, the General Administrator of Panama's National Authority for the Environment (ANAM for its initials in Spanish), gave a warm welcome to everyone present and underscored the objectives of the meeting.

10. Mr. Arias then gave the floor to Ms. Angela Cropper, who expressed satisfaction at being able to attend this meeting and noted that the topics to be discussed are of high priority and relevance, not only for the region but also

globally. She highlighted the complex relationship that exists between human beings and ecosystems and the opportunity that countries currently have to move closer to the implementation of a green economy. She also mentioned the need to strengthen environmental governance in the countries of the region and stressed our region's vast potential with topics relating to biodiversity, as well as the challenges faced in order to preserve it. She referred to those countries of the region acting as leaders in environmental initiatives at the national and global level.

11. Following the words of Ms. Cropper, the Chair of the meeting presented a video from the UN Secretary General with a message on the International Year of Biodiversity.

Agenda Item 2: Organization of the meeting

2.1. Adoption of the rules of the meeting

12. The Ministers adopted, *mutatis mutandis*, the Rules of the UNEP Governing Council to govern the procedures of the meeting.

2.2. Election of the Board of Directors

13. As proposed by the Dominican Republic, Mr. Javier Arias was elected Chair of the Meeting, after which he assumed the conduction of the Meeting.

14. In keeping with the practices established in previous meetings, the Chairman proposed that the Presidium maintain the same composition adopted during the High-Level Preparatory Meeting of Experts. The participants adopted the proposal, and therefore the board was kept as follows:

President:	Panama
Vicepresident:	Brazil
	Ecuador
	Peru
	Dominican Republic
	Suriname
	Uruguay
Rapporteur:	Costa Rica

2.3. Adoption of the agenda and schedule of sessions of the meeting

15. Under this agenda item, the UNEP/ROLAC Regional Director, Ms. Margarita Astrálaga, officially introduced herself to the representatives of the countries and, on behalf of the Secretariat, announced the agenda for the meeting over the next two days.

16. The Ministers considered the Provisional Agenda³ and the Annotated Provisional Agenda and the Schedule of Sessions⁴ proposed by the Secretariat, and adopted them after incorporating the modifications that were considered necessary.

Agenda Item 3: Message from the Regional Forum of UNEP to the Civil Society of Latin America

17. Under this agenda item, the representative of Civil Society, Mr. Calvin James, read the recommendations that resulted from the Regional Meeting of the Civil Society (Panama City, Panama, 30th November to 1st December 2009⁵).

18. The meeting welcomed these recommendations, and no further remarks were made.

Agenda Item 4: Regional Action Plan of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative on Sustainable Development

4.1. Proposed Regional Action Plan 2010-2011

19. The UNEP/ROLAC Director opened the session by providing background information on the process that led to the development of the proposal for the 2010-2011 Regional Action Plan⁶. She recalled that the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers had adopted Decision 1 on Assessment of the Implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative on Sustainable Development (ILAC), in which it was decided to continue implementing the priority action areas of ILAC. These priority areas are: Climate Change; Biological Diversity; Management of Water Resources; Vulnerability; Human Settlements and Sustainable Cities; Social Topics including Health, Inequality and Poverty; Economic Affairs including Competitiveness, Trade, and Production and Consumption Patterns; and Institutional Aspects. It was also decided to assess the lessons learned and challenges posed by the implementation of the RAP and to prepare, during the intersessional period, a conceptual review of its structure and implementation modalities, with a view toward evaluating the establishment of joint programs with the agencies of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (ITC), notwithstanding the activities carried out by the agencies individually.

20. In this regard, the UNEP/ROLAC Regional Director gave a rundown of the discussions held during the intersessional period, at the Intersessional Meeting of Government Experts of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (Panama City, 20th and 21st October 2009⁷). At this meeting,

³ See document "Provisional Agenda" (UNEP/LAC- IG.XVII/1).

⁴ See document "Annotated Provisional Agenda" (UNEP/LAC- IG.XVII/2).

⁵ See the Final "Report of the Regional Civil Society Meeting" (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVII/Ref.8).

⁶ See document entitled "Proposal for the 2010-2011 Regional Action Plan (RAP) of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean" (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVII/5).

⁷ See document "Final Report on the Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean". Panama City, 20 and 21 October, 2009" (UNEP/LAC-IGWG.XVII/Ref.1).

Argentina presented a proposal of options for the preparation of the RAP and it was agreed that a Contact Group would be created to finalize the definition of the draft.

21. The Contact Group conducted several virtual sessions and a final meeting, held in Brasilia, Brazil, on 3rd and 4th February 2010, and prepared a recommendation on the structure and activities of the RAP 2010-2011 that was circulated among all the countries of the region for comment.

22. Next, the UNEP/ROLAC Regional Director presented a summary of the discussions held during the Preparatory Meeting of High-Level Experts of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers. She mentioned that the Experts group segment held a wide-ranging discussion on the Proposal for the RAP 2010-2011, and indicated that the meeting had a favourable opinion of the contents of the proposal. The items were initially proposed as expected products and activities, even though the meeting considered that they were more in line with strategies and strategic lines of action. Nevertheless, a controversial topic on which no agreement was reached was how to estimate the "costs" of these activities.

23. During the Meeting of High-Level Experts, it was requested that the Agencies of the ITC provide a list of the joint initiatives and programs that are included in their work programs, as well as those of a regional nature that coincide with the strategic lines of action of the RAP. This was accomplished and can be found in **Appendix I** of **Annex II** of the present report (the list is not comprehensive). The UNEP/ROLAC Regional Director stressed that it is important to bear in mind that each agency has a governing body that is responsible for approving the respective work program, as well as its budget.

24. The meeting considered, in a preliminary manner, a proposed format for presenting a semi-annual report on complying with the RAP 2010-2011. Afterward, the Experts proposed decision 1 on the RAP 2010-2011 and assessment of its instruments for implementation.

25. After the intervention of the Secretariat, the representative of Brazil stressed that the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean is the main regional forum on environmental matters. The country reiterated its political will to promote this Forum, given that it offers the region's environmental authorities an important platform for organizing actions and deliberating on the main challenges regarding the global and regional environmental agendas. He further mentioned that the RAP is the main instrument of the Forum of Ministers for implementing regional strategies that have been agreed to. Brazil approved of the efforts undertaken to design a RAP for 2010-2011, but indicated that to become an effective and efficient instrument, this Regional Plan must clearly count with the support and commitment of the Agencies of the ITC, according to the areas in which they have experience and comparative advantages, and within the framework of their respective mandates. The representative of Brazil also indicated that it is important for this Forum to conduct a conceptual revision of the implementation structure and modalities of the RAP. He added that the RAP is an exceptionally serious regional commitment hence the importance of assessing the implementation structure and modalities to ensure they are effective and in compliance with the RAP's objectives.

26. Brazil also stated that by accomplishing the revision of the implementation structure and modalities of the RAP and effectively reaching the outcomes defined within the Plan, the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region will be in a stronger position to take advantage of the next Rio +20 meeting. This advantage might be expressed through the presentation of creative solutions, suitable to the region's interests and characteristics, and by defining what sustainability should be in the views of our region.

27. As stated by Mexico while referring to the importance of the next COP 16 in Cancun, the Rio+20 meeting is also an opportunity for the convergence of ideas and should not be missed.

28. There were no further comments on the agenda for this session. After clarifying a doubt regarding the agenda, brought up by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the UNEP/ROLAC Regional Director brought the session to a close.

Agenda Item 5: Ministerial Dialogues on emerging and relevant issues for the implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative on Sustainable Development

5.1. Climate change

29. The Chair underscored that climate change is a global challenge of great importance with significant and lasting effects and with considerable repercussions in the region. He commented about the results of COP-15. The next COP meeting will be held in Mexico. He then opened the floor to Mexico to start the discussion by outlining the opportunities and challenges of COP-16.

30. The Secretary of Environment of Mexico presented the plans for cooperation with countries of the region and described the international negotiation process beginning with Bali, through Poznan, and finally Copenhagen. Mexico thanked all of the countries that voted for its candidacy to become the host country and assume the chairmanship of COP-16. He said that this work is not viewed as merely a national challenge but as a joint regional challenge needed to achieve agreements on climate change. Because of this, the Mexican President, Mr. Calderon, considers that it is possible to carry out a consultation process with all of the regions of the world with priority for Latin America and the Caribbean. In order to achieve this goal, there is a need to hold a transparent dialogue process, in which everyone can be heard and be taken into account during the negotiation process, for the sake of integrating positions and reaching agreements based on trust. The need to provide support to the more vulnerable groups, including island states and countries with water scarcity, was also underscored.

31. Mexico explained that it has initiated the consultation process via two routes: On the one hand, through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its meetings, and on the other, at venues outside of the Convention such as this Forum of Ministers. These two routes must be integrated, however, and not run separately. Mexico reported that the process has been visualized comprising four spheres of negotiation, from the presidential, ministerial and vice ministerial levels down to the negotiators' level.

32. Once in Cancun, during the actual Conference, despite Mexico's desire to include a broad representation of participants (NGOs, environmental lawmakers, academics and businessmen, among others), it has been proposed that a priority pass arrangement be devised that confers appropriate access to Parties.

33. Based on the experience of the most recent negotiations within the framework of the Convention, Mexico proposed to boost efforts to first achieve critical agreements that would allow for immediate action, for example, a "Quick Start" fund, which exists but has not yet initiated, to promote cooperation, and at the same time facilitate continuing the negotiations toward a binding agreement.

34. Mexico mentioned the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD) as an issue of particular importance and urgency, given that deforestation and degradation currently accounts for 20-30% of global GHG emissions. The integration of this particular issue was portrayed as vital for the benefit of communities living in and preserving forests.

35. He added that agreements on these important issues would have to materialize now, so that in Cancun, operational decisions can be taken to secure the future of the Convention.

36. Mexico pointed out the importance of securing the continuation of the Kyoto Protocol (KP), in particular given that to date the KP still constitutes the only obligatory instrument for the effective transfer of funds from developed to developing countries, as compensation for emissions for which developing countries are not responsible. Mexico also emphasized that not all important emitters have joined the KP, particularly China, India and the United States of America.

37. The Secretary continued stating that many Conferences of the Parties (COPs) have not succeeded because every country had a different vision; Mexico wants to integrate these into a common vision to show the world that reaching consensus on combating climate change is possible.

38. With reference to a legally-binding agreement, Mexico pointed to political consensus in a document as an alternative whereby even though it may not be complete or politically binding, it could still be promoted and further developed by all Parties.

39. Mexico commented that it is aware of the importance of the logistical organization of the COP-16 and made a commitment to seek an adequate venue and provide hospitable service to the delegations. It reported that it was calling for several meetings of international importance to formulate an additional agenda to prepare the road to Cancun.

40. The representative of Nicaragua considered that the approach used to draft the Provisional Annotated Agenda of the Ministerial Segment of the Forum of Ministers⁸ (paragraph 21) should be reviewed, while the *Copenhagen Accord* should not be quoted as a consensus, due to the fact that some countries did not have the opportunity to provide their input on a technical or political level thereto. Nicaragua

⁸ See "Provisional Annotated Agenda" (UNEP/LAC-IG.XVII/2/Rev.3) which includes the suggested revision.

expressed its respect for the countries that signed this *Note of Agreement*, but also requested respect for those countries that have not signed as this Accord does not necessarily reflect the will of those countries.

41. In turn, the representative of El Salvador encouraged the countries in the region to support Mexico in its mission. El Salvador also emphasized that half of the countries in the region had not only declined to join the *Copenhagen Accord*, but had also sent a note of protest. Therefore, the achievement of a common position should be the main issue of the discussions in the framework of this Forum of Ministers.

42. El Salvador underlined its concern regarding the trend to minimize the role of Cancun through the notion that a binding agreement will be reached in South Africa. El Salvador proposed the creation of a space within the next meeting in Bonn with the aim of seeking consistency and harmony across countries of the region, and supporting Mexico in its chairmanship of the COP-16.

43. The representative of Uruguay pointed out that climate change is eminently a political issue with commercial and production consequences, as was reflected in the entire meeting at Copenhagen. Therefore, climate change transcends the purely technical element and, in this regard, the United Nations System is an adequate and favorable space to continue discussing related processes. Uruguay considered that, should the COP-16 fail, the Parties should allocate as much time as is necessary and not feel bound by the current annual frequency of negotiations. He also stated that the main responsibility for mitigation and technology transfer should fall on industrialized countries, while the main consideration for adaptation should favor developing countries.

44. Although Uruguay indicated its discontent with the way the process has been handled so far, it also confirmed that it had signed the *Copenhagen Accord* in the interest of continuing with the Bali Road Map.

45. The representative of Ecuador shared Nicaragua's words in regard to the last COP-15, and stated its dissatisfaction with some negotiations around new sources of climate change funding excluding countries that had not joined the *Copenhagen Accord*. In this context, she proposed to leave out any mention of this accord.

46. She also encouraged all the countries in the region to work with Mexico and to reach consensus on topics of common interest such as REDD. Ecuador stressed the importance that the next COP-16 be transparent, based on a platform of clear principles and trust that includes all countries in order to reach a legally binding agreement.

47. The representative of Cuba agreed with Nicaragua and Ecuador that it is unacceptable that, within the United Nations System, countries in the process of reaching agreements should be excluded. Cuba noted that an ethical and moral commitment should be the starting point in any positions to be adopted as a region. The representative underlined that a fundamental challenge is the drastic reduction and mitigation of emissions, while reaching a binding agreement is of essence.

48. Cuba also highlighted the World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth (Cochabamba, Bolivia; 20 to 22 April 2010), and

recognized that the safety of Mother Earth is at stake. The representative underscored the need to assign importance to the human aspect rather than to the financial aspect of the issue. Cuba pointed out that, as a working priority, it was furthering efforts to reduce vulnerability and evaluate the risks. Cuba stated that its position is to ensure that future generations can exercise their right to life.

49. The representative of Colombia observed that discussions towards COP-16 should continue within a multilateral framework and therefore within the scheme of the United Nations system. In this context, Mexico's main challenge will be to regain trust.

50. The representative of Colombia emphasized the importance of achieving a legally binding instrument and while it is possible that it may not be fully negotiated, it is primordial that it at least be conceived within a general principle. Colombia agreed that prior to Cancun, the promises made in Copenhagen related to the transfer of resources from donor countries to developing countries need to materialize. She underlined that while COP-16 is Mexico's responsibility, it is, above all, an opportunity for the region.

51. As a Small Island Developing State, St. Vincent and the Grenadines agreed with the comments made by Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, and Nicaragua in regard to COP-15. He congratulated Mexico for the way it is addressing its role as chair of COP-16 and stated that it is necessary to send a strong message to the world that the countries of the region, although small, should be heard. St. Vincent and the Grenadines remarked that it will continue working together with the region and decision makers to seek a solution for the issue of climate change.

52. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela agreed with the position of Nicaragua in regard to avoid citing the *Copenhagen Accord* and also expressed his support of the position of Ecuador. He stated that the trust and transparency not achieved in Copenhagen should be promoted in Cancun. Venezuela recognized the work carried out at the recent World People's Conference held in Cochabamba and remarked that it was necessary to conduct analyses in order to quantify and provide concrete data for estimating the cost of adaptation to climate change.

53. The representative of Suriname highlighted that the *Copenhagen Accord* was produced outside of the UN context. She mentioned that Suriname has undertaken national actions to strengthen the implementation of its commitments under the UNFCCC and that, given Suriname's low emissions, the country's focus is on adaptation. She also mentioned that Climate Action Plans for coastal areas have been finalized while those for inland areas are to be elaborated. Suriname confirmed that some of the elements of the *Copenhagen Accord* could be included in a legally-binding output of COP-16. She also explained that Suriname has engaged in a number of awareness raising activities within the scope of Capacity Development for the Clean Development Mechanism (CD4CDM), which has effectively increased Suriname's capacity as a potential host country for Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects.

54. The representative of Chile indicated that her country joined the *Copenhagen Accord* with the purpose of moving forward in the negotiation with the annotation

55. The representative of Guatemala reflected on the Annotated Agenda (Point 5.1), particularly on the information in paragraphs 18 to 21, requesting its amendment, as it contained technical inconsistencies in regard to the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

56. He also underlined that the climate change crisis is already here and its effects can already be seen; for example, he commented that people are suffering from lack of water, while climate change refugees are seeking to adapt by moving into cities, thus creating waves of migration. Guatemala also pointed out that in regard to biodiversity, it is important to understand that the percentage of unknown species is higher than that of known species, and that both catalogued and un-catalogued biological diversity are being lost rapidly.

57. Guatemala joined in to support Mexico, requesting that the process be ambitious and long-lasting, taking into account that the impacts of climate change are already being felt and have undercurrents related to environmental justice, ecological debt and human rights.

58. The representative of Peru shared the observations of preceding countries and agreed with Ecuador on the need to ensure a platform based on trust. He also indicated the association of his country to the *Copenhagen Accord*, and highlighted the importance of preserving forests. He remarked that any success achieved by Mexico will be a success of the region. Peru agreed with the statements made by Cuba and Uruguay in regard to achieving a firm and integrated position across the region.

59. The representative of Costa Rica stated that the recovery of the principles of trust and dialogue is a daunting task for Mexico. She also expressed their support to Mexico for achieving fundamental progress in Cancun.

60. The representative of Barbados concurred with the remarks of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and highlighted that for Small Island Developing States it is not necessary to have precise scientific methods at hand to notice the effects of climate change; such effects can be seen on a daily basis. Barbados mentioned that the region needs to focus on a collective effort and recognize that its challenge is not mitigation, but adaptation. Barbados also underlined that for small countries, the costly participation at COPs and related international events requires the reallocation of funds from other important political agendas.

61. As a Caribbean island country, Haiti has great hopes for COP-16 in Mexico. Haiti affirmed that it faces very significant problems in the face of the serious threats of climate change to its agriculture-based economy. Haiti stated that it is still waiting for the promises to create funds for adaptation to be fulfilled, and the commitments by industrialized countries regarding mitigation to be honoured. The delegate remarked that today, more than ever, following the earthquake of 12th January 2010, Haiti was hopeful that those promises would materialize, and that this regional forum would promote respect for the promises made in Copenhagen.

62. The representative of Belize stated that it was acutely feeling the effects of climate change. Over the last two years, Belize has experienced storms that have devastated several communities, while coral reef bleaching has also been observed, among other impacts. Belize declared that so far, it has not received significant support from developed countries, but nevertheless remains committed to protecting its territory against the effects of climate change. Lastly, Belize expressed its commitment to Mexico.

63. The representative of the Dominican Republic, although concerned over the level of spending brought about by COPs, expressed optimism in regard to the international panorama after Copenhagen. The Dominican Republic also highlighted that the increase in forest cover was one of the best measures to fight climate change. The Dominican Republic proposed an increase in South-South cooperation and confirmed its desire to continue cooperating with the Republic of Haiti in response to recent events and with the rest of the region on the road to Cancun.

64. The representative of Antigua and Barbuda indicated the need for a process of truly open and transparent consultation as countries progress towards Cancun. The delegate underlined that adaptation is a high priority for his country and encouraged the ministers of the region not to allow fund availability for adaptation to be subject to joining the *Copenhagen Accord*.

65. The representative of Mexico conveyed its gratitude for the expressions of solidarity and support, and underscored that, considering the outcome of COP-15, it will be important to strive for ambitious but realistic expectations. While considering the contributions of other regions of the world, in particular developing countries, the instructions of the Mexican President are for a firm commitment to work with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

66. With regards to the *Copenhagen Accord*, Mexico considers that in order for an agreement to be valid, it needs to be adopted by one hundred percent of the Parties. Therefore, Mexico deems the *Copenhagen Accord* to have more the character of a charter or useful political instrument, than of an agreement.

67. In responding to a specific question regarding the cost of a COP the representative of Mexico estimated the cost of COP-15 to be within the range of 450 million US dollars. Mexico emphasized the need to include the specific requirements of Caribbean countries with regards to adaptation to climate change.

68. The representative of Mexico reiterated its ambition to provide optimal hospitality and logistical arrangements for conference participants, its commitment to the transparency of the preparation process and to keeping the region's countries informed on all developments, in order to make sure that COP-16 will be a success, especially for the most vulnerable developing countries.

69. While UNEP's Deputy Executive Director (DED) understood the disappointment with the outcomes of Copenhagen, she also emphasized the need to move forward since the issues at stake are too fundamental to be put on hold. The DED concurred that UNEP should indeed be careful to characterize any document as an agreement, unless it fully complies with the legal prerequisites of one.

70. The DED emphasized that it was important to also acknowledge the progress made in negotiations from Bali into 2009 as well as the results of the regional working groups in the lead-up to Copenhagen. In the aftermath of Copenhagen, countries should focus their attention on developing a common LAC position as well as defining ambitious and realistic goals for COP 16.

71. The DED stated that it would be pragmatic to continue working along the two tracks already established, since the proposed establishment of "Quick Start Funds", REDD+ and other new financial mechanisms offer a number of concrete and operational opportunities that can be taken advantage of, in particular with regards to the recognition of the important global services provided by tropical forests and their communities.

72. UNEP then highlighted the need to solidify results and the position of the region on what the principle of a legally binding agreement might entail, before the Parties meet again in Mexico.

73. The DED enumerated a number of lessons learnt from Copenhagen as well as the imperatives and recommendations identified during recent Bali meetings. Among these, the DED mentioned the necessity of clearly defining the "non-negotiables" that Cancun should provide, to avoid looking back too much by exclusively considering the failures of COP-15, and to refrain from looking forward too much by disregarding Cancun and exclusively considering South Africa as the next opportunity for reaching an agreement.

74. Finally, UNEP reiterated its commitment to support all regions and countries in the process building up to COP-16, in particular in assisting Mexico to provide the kind of leadership needed to make Cancun a success.

75. The representative of El Salvador expressed its satisfaction with the nature of the discussions and the confirmed support of Mexico by all countries of the region. He reiterated its proposition for an interim meeting in Bonn in order to retain the momentum and take stock of progress made in the lead-up to Cancun.

5.2. Biological Diversity and Ecosystems⁹

76. The Chair returned to Item 5 of the Agenda, on the topic of Biological Diversity and Ecosystems. He stressed that the Latin American and Caribbean region has significant natural wealth, but despite the abundance and diversity of its natural resources, the environmental prospects of the region are being threatened by the inequity and poverty that adversely affects the stability and productivity of its ecosystems.

77. Discussions on the issue began with a presentation by Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Director of the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation of the UNEP. Mr. Thiaw presented the main challenges concerning biological diversity and ecosystem services, highlighting the state of biological diversity in the LAC region, the importance of synergistic implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements

⁹ See document "*Elements of a general nature that can be used by the Ministers and Heads of delegation for the Exchange on Biodiversity*" (UNEP/LAC- IG.XVII/3).

(MEAs), the relation between environment and food security, and the close links between climate change and biological diversity, both terrestrial and marine. He encouraged Ministers to consider the challenges of the post-2010 biological diversity targets, the importance of a legally binding international regime on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), and the negotiation process of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biological Diversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

78. The Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, presented key issues related to "2010, International Year of Biological Diversity" and the COP 10 to be held in Nagoya, Japan. He invited countries to consider 2010 as an opportunity to place biological diversity at the top of the political agenda and develop partnerships to protect life on Earth. The Executive Secretary highlighted that in December, the closing of the 2010 International Year of Biological Diversity (IYB) will represent the transition into the 2011 International Year of Forests. He commented on the main summits and high-level meetings related to biological diversity that will take place during 2010, especially the UN Secretary General's High-Level meeting (New York; 20 September 2010).

79. The Chair of the Meeting thanked the two speakers for these important contributions and invited the audience to participate in a tree planting activity at the Metropolitan Park, which took place on 30 April, at 7:00 am. Next, he invited the Ministers to make comments on the topics that were presented.

80. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the presentations and pointed out that his country has already met some of the goals for biological diversity conservation, with measures such as the total prohibition of industrial trawl fishery and the promotion of subsistence fishing, as well as with tree planting measures implemented nationwide.

81. The representative of Uruguay described the presentations as excellent and stressed that the delegates present at this meeting represent their Governments, which in turn have been charged with making relevant decisions at the COP 10 in Nagoya, Japan. He emphasized that Uruguay believed that by addressing the issue of climate change this morning, the Forum had also established cross-cutting issues with, and references to, biological diversity, including social, productive, and technological aspects.

82. The representative from El Salvador said that convergence between climate change and biological diversity is important, and pointed out that climate change adaptation programmes can be an element of political integration with various environmental aspects. He stressed the significance of ecosystem services, and underscored the role of REDD+ in environmental restoration and said that El Salvador is proposing a mass ecosystem restoration strategy, which will begin in mangroves.

83. The representative of Peru considered that the silence following the presentations denoted consensus of the audience with the issues. However, the representative stressed that two important aspects were not being addressed (desertification and drought), and that all three subjects of the Rio Conventions should be combined. He commented that the poorest and most relegated populations live in arid zones and that adaptation to climate change has to

encompass adjustments in ancestral knowledge and practices. The representative also considered that the economic value of biological diversity must be acknowledged and that mechanisms must be sought to incorporate this value into government accounts.

84. The representative from Colombia considered that 2010 is a year for reflection since the biological diversity goals have not been met. She noted that countries have a second chance to meet the post-2010 goals and for the international ABS system to be adopted as a legally binding instrument in Nagoya as an essential element to achieve this objective.

85. The representative of Barbados pointed out that the region's richness in biological diversity, especially the marine ecosystems of the Caribbean, constitutes an opportunity for wealth creation, economic investment, and for the provision of social services to the population. The representative noted the importance of establishing a clear collective position towards the COP 10 negotiations.

86. The representative of Antigua and Barbuda stressed the importance of not missing the second opportunity to meet the biological diversity targets after COP-10 in Nagoya. He considers that a synergistic approach to solving biological diversity, climate change, and land degradation issues is desirable, as they complement each other, and that the Small Island Development States (SIDS) especially cannot afford to approach them separately. Antigua and Barbuda has in fact established a focal point within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the implementation of the three Rio conventions and all Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

87. The delegation of Brazil presented the main outcomes of the workshop held by the Ministry of the Environment of Brazil and the United Kingdom Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), with the support of the Secretariat of the CBD, in January 2010. They expressed the need to set ambitious but feasible targets that can provide, together with adequate support mechanisms, the necessary enabling environment to promote decisive implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Brazil considered the CBD's new Strategic Plan as an implementation protocol to ensure the level of binding commitment required to achieve the agreed objectives and targets. Brazil encouraged Parties to the CBD to define their National Biological Diversity Strategies and Action Plans as a formal policy instrument, including national targets together with implementation and monitoring mechanisms; to put in place national ABS legislation and its implementation mechanisms; and to establish national policies to mainstream biological diversity objectives and guidelines in all relevant sector policies, so as to integrate biological diversity into national development plans. They also encouraged countries to treat biological diversity goods and services as a Natural Capital Asset and set mechanisms to access its socioeconomic value. Furthermore, they highlighted the vital role of this Forum, and asked countries to take advantage of it in order to move forward by attaining concrete results regarding the three objectives of the CBD, for the present and for the near future.

88. The representative of Nicaragua underscored its commitment with the restoration of ecosystems, in the reality context of Central America and the connectivity of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor, highlighting the loss of

biodiversity and the pressure on species caused by climate change and the use of mercantilist models of exploitation. It was indicated that these factors have led to the rupture of the biodiversity cycle, affecting human beings and on many occasions with serious consequences to their health. Consequently, the representative said that it is necessary to go beyond the paradigm of goods and services, and instead adopt a paradigm of natural heritage supported by the framework proposed in the Mother Earth declaration.

89. The representative of Cuba recognized rehabilitation and restoration as essential concepts and commented that ecosystem stability is also important for resilience to climate change, particularly in coastal areas given their proclivity to extreme weather impacts. Cuba also mentioned that identifying ecosystem-specific bio-indicators is crucial, and that bioremediation is a concept they are applying increasingly with excellent results, which thereby should be promoted, citing its application in solving problems with ocean oil-spills and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). Finally, they also subscribed to the three convention synergies expressed earlier.

90. The representative of Chile stressed that 30% of its territory is protected and that they are seeking to improve the representativeness of ecosystems in the National Protected Area System. The representative said that a Global Environment Facility (GEF) project will serve as a basis to draw up a bill on protected areas that will be relevant to the country.

91. The representative of Guatemala considered that the knowledge available on biological diversity is not exhaustive, especially with regard to species weighing under 5 grams. The representative considered that the environmental liability caused by extractive activities is a critical aspect, and stressed that even though Guatemala has 35% of its territory under protected area status, affording such protection is difficult without having adequate resources.

92. The representative of El Salvador believes that one of the major challenges is how to turn environmental issues into relevant issues for other ministries and for a country's development strategy. An alternative to this would be the green economy approach while another would be to consider biodiversity as a key element for risk mitigation, which is broadly accepted in the political realm.

93. The representative of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) stated that there are two important issues to consider: the synergies among the Rio conventions and the fact that the UNCCD is the convention of those forgotten people who live in arid and dry zones of the world, where the most poverty is concentrated. He stressed that resources do not reach these people, who are used to having to adapt to difficult conditions, using their own means, and have been doing so since before the concept of climate change emerged.

94. The representative of the Dominican Republic mentioned that many species of flora are endangered, especially some that are valuable sources of timber, and stressed the significance of creating a genetic bank of native and endemic seeds, particularly in the light of the threat of invasive alien species. The representative also stressed the importance of strategic alliances among ministries and cited as an

example the alliance between the Ministries of Environment and Finance for the preservation of endangered species.

95. The Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, thanked the Ministers and stressed that time has come to engage key stakeholders in biological diversity-related issues. He remarked on the message of the UN Secretary General which stated that continuing with the business-as-usual model is no longer an option. He indicated that countries should act fast given that the rate of extinction is higher than ever, and that the UN Secretary General's high-level meeting in September 2010 is a great opportunity to promote the mainstreaming of biological diversity as a key issue for national development. He also underlined that the Global Biological Diversity Outlook 3 is an important instrument to stress the relevance of biodiversity for decision-makers.

96. Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Director of the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation of UNEP, thanked ministers and delegations for evoking the richness of the region in terms of biological diversity. He highlighted that consolidation of the IPBES will depend on the level of country engagement and thus encouraged the region to contribute strongly to the final stages of the negotiation process. Furthermore, he welcomed the comments by representatives on fostering bioremediation, appreciated the concept of national investments to achieve biological diversity targets, and highlighted the shift from REDD to REDD+ as the new standard for integrating biological diversity and climate change process. Finally he remarked that the concept of blue carbon is extremely important for this region, in the light of its extensive coastal marine areas.

5.3. Green Economy

97. The Chair of the Forum introduced item 5.3 on the agenda of Ministerial Dialogues regarding a Green Economy¹⁰, and referred to the current economic model and the differences being promoted by means of a green economy through the consideration of natural capital. The Chair also indicated that the reference document to stimulate exchanges on a green economy is UNEP/LAC-IG.XVII/4.

98. Mr. Steven Stone, Chief of the Economy and Trade Branch of the Technology, Industry and Economy Division of UNEP, presented the Green Economy Initiative and sought feedback from the delegates. The presentation focused on 4 topics: (i) Concept and genealogy of a green economy; (ii) Data and trends; (iii) Initial results; and (iv) Successful cases. Among successful cases he underscored those involving investments in renewable energy, organic agriculture and sustainable transportation. He ended his presentation by stressing that the *status quo* is alarming and requires a rapid and coordinated response. The response options being researched include technological investment, the creation of jobs and public policies. This will allow the transformation of sectors such as transportation and construction, which in turn would support the greening of the economy.

99. The representative of Uruguay stressed that the measures presented for greening the economy relate to the systems being implemented in his country in

¹⁰ See "General Information that can be used by the Ministers and Heads of Delegation for the dialogue on Green Economy" (UNEP/LAC-IG.XVII/4).

order to adapt to climate change. He added that technology is crucial to this end, but nonetheless creates a dependency on the available options. In the case of Uruguay, the energy grid has depleted the production of hydroelectric energy while options such as wind and solar energy offer only limited solutions. Within this context comes an extraordinary offer such as that of thermal power plants based on coal, which Uruguay is resisting due to the impact on the environment. Nevertheless, the question being asked is how can this continue to be turned down in view of the need for social and economic growth. The representative ended by supporting green economy measures in order to adapt to climate change but noting the limitations faced in implementing cutting-edge technology that is not produced in his country.

100. The representative of Guatemala requested a clarification regarding the cost of 250 parts per million (ppm), since as far as he knows the cost is in the range of 390 ppm. Furthermore, he stressed the introduction of the ecological footprint concept. In this regard he mentioned the value of redeeming the knowledge and approach used by indigenous peoples, which offer appropriate measures to adapt to climate change. He continued by highlighting the problem that densely-populated small countries have with bio-fuels, which at a certain point could affect food security and sovereignty, due to the substitution of land needed for food production in favour of bio-fuel production. He ended his intervention by pointing out iconic examples of cities that are working on their ecological footprint, together with an initiative for organic agriculture in Costa Rica.

101. The representative of Barbados requested clarification of the green economy concept, which he understands as optimal use of natural resources, the availability of technology to reduce environmental impacts, and a reduction in the volume of waste, as well as development of a system that stresses equity in the distribution of benefits. The representative concluded by asking what additional elements have to be considered.

102. The representative of Cuba noted that green economy is a process under construction that requires taking into account specificities in each country. This new initiative cannot be developed separately from fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals and of Rio+20; otherwise the results obtained will not be satisfactory. She likewise suggested synergy with the initiatives for climate change adaptation, ecosystems and biological diversity, which were discussed on day one.

103. The representative from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela said that the presentation provided excellent motivation for the forthcoming discussion. He noted that a green economy is equivalent to sustainable development with an emphasis on economic value. At the same time, he shared the concept of country specificities expressed by the representative of Cuba when considering initiatives of this type. He highlighted that, in his view, the so-called "good investments" that derive from a green economy correspond to the developed countries, since they are the technology-providers and own the patent to such technologies.

104. The representative of Peru underscored the rapport between several initiatives in his country and the topic of a green economy, including eco-efficiency in the consumption of water, energy and paper. He agreed with the representative

of Guatemala on the importance of rescuing the knowledge of indigenous peoples, and as an example, cited the hydraulic engineering system in Cuzco.

105. The representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines recognized the importance of using technology to minimize impacts on climate and nature. He expressed concern about the fate of the economic benefits that will be generated by a green economy, specifically pondering if these benefits would spread to poor countries. His country would like to use solar and wind energy to generate electricity. Nevertheless, he was doubtful about gaining access to, and the cost of, such technologies. He ended by saying that stronger signals are needed from developed countries regarding their willingness to share these technologies with poorer countries.

106. The representative of Brazil appreciated the inclusion of this relevant topic, which also will be a part of Rio+20. She said that it is important to share the successful cases available in all countries, and that in these discussions, aspects such as poverty reduction, sustainable consumption and production patterns, and safeguarding natural capital cannot be left out. She stressed the importance of the initiative as a means to insert environmental topics into the economic agenda, and ended by asserting that Latin America and the Caribbean cannot continue being simply an exporter of *commodities*.

107. The representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela indicated that his country already is active in many topics that correspond to sustainable development and adapting to climate change, and that he consequently disagreed with the representative of Brazil on the need to increase awareness on these aspects at the level of other government institutions.

108. The representative of Nicaragua stressed that her country has been very concerned with ensuring human wellbeing in harmony with the conservation of Mother Earth, while the representative of Ecuador described the substantial progress made in her country with regard to changes in the energy grid and the results of the current ecological footprint projects.

109. The representative of Panama shared with all the delegates the challenge of inserting an environmental agenda into a capitalist economic model.

110. The representative of Uruguay noted that environment and poverty are linked univocally, which is why his Government is giving priority to helping the homeless and eradicating poverty.

111. Subsequently, the representative of Barbados confirmed the need to include economic, social and environmental elements in the Green Economy Initiative. Furthermore, he informed the delegates about Barbados' successful experience distributing solar energy water heaters, which was accomplished by means of government incentives and alliances with banks and businesses. Results were obtained in spite of an unfavourable economic context. Countries that would like to pursue these alternative options should have the sovereignty to do so.

112. The representative of Nicaragua highlighted her country's wealth in the geothermic and eolic energy sectors, and its continuing efforts to transform the

energy grid to 85% of renewable energy by 2015, as part of the measures aimed at attaining sustainable development in the country.

113. The representative of civil society underlined the importance of incorporating local economies into these green economy analysis processes. As an example, he cited the results obtained in Peru by prioritizing the organic agriculture sector, which allowed a growth from 99 producers in 1991 to 40,000 producers at present.

114. In closing the session, Mr. Steven Stone gave thanks for the discussion and took note of the successful cases mentioned. He remarked that green economy is still a "work in progress", and that it is different from sustainable development because it applies to all countries, and not only to developing countries. He recalled the interventions of the representatives of Guatemala and Peru with regard to the importance of taking advantage of fundamental traditional knowledge and cultural values, also relevant as traditional models of a low-carbon lifestyle. He noted the importance of interactions between existing initiatives (millennium objectives) and of strengthening the dialogue between ministries, before closing with a quote from the former governor of Acre State in Brazil: "A green economy means low carbon and high social inclusion."

5.4. Forthcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)

115. The Chairperson from Suriname called upon the distinguished representative of Brazil to provide the introduction to this agenda item.

116. The representative of Brazil informed the meeting that the proposal to hold a Conference on Sustainable Development, to reflect on the twenty years of implementation of the UN Conference on Environment and Development (Rio 1992), was approved by the UN General Assembly on 24th December 2009, in Resolution 236.

117. The representative of Brazil explained that according to the Resolution, there will be two sessions of the Preparatory Committee, in parallel to the meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) that will take place in New York (17 to 19 May 2010 and two days to be determined in February 2011). The third and final meeting will be held in Brazil, across three days, immediately preceding the Conference. The bureau of the Preparatory Committee shall be composed of ten members, two from each regional group. The Group of Latin American and Caribbean countries (GRULAC), in New York, chose Argentina and Antigua and Barbuda as the region's representatives to the bureau of the Preparatory Committee of the Rio +20 Conference. Brazil will be part of the bureau as a member *ex officio*.

118. She indicated that it is important to complement the preparatory process at the local, national and regional levels. She informed that the regional meeting of the CSD in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is organized annually by ECLAC, will constitute a preparation for Rio+20.

119. In addition, Brazil suggested that regional coordination for Rio+20 should take place in other regional environmental fora, especially in the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

120. Furthermore, she highlighted that there are some topics already identified in the resolution such as, contribution of the "green economy" to sustainable development and to eradicating poverty, and the institutional reform for sustainable development. Nonetheless, the Resolution opens the door for additional issues such as : (i) Means for renewing the political commitment to sustainable development; (ii) Implementation of the major conventions in the area of sustainable development; (iii) New and emerging challenges; and (iv) Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

121. The Resolution also states that the outcome of the Conference will be a politically-focused document to be adopted by the UN General Assembly.

122. The issue of the role of the Forum of Ministers in this process was raised. She explained that there is no specific mention of UNEP in the Resolution; instead a broad invitation is made to the United Nations system. In this regard, she referred to the fact that the Global Forum of Ministers of the Environment, which met in parallel to the UNEP Governing Council, in Bali in February 2010, had recognized the importance of participating in the preparatory process for Rio+20. The Regional Director of UNEP/ROLAC, in response to this issue, indicated that UNEP is supportive of the process and that direction is needed on this, from the Forum.

123. One suggestion that was highlighted was the possibility of coordinating such a position through the Consultative Group on Environmental Governance. The representative of Brazil was of the view that a more inclusive approach would be taken with respect to the involvement of major groups. She also underscored the importance of adopting a multilateral approach to the meeting, to allow all countries to have a voice in the proceedings.

124. She concluded by inviting the LAC region to participate in this process and expressed Brazil's willingness to listen and facilitate the dialogue so that the Rio+20 Conference turns out as successful as the 1992 Summit.

125. All the delegations that took the floor thanked the Government of Brazil for taking the initiative in organizing Rio+20 and pledged their full support. They also highlighted some additional issues which could be addressed at the conference. The representative of Guatemala mentioned topics such as mining, chemicals, solid waste, transportation, and cleaner production. He added that the debates at Rio+20 should contribute to a change in attitude and behaviours, and new development models.

126. Barbados underlined the need to have an extensive exhibition of indigenous technologies.

127. Mexico indicated that there should be a critical deliberation on what has failed since the convening of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development (UNCED) in 1992. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela highlighted the need to explore ways of strengthening the role of major regional groups in the process.

128. The representative of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification informed that the Convention Secretariat is organizing the second International Conference on Climate Change, Sustainability and Development in Semi-arid Regions (ICID 2010) to be held in Fortaleza, Brazil from 16 to 20 August 2010. He also mentioned that in 2009, the UN General Assembly declared the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010–2020).

129. The representative from Peru expressed that Rio 1992 had become a turning point and was confident that the same would be true of Rio+20. To this end, it will be important to reflect on achievements after Rio 1992 including the goals and objectives of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Development Goals.

130. The Head of Delegation of Antigua y Barbuda informed that his country will serve as co-chair, together with South Korea, in the preparatory process of Rio+20. He underscored the importance of articulating a clear vision of what is expected to be achieved in Rio in 2012.

Agenda Item 6: Decisions adopted by the eleventh special session of the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum

131. The Deputy Executive Director of UNEP presented document UNEP/LAC-IG.XVII/Ref. 9, and introduced the Nusa Dua Declaration and Governing Council decisions adopted by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its Eleventh Special Session held in Bali from 24th to 26th February 2010.

132. She stated that the Nusa Dua (Indonesia) Declaration is the voice of the Ministers of Environment; since it includes thematic areas of international environmental concern and by means of this Declaration, the Ministers spoke to the rest of the world and oriented UNEP's work.

133. Regarding the decisions, she mentioned that the guidelines adopted in decision 4 under environmental law had been prepared through a participatory process and that they can be adapted taking into account each country's situation. She also referred to the Rio+20 process and how countries can position themselves in this regard.

134. She mentioned that the decision on the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biological Diversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) has already been extensively discussed by the representatives; however, if needed she would be happy to further address the issue.

135. She referred to the Oceans decision, highlighting that it sheds light on how to consolidate marine and coastal issues, acknowledges the blue carbon fund and the importance of oceans and how to maximize their uses whilst still protecting them. Lastly, the decision recognizes that oceans and coasts provide resources and services that support human populations and in particular coastal communities.

136. The consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes was formalized by decision 7, which recognizes the need for adequate and accessible

funding for the agendas on chemicals and wastes. Ms. Cropper alluded to the future mercury convention and its financing requirements.

137. Finally, she referred to decision 8 and said that the international community responded to the tragic events that recently took place in Haiti. Ms. Cropper ended by saying that although the respective decisions had already been taken, some of them even discussed within this forum, should there be any comments from delegations, they would be duly addressed.

138. No delegation took the floor after the Chair opened it for discussion.

Agenda Item 7: Recommendations of the Preparatory Meeting of High Level Experts

139. Under this item of the agenda the recommendations resulting from the deliberations of the Preparatory Meeting of High-Level Experts¹¹, held prior to the Ministerial Segment, were submitted to the Forum of Ministers. The Ministers and Heads of delegations discussed the content of the draft decisions emanating from the Preparatory Meeting of Experts and proceeded to their adoption.

Agenda Item 8: Status of the implementation and future perspectives of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (Messages from the High Level Representatives of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements)

140. The issues to be considered under this Agenda Item were discussed under Agenda Item 5: Ministerial Dialogues on emerging and relevant issues for the implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative on Sustainable Development, Point 5.2 Biodiversity and Ecosystems.

Agenda Item 9: Other matters

141. When this agenda item was discussed, the Delegation of Suriname offered to host the Eighteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. The date is to be defined.

Agenda Item 10: Review of the Draft Final Report of the Seventeenth Meeting

142. Under this agenda item, participants reviewed the draft Final Report, presented by the Rapporteur, as well as the decisions adopted at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum. The Rapporteur received proposals of amendments from various delegations with respect to their own interventions. The Report was adopted and it was agreed within the next seven days that interested delegations will send any amendments they deem necessary to the Secretariat of the Forum. The Secretariat will prepare the final version of the report of the Seventeenth

¹¹ See document "Recommendations of the Segment of High-Level Experts of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean" (UNEP/LAC- IG.XVII/5).

Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Agenda Item 11: Closing of the Meeting

143. The Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean was closed by Mr. Javier Arias, General Administrator of the National Environment Authority of Panama. On this occasion the UNEP/ROLAC Regional Director, Ms. Margarita Astrálagá, thanked the countries of the Region for their support, and expressed appreciation for the presence of representatives of the ITC, and the Environment Authority for conducting the meeting.

144. The Ministers and Heads of Delegations congratulated Panama for its hospitality and efficiency as host Chair of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers

145. The meeting was closed on Friday, 30 April, 2010 at 9:00 pm.

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Annexes

Annex I

Declaration of Panama

Annex I Declaration of Panama

We, the Ministers of the Environment and Heads of Delegations gathered in the city of Panama City, Panama, at the Seventeenth Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Expressing our gratitude to the Government of Panama and its National Environment Authority (ANAM) for their hospitality and support for the celebration of the meeting of the Forum of Ministers;

Showing our solidarity with the people of our sibling countries Haiti, Chile and Mexico, who are bravely recovering from the recent natural disasters;

Reaffirming that the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean is the main intergovernmental regional policy forum for consultation on the environment, which has established itself as the most representative and important gathering, reaching a broad consensus on environmental policies and responses at regional level; that effectively encourages the exchange of ideas and agreements on actions to address the main challenges of the global and regional environmental agenda in the context of sustainable development;

Reiterating the need to promote sustainable development, as well as the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

Expressing our concern over the environmental degradation of important ecosystems in the Region, as well as the negative environmental, social and economic impacts, caused by the loss of natural heritage and climate change;

Recognizing that the region has a favorable environment for the promotion of policies that contribute effectively to sustainable development as a result of: the consideration and internalization of environmental considerations in sectoral and development policies ; the increased participation of citizens and civil society; the availability of and access to information on the status and extent of environmental challenges, coupled with a clear intention of governments and societies to conserve the environment;

Bearing in mind that 2010 is the International Year of Biological Diversity; which is an opportunity to reflect on the loss of biological diversity, on the implementation gap of the CBD, as well as the lack of resources to address these problems;

Underlining the need to strengthen the links between traditional and scientific knowledge and decision-making processes on policies that impact biological diversity and environmental services;

Noting the outcomes of the Second *ad hoc* Intergovernmental and Multi-Stakeholder Meeting on an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (Nairobi, Kenya; 5th to 9th October 2009) as well as the eleventh special session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (Bali, Indonesia; 24th to 26th February 2010);

Considering the mandate of the *Ad hoc* Open Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing to conclude negotiations of a Protocol during the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Nagoya, Japan; October 2010);

Recognizing that Latin America and the Caribbean is a highly vulnerable region to the adverse effects of climate change and convinced of the need to adopt ambitious decisions that will enable it to face this phenomenon in keeping with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;

Reiterating that an international environmental governance system is effective only if it has a strong and clear mandate, as well as adequate, predictable, and stable financial resources, coupled with the political will of States to achieve the objectives, and that this should result in improved environmental performance, as well as coordination and complementarity among Multilateral Environmental Agreements at international, regional, subregional and national levels;

Taking note of the efforts within the High Level Consultative Group on international environmental governance under UNEP 's Governing Council,

Taking note of the Initiative denominated Green Economy, led by UNEP, as a work in progress, which aims to present to governments formulas and mechanisms which address an integral approach, inclusive of all aspects related to the development and global economic growth, that might be adopted or not by countries, depending on their respective realities.

Recognizing the progress made and the challenges remaining to accelerate the shift towards patterns of sustainable consumption and production in order to continue the process of defining the specific contributions of the Region to the 10 Year Framework Programme to be presented to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development in the 2010-2011 sessions period;

Reiterating that partnerships and the provision of predictable, sustained, new and additional financial resources are crucial for the achievement of international environmental goals;

Acknowledging the ongoing process in the United Nations General Assembly and reiterating the invitation to Member States, the relevant organizations of the UN system, and international, regional and subregional organizations to consider, as appropriate, the issue of promoting life in harmony with nature and taking note of the recognition of Mother Earth as promoted in some countries such as Nicaragua that has adhered to the Universal Declaration on the Common Good of Mother Earth and of Humanity and Bolivia that promoted the re-establishment of the International Day of Mother Earth and to transmit to the Secretary General their views, experiences and proposals on this issue;

Reaffirming decision 5 of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of LAC, on Small Island Developing States;

Recognizing the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in addressing the environmental priorities of the Region and the support provided in the implementation of the decisions of the Forum, as well as the agencies of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (ITC) of the Forum¹²;

⁽¹²⁾ The ITC is integrated by UNEP as Secretariat of the Forum, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank (WB), the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Welcoming the United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/236 that approves the organization of a Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil;

Acknowledging with appreciation the World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, carried out on 22 April 2010 in Cochabamba, Bolivia, in which more than 20,000 persons, representatives of indigenous communities, environmental movements, rural organizations, and nongovernmental organizations, expressed their needs and demands in response to the effects of climate change;

DECIDE:

1. To reiterate that the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) establishes a common regional agenda towards the achievement of sustainable development, and its main tool for implementation is the Regional Action Plan (RAP), which structure and modalities of implementation will continue to be revised and updated to promote an effective implementation framework and contribute to achieving the internationally agreed goals.

2. To call upon the member agencies of the ITC, to technically and financially contribute to the implementation of the ILAC and in particular the RAP, in the framework of their mandates and programmes of work.

3. To promote the diffusion and greater depth regional debate on International Environmental Governance, promoting an active and full participation of our countries, aiming at building consensus that will contribute to the ongoing consultation process.

4. To guarantee an active presence in international environmental fora and negotiations, promoting interaction and communication mechanisms among countries of the Region that will contribute to an effective coordination and the adoption of common positions.

5. To reaffirm our commitment to work in a coordinated manner within the negotiation process of the Working Groups under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and that the work , during the 16th Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 6th Meeting of the Parties of the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Cancun, Mexico, on December 2010, be transparent to achieve a legally binding outcome for the second commitment period of the Protocol, that contributes effectively to combat climate change.

6. To maintain a regional proactive position in the resumed Ninth Meeting of the Ad hoc Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing for the conclusion of negotiations for the adoption in the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Nagoya, Japan; October 2010) and effective implementation of an international protocol on access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, reflecting the agreements already reached in the region regarding the main components of the regime.

- 7. To recognize** the need to create a new mechanism to strengthen the science policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- 8. To contribute positively** to the third and final negotiations meeting to be held in June 2010 in the Republic of Korea on improving the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services, as a way to strengthen the objectives of CBD, Bonn Convention on Migratory Species, Ramsar Convention and other related global agreements, to support generation of knowledge at the local, national, regional and global levels.
- 9. To call** upon UNEP, to the extent possible, to provide resources to support the active participation of the countries from the region in the Third Intergovernmental Meeting to strengthen the science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES).
- 10. To increase** efforts to conserve biodiversity, promoting the full implementation of multilateral environmental agreements on biodiversity.
- 11. To actively participate** in the discussion and adoption of a 10 Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production, during the deliberations of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development at its 2010 to 2011 sessions.
- 12. To reaffirm** the need that the transition towards sustainable consumption and production patterns should be accelerated in developed countries.
- 13. To take into account** the priorities of the region, to expedite the transition to sustainable consumption and production patterns, that promote social and economic development within the limits of capacity of ecosystems, and facilitate the decoupling between economic growth and ecosystem degradation, through improvements in resource efficiency and productive processes, and by reducing the degradation of natural resources, pollution and waste.
- 14. To adopt** mechanisms that strengthens South-South cooperation among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean as a tool for transferring knowledge, successful experiences, technology and technical resources, among others.
- 15. To continue** strengthening the opportunities and capacities for the active and informed participation of all major groups in policies and programmes towards sustainable development.
- 16. To reaffirm** our commitment to incorporate the environmental agenda in long-term national policies and advocate for the integration of environmental considerations into the daily work of public administrations, parliaments, judicial systems, local communities, private company, research institutions, academia, and all sectors of society.
- 17. To strengthen and continue** to actively participate in the discussion fora for the construction of the methodological sheets of environmental indicators emerging and in development.
- 18. To promote** the elaboration and use of the ILAC indicators at the regional and subregional levels, promoting synergies among related regional mechanisms, in order to monitor progress in meeting the objectives of sustainable development.

19. To promote actions towards the effective implementation of the Ten Year Strategy of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification within our region, through improving the integration of sustainable land management in national development frameworks. Likewise, to recognize the role of sustainable land management in contributing to climate change adaptation and biodiversity conservation

20. To strengthen mechanisms towards access to environmental information in countries of the region, promoting the generation and dissemination of relevant, updated and good quality environmental information, through capacity building and cooperation among ILAC countries and the ITC.

21. To continue active support for the implementation of the Barbados Plan of Action (BPoI) and Mauritius Strategy For Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

22. To reaffirm our commitment with environmental education in the region, in particular with the promotion of the Latin American and Caribbean Programme on Environmental Education (PLACEA) launched by this forum in 2003, as well as the subregional mechanisms arising from it, taking into consideration priority themes identified in the RAP.

23. To welcome the active participation of UNEP in the preparatory process towards Rio+20 as proposed by the Governing Council in its 11th Special Session.

Signed in the City of Panama, Republic of Panama, on Friday 30th April 2010 by the Ministers and Delegates to this Seventeenth Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

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**Permanent Mission of Antigua and
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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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**Ministry of the Environment,
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BARBADOS

Mr. Gaspar Vega
Minister
**Ministry of Natural Resources
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Secretaria de Biodiversidad y Bosques
Ministerio de Medio Ambiente
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Sra. María Ignacia Benítez Pereira
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Minister
Ministry of Health and Environment

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Sr. Jorge Norman Patrone Chirelli
Subsecretario
**Ministerio de Vivienda, Ordenamiento
Territorial y Medio Ambiente**

URUGUAY

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Annex II
Decisions of the Seventeenth
Meeting of the Forum of Ministers
of the Environment of Latin
America and the Caribbean

Annex II Decisions

The Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the Governments present at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Panama City, Republic of Panama, from 26th to 30th April 2010, taking into account the recommendations of the Preparatory Meeting of Experts and the deliberations of this Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, adopted the following decisions:

Decision 1 Regional Action Plan for 2010-2011 and assessment of implementation instruments

Taking into account that the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean is the main regional intergovernmental political forum on environmental matters and offers environmental authorities a venue to agree upon actions and ponder the main challenges of the global and regional environmental agenda within the context of sustainable development;

Whereas the Regional Action Plan (RAP) is the main instrument of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean for the implementation of agreed upon regional strategies;

Highlighting the need for the RAP document to clearly show the interests and capacity of the financial and technical support of the ITC Agencies and for them to be taken into account by the work programmes of their respective government bodies;

Recalling decision 1 of the Sixteenth Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean

Recognizing the usefulness of the work done during the intersessional process aimed at operationalizing the 2010-2011 RAP and that this exercise must refer to the effective implementation of the ILAC.

Underscoring the duties of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (ITC) as a venue of support for the Forum to make regional cooperation, as well the rational use of the available financial resources, more effective, coherent, and harmonious;

DECIDE:

1. To request the Agencies of the ITC to support the implementation of the RAP 2010-2011¹³, with technical and financial resources, within their existing capabilities, according to the areas on which they have experience and comparative advantages and within the framework of their respective mandates.

¹³ See **Appendix 1 to Annex II**, which is part of this decision.

2. To invite the Agencies of the ITC, along with the members of the Forum, to conduct a conceptual revision of the implementation structure and modalities of the RAP with a view toward assessing the effectiveness of and compliance with their objectives, identifying implementation problems, and presenting options to implement the programmatic decisions of the Forum.

3. To promote a process of intersessional discussion, which in terms of the aforementioned assessment and the lessons learned, would facilitate the establishment of programmes along with the Agencies of the ITC, without prejudice for the activities carried out by the Agencies individually, in order to support the efforts made by the countries in the region to continue to implement the ILAC.

Decision 2

Biological Diversity and Ecosystems

Recalling that Latin America and the Caribbean is the region with most biodiversity in the planet, and the growing recommendation of the governments and society regarding the value of biodiversity and its services associated to ecosystems therefore many countries have adopted regulatory frameworks for biodiversity and the sustainable use of its components;

Recognizing the need of reverting biodiversity loss and increasing to the maximum the provision of services from ecosystems in Latin America and the Caribbean;

Reaffirming that States are responsible for the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of natural resources;

Emphasizing the opportunity offered by the celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010, to promote actions, at the national, regional and international level, contributing to increase awareness on the role of biological diversity in ensuring the subsistence and the well-being of human kind, and to present it as a viable, long term and necessary component to promotes sustainable development for which means of implementation are essential;

Underlining the relevance of the decision relating to the celebration in 2011 of the International Year of Forests, as an opportunity to promote actions, at the national, regional and global levels, promoting sustainable forest management and their recognition as a key element for the sustainable development of the region due to the services and benefits they provide;

Recalling decision 9 of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers on the sustainable management of natural protected areas and recognizing the efforts made by the countries of the region in more than doubling the number of protected areas in Latin America and the Caribbean between 1990 and 2008.

DECIDE:

1. To cooperate, at the maximum extent possible, in the protection and sustainable use of biological diversity in the sectoral and intersectoral plans, programmes and policies.

- 2. To encourage** the development and adoption of new national strategies for the conservation of biological diversity in countries within the region through specific participatory plans in the CBD framework and in concordance with national development plans.
- 3. To promote** the exchange of experiences among countries in the region related to the scope of application of their national conservation plans.
- 4. To promote** synergies among the biological diversity related conventions, respecting their relevant mandates, as a way towards facilitating effective national, regional and global implementation and the accomplishment of their objectives.
- 5. To design and implement** effective mechanisms and regulatory frameworks for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and the internalization of environmental, economic and social benefits derived from its conservation and the costs derived from its loss.
- 6. To promote** the establishment and strengthen the management of natural protected areas systems in order to achieve an adequate representation of biomes and ecosystems.
- 7. To promote** the implementation of adaptation to climate change based on an ecosystem approach.
- 8. Encourage**, in conformity with national priorities, the creation of biological corridors in the region as effective conservation measures for biodiversity, taking as a reference the positive results and lessons learned from the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor and the Caribbean Biological Corridor.
- 9. To promote** the importance of the conservation of biological diversity, through mass media and the implementation of education and public awareness programmes.
- 10. To recognize** the compromises adopted in several international fora to elaborate and implement risk management strategies, and to reduce threats to ecosystems, biological diversity and human health, in particular on vulnerable populations, caused by pesticides and other chemicals, by promoting the exchange of information and South-South cooperation at regional level in bioremediation actions.
- 11. To participate** actively in the deliberations at the third and final ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting in June 2010 to negotiate and reach agreement on whether to establish an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- 12. To request** the United Nations Environment Programme to support efforts by Governments and relevant organizations to finalize the above-mentioned deliberations and, in accordance with the decision SS.XI/3 of the eleventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, transmit the outcomes of and necessary documentation from the third and final meeting to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session for consideration during the High-Level Segment on Biological Diversity in September 2010.

Decision 3

Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization and Participation of the Region in the Negotiation of a Protocol

Reaffirming that the adoption in Nagoya, Japan, of a Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity is a high priority for the region, which harbors the large share of the biodiversity on the planet;

Acknowledging the value that the traditional knowledge of the indigenous and local communities of the region has in the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity and the need to promote their prior informed consent and the fair and equitable benefit sharing arising from of the utilization of that knowledge associated to genetic resources;

Acknowledging that a *Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Benefit Sharing Arising from their Utilization* will contribute to eradicate the cases of misappropriation and misuse of such resources and the associated traditional knowledge;

Recalling that decision 12 of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; 27th January to 1st February, 2008) agreed the importance to guarantee the participation of developing countries in the multilateral negotiations in order to avoid lack of representation, transparency and legitimacy of the proposals and agreements to be reached in such forums;

Taking into consideration the common understanding on key elements of the Protocol achieved by the countries of the region in the *Access and Benefit Sharing Regional Consultations for Latin America and the Caribbean Countries* (Panama City, Panama; 15th and 16th January, 2010);

Expressing gratitude to the United Nations Environment Programme and to the Convention on Biological Diversity for the support provided for the organization of the regional consultations on Access and Benefit Sharing for supporting the participation of the delegates from Latin America and the Caribbean countries;

Taking note of the recent course of the international negotiations on this issue and in particular the outcome of the *First Part of the Ninth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing of the Convention on Biological Diversity* (Cali, Colombia; 22nd to 28th March 2010);

Considering that in the draft report of the *First Part of the Ninth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing* it was agreed to resume the meeting between June and July 2010, in Montreal, Canada, in order to negotiate the *“Revised Draft Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity on the Access to the Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Benefit Sharing”* (refer to UNEP/CBD/WG-ABC/9/L-2);

Confirming that the *status quo* of the negotiation for the adoption of the Protocol demands more than ever the full involvement of the countries of the region to ensure that the regional needs and interest be protected and respected in the

negotiation process and in the final text to be adopted in the Tenth Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Nagoya, Japan; 19th to 29th October 2010);

Underlining with particular attention the agreement reached by the countries of the region to organize regional consultations with the aim to promote the regional interest on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from of their utilization heading to its participation in the resumed meeting of the Ninth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

DECIDE:

1. To consolidate and further the common understanding achieved in the *Access and Benefit Sharing Regional Consultations for Latin America and the Caribbean Countries* (Panama City, Panama; 15th and 16th January 2010) with the aim of strengthening our positions in the resumed of the Ninth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

2. To ratify the need to implement the corresponding actions to guarantee the participation of the countries of the region in the multilateral negotiations scheduled by the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Open- Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing to ensure the representation, transparency and legitimacy of the proposals and agreements to be reached in such forums.

3. To acknowledge the tireless efforts and reaffirm its support to the work of the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Open- Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing, to enhance the negotiations of the Protocol, in particular with the submission of a *“Revised Draft Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity”*.

4. To organize a new meeting of regional consultations before resuming the Ninth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open- Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing, in order to allow countries of the region to consolidate, strengthen and continue developing its position, by which requests to the United Nations Environment Programme and to the Convention on Biological Diversity to facilitate to the Latin America and the Caribbean countries all the support possible, including financial support.

5. To reaffirm the following priorities of the Latin American and the Caribbean countries in the negotiations of the Protocol:

- a) Since the core of the Protocol is the issue of Compliance, it is a priority to establish tools and procedures for monitoring and follow up the utilization of the genetic resources, such as the Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance issued by a national competent authority, the disclosure requirements and the Check Points, disclosure of origin where appropriate, and to facilitate access to justice in foreign jurisdictions with the aim of ensuring compliance with national legislation in this matter;

- b) The Prior Inform Consent (PIC) as precondition of access to the genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and the Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) as the basis for the benefit sharing;
- c) Promote mechanisms and measures that ensure the fair and equitable sharing of all the benefits arising from all kind of utilization of the genetic resources and their derivatives;
- d) To recognize the category of Country of Origin in replacing the Provider Country according the terminology of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- e) The harmonic and mutually supportive relation between the Protocol and other international agreements, without affecting the obligations of the countries with other international agreements provided these do not contravene, undermine or otherwise circumvent the provisions of the Protocol;
- f) The implementation of a mechanisms to provide support to developing country Parties in cases of dispute, and;
- g) The implementation of the obligations of Non-Party countries.

6. To ratify the political willingness of the countries of the region to participate in a proactive and constructive manner in the resumed Ninth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open- Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing of the Convention on Biological Diversity that exhort to other regions and groups of countries to show political willingness in order to conclude, in Montreal, Canada, the negotiation of the Protocol. To that effect, decide that GRULAC keep working with other regions towards moving forward in the negotiations.

7. To promote the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of the traditional knowledge associated to genetic resources of the indigenous and local communities of the region.

8. To ensure the full and effective participation of the indigenous and local communities of the region in the above mentioned meeting of regional consultations.

9. To transmit this decision to the Delegations of participating countries in the negotiations of the Protocol.

10. To entrust the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Environmental Programme to transmit this decision to the Executive Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity with the purpose of obtaining the necessary support for the organization of the Regional Consultations and give it the appropriate dissemination.

Decision 4 Environmental Indicators

Taking into account that the proposed indicators for the Guiding Goals and Indicative Purposes of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) strengthens the capacity of countries to measure their achievements and progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

Noting the need to increase the availability, access, harmonization and coordination of environmental data and information and sustainable development, to assess the progress made in the implementation of ILAC, the MDGs and other international and regional initiatives;

Underlining the need to to increase efforts at the regional level, so that all countries have a national system of environmental statistics and indicators;

Reaffirming the commitment of countries in the region to harmonize the methodologies used for collecting environmental statistics and indicators within the framework of the Forum;

Recognizing the progress in the implementation of decision 11 of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; November 2005) on environmental indicators, *under the leadership of the Government of Costa Rica as coordinator of the Working Group*;

Taking into account the Inter Agency cooperation between UNEP and ECLAC whose main objectives are to strengthen and develop the national technical capabilities, helping to improve production and quality of environmental statistics in the country, and promote the dissemination and use of environmental information to strengthen decision-making and assessments;

Given the approval of the proposal for the creation of the working group on environmental statistics to support the development of the relevant statistics on natural resources and environment and their integration into the national statistics systems of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean during the Fifth Conference of the Americas, in which UNEP and ECLAC act as the secretariat of the working group.

DECIDE:

- 1. To endorse** the recommendations of the Working Group on Environmental Indicators of the Forum resulting from the meeting held from 26 to 28 August, 2009;
- 2. To accept** the work plan of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on Geospatial Information and Earth Observation Systems of the Working Group on Environmental Indicators (WGEI);
- 3. To support** the continuation and strengthening of the Working Group on Environmental Indicators of the Forum, coordinated by Mexico, and its Technical Advisory Committee on Geospatial Information and Earth Observation Systems of the Working Group on Environmental Indicators (WGEI), coordinated by Panama;

4. **To request** the Working Group and TAC to reach consensus on the indicator and methodology sheets, and identify missing indicators for the ILAC goals;
5. **To request** the Working Group to review the relevance of indicators for regional and subregional priorities, on a regular basis, as well as the priority lines of work of the RAP 2010-2011;
6. **To promote** the implementation of the ILAC indicators with methodological sheets at the national level, within the framework of the Forum, in order to assess the progress on the implementation of ILAC, and to request UNEP, ECLAC and other ITC agencies to contribute and support the mobilization of financial resources required for countries in the region that have a system of indicators for ILAC;
7. **To promote**, jointly with the "Statistical Conference of the Americas Working Group on Environmental Statistics", capacity building in the development of environmental statistics and indicators, through the use of virtual tools, virtual education forums and seminars
8. **To encourage** training activities in the use of geo-spatial tools for the development of ILAC indicators, in conjunction with the TAC;
9. **To strengthen** the Working Group on Environmental Indicators, by incorporating technical capacity building for their focal points and the promotion of horizontal cooperation among member countries;
10. **To promote**, within the region and in international forums, the use of ILAC indicators to complement MDG indicators, to ensure appropriate measurement of environmental elements, particularly in Goal 7;
11. **To revamp** the proposal of the Regional Environmental Statistics System of Latin America and the Caribbean (SIREA for its initials in Spanish) and formulate a strategic plan for implementation and capacity building at national level, to generate, process and disseminate statistics and indicators, including the development of national information systems and with particular attention to strengthening the national capacities of Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean;
12. **To exchange** national experiences in order to identify alternatives for advancement in the inclusion of environmental management into National Accounts;
13. **To continue** supporting the preparation of Integrated Environmental Assessments (IEA) at regional, subregional, national and subnational level, reflecting both ILAC and specific priority areas;
14. **To request** the ITC agencies, in accordance with their respective mandates, and other regional and subregional organizations, to cooperate with the Working Group on Environmental Indicators of the Forum of Ministers for the strengthening and consolidation of environmental indicators, geo-spatial information and Earth observation systems.

Decision 5

Sustainable Consumption and Production

Considering that the World Summit on Sustainable Development that took place in Johannesburg called for the promotion of a 10-Year Framework of Programmes to support national and regional initiatives in order to accelerate the transition toward sustainable consumption and production patterns;

Recognizing that the Marrakech Process is a global process to support the implementation of concrete projects on SCP and the elaboration of a 10-Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) on SCP which will be presented at the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) during its 2010-2011 cycle;

Considering that in the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC), presented at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Latin American and Caribbean countries expressed the need to incorporate the concepts of cleaner production in industry and, at the same time, to work toward sustainable consumption;

Recognizing the results of the meetings of Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the existence of the Regional Council of Governmental Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production; and the previous decisions approved by the Forum of Ministers in Panama (2003), Venezuela (2005) and Dominican Republic (2009) ratifying their agreement on implementation of the Regional SCP Strategy;

Taking into account that the Marrakech Process has achieved significant results in the development and implementation of national and sub-regional policies and projects on SCP;

Considering the valuable contributions made by sub-regional organizations, NGOs, the network of national cleaner production centers, scientific and technical communities, trade unions, and business and industry during the Fifth Regional Meeting of Experts on SCP.

DECIDE:

1. To support the implementation of the priority areas of SCP those are common to all sub-regions, taking into consideration the themes identified in the Final Report of the Fifth Meeting of Government Experts on Sustainable Production and Consumption of Latin America and the Caribbean (Cartagena de las Indias, Colombia; 16th to 18th September 2009) and initially include inter alia the following priority themes:

- a) National SCP Policies, Programmes and Strategies;
- b) Small and medium enterprises;
- c) Sustainable public procurement;
- d) Sustainable lifestyles.

2. **To recognize** the significant developments achieved in the establishment and update of the Regional Information Network on SCP, as a tool to disseminate information, link different stakeholders and strengthen the capacities required to contribute to the shift towards sustainable consumption and production patterns.
3. **To promote** the strengthening of institutions responsible for SCP in each country and to ensure the active participation of these institutions in the regional activities related to SCP.
4. **To foster** the active participation of the sub-regional institutions, the Non – Governmental Organizations, the academic sector, the trade unions, the industrial sector, the Cleaner Production Centres and the civil society in the regional process of implementation of the SCP priority areas.
5. **To promote and support** the mainstreaming of SCP in economic and social development policies of the countries of the region.
6. **To request** to United Nations organizations, development agencies, financial mechanisms and institutions such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as well as other intergovernmental organizations including the Multilateral Environmental Agreements, to identify and make available financial resources dedicated to support the proposal of actions at national level for the implementation of the agreed RAP, including technical assistance, transfer of technologies and successful experiences.
7. **To promote** the inclusion of the priority areas for SCP common to all sub-regions in the proposal of 10-Year Framework Programme which will be presented at the CSD 2010-2011.
8. **To ratify** the composition of the Operative Committee of the Regional Council of Experts on SCP for the 2009-2011 period.
9. **To include** the topic of the Marrakech Process and chapter III of the Implementation Plan of Johannesburg in the agenda for the Eighteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment in order to define the modalities of implementation in the region of the CSD 2010-2011 decisions in the area of SCP.

Decision 6 **Atmospheric Pollution**

Recognizing that the region has experienced increasing air pollution, primarily of urban origin, affecting public health, environment, productivity and quality of life;

Reaffirming the importance of having reliable information as the basis for accurate appraisal of such impacts and the associated costs;

Noting that there is a clear understanding of the key factors in the region's urban atmospheric pollution, namely extensive urban development with serious problems in regulating land use, increased levels of automobile densities, rapid expansion in population urban centers, and planned economic development accompanied by higher energy consumption;

Recognizing the efforts in the region to control air pollution and establish information systems that contribute to comprehensive management of air quality as a public policy;

Recognizing also the need for the region to contribute effectively to dialogues on the control of long-range transboundary air pollution at the inter-regional, hemispheric and global scales, through the Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum and other fora;

Recalling the recommendation of representatives of governments and experts at the South American Conference on Sulfur Fuels held in Quito on February 13-14, 2007;

Noting the positive experiences with the implementation of more efficient systems of transport, as well as fuels with less impact and the use of other sources of renewable energies and vehicles in some cities and countries of the region;

Reaffirming the importance of pollutant emissions from transport in relation to the total atmospheric emissions, and of making progress in reducing the sulphur content in vehicle fuels, with the aim of cutting the emission of pollutants into the atmosphere and taking advantage of the latest automobile and associated technologies;

Taking into account the results of the Meetings of the Intergovernmental Network on Air Pollution for Latin America and the Caribbean held in Panama City, Panama (March 2009) and Mexico City, Mexico (December 2009) and the Decisions on Atmospheric Pollution and Better Fuels for Better Air Quality approved by the Forum during the meeting in Dominican Republic (2008), which ratify the compromise and decision to proceed in the development of a regional action plan targeting the reduction of air pollution;

Recalling the work to date on cleaner fuels and vehicles to improve air quality by the UNEP-based Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV), the Pan American Health Organization, the Latin American Initiative for Clean Air (now Clean Air Institute), the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD), the Center for Inter-American Commission for Environment and Development (CICAD), the Global Fuel Economy Initiative and other regional organizations, their partners and collaborators.

DECIDE:

1. To recognize the Intergovernmental Network on Air Pollution for Latin America and the Caribbean as an entity aiming at:

- a) Facilitating technical exchanges;
- b) Promoting capacity development;
- c) Assessing and proposing policy options for reducing air pollution; and
- d) Supporting the development and implementation of a regional action plan with the objective of reducing air pollution in the region.

2. To continue the discussion on the Framework Agreement on Air Pollution for Latin America and the Caribbean, proposed by the Intergovernmental Network on

Air Pollution for Latin America and the Caribbean at its second meeting in Mexico, to continue with an effective regional dialogue on the issue.

3. To request the Experts Network on Atmospheric Pollution and the High Level Experts Group of the Forum the development of a proposal of a regional action plan, during the Intersessional period, that use as reference, inter alia, the activities foreseen in the Framework Agreement on Air Pollution, to be presented to the Eighteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers.

4. To promote the strengthening of the institutional areas in each country, which are responsible for air pollution control and to maintain an active participation of these institutions in the regional activities related to this topic.

5. To express the willingness to strengthen the public-private dialogue and the role of all sectors involved in the promotion of commitments and actions oriented to reduction of air pollution for all the priority areas defined, within regional, sub-regional and national planning.

6. To request technical, financial and capacity support from relevant financial, international cooperation agencies and donors, within and outside the region aiming at reducing atmospheric pollution in the region.

Decision 7 Chemicals

Recognizing that if chemicals are not soundly managed they can cause serious problems to the environment and society.

Recognizing the technological, technical and financial limitations faced by the countries of the region to address sound management of chemicals as well as the lack of monitoring capacities to enforce the assessment of national, regional and global measures to fully comply with the international instruments related to hazardous chemicals and waste;

Highlighting the importance of the decisions arising from the Extraordinary Meetings of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, for the Enhancement and Coordination among the three conventions, with a view to supporting governments for an effective implementation of these international instruments;

Considering that in June 2010 inter-governmental negotiations will begin for the drafting of a legally-binding instrument on mercury, under the chairmanship of the region, and recognizing that the regional experts have underscored in the meeting held in Panama City, Panama, on April 15 and 16, 2010, the role of facilitator for the exchange of information, the regional discussion and the technical support that UNEP through the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean can continue offering in this process;

Reiterating the importance of mobilizing necessary new, sustainable, predictable and additional financial resources to strengthen global, regional and national efforts to comply with chemicals and waste conventions;

Stressing the importance of maintaining and ensuring the full and effective participation of all Latin American and Caribbean countries in international fora and negotiations on chemicals and waste;

Recognizing the importance of continuing and strengthening regional cooperation in the field of chemicals, through the regional and subregional centers of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions.

DECIDE:

1. To request UNEP and other ITC agencies continue to provide technical assistance to countries for conducting inventories and profiles of hazardous chemicals and waste; strengthening surveillance and monitoring capacity, to develop policies for management of hazardous chemicals and waste, as well as dealing with their environmentally sound of chemicals and waste during their life cycle.

2. To request UNEP to offer the technical support necessary to the region during the meetings of the Inter-Governmental Negotiations Committee on Mercury, as well as support for the related process and projects during the intersession periods, as requested by the regional experts on mercury at the regional meeting held in Panama City, Panama, on April 15th and 16th 2010.

3. To express our willingness to contribute to the effective implementation of decisions on synergies among the three conventions on chemicals and waste at the national, regional and global levels, with the purpose to move towards enhanced international governance of hazardous chemicals and waste.

4. To continue and strengthen the coordination among countries of the region within the framework of the intergovernmental negotiations to prepare a global legally binding instrument on mercury, with the purpose to ensure a balance between the obligations and the provision of implementation means, including financial resources and transfer of technologies, which are necessary for proper implementation of agreed commitments, and will be complemented with voluntary measures for the reduction and/or elimination of mercury.

5. To highlight the importance the region gives to the possible opening of a GEF Focal Area for chemicals with new and additional resources that allow the effective implementation of MEAs and SAICM, taking into account the synergies approach;

6. To express their interest in participating actively, through contributions from the Parties and other stakeholder in the actions undertaken by UNEP related to the identification of financing alternatives for chemicals and waste, in accordance with decision SS. XI/7 on the continuation of the Consultative Process on Financing Options for Chemicals and Waste, adopted at the 11th special session of the Governing Council of UNEP/Forum / Global Environmental Ministerial level, celebrated in Bali, Indonesia, from 24th to 26th February 2010.

7. To call upon UNEP and the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to continue supporting all countries in the region, through the funding of its delegates, with the purpose to ensure full and effective participation in the forums and international negotiations on chemicals and hazardous wastes.

8. To encourage the UNEP through the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions to provide their support to regional and subregional centers of Latin America and the Caribbean for the achievement of its objectives and functions.

9. To exhort the countries of the region to strengthen mechanisms for exchanging information regarding best management practices for hazardous chemicals and wastes, including the implementation of the public awareness programs.

10. To request UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean to transmit this decision to the Executive Director of UNEP, and the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions for their knowledge and implementation, as appropriate.

Decision 8

Sustainable Land Management

Recalling that in decision 16 of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) held in Santo Domingo between January 27th and February 1st, 2008, the Ministers decided to ask the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (ITC) and the Secretariat of the Forum, in coordination with the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD, to draft a proposal of regional scope that would indicate the patterns and actions necessary to increment the flow of financial resources to support the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) at the national, subregional, and regional levels;

Recalling that in the same decision 16, the ITC and the Secretariat of the Forum, in coordination with the Global Mechanism, was asked to strengthen the interaction among other international cooperation agencies, particularly multilateral development banks and international funds, including the Global Environment Fund (GEF), in order to establish budget programmes and allocations aimed at combating desertification and sustainable land management;

Considering the Governments allocate resources that contribute, in several manners, to mitigating the effects of land degradation, desertification, and the effects of drought (DTDS), albeit not always in the amount or efficacy desirable to overcome the existing conditions and dynamics, and these allotments follow the framework of policies of each country. This is why it is necessary to contribute to defining such policies and giving importance to sustainable land management, thus encouraging the contribution of resources from the State and other stakeholders;

Considering the (public and private) investments necessary to overcome the existing DTDS conditions, especially for productive activities to internalize the principles of sustainable land management, must be financed by resources coming from many possible sources and through different mechanisms;

Recognizing that countries must make efforts to internalize the principles of shared responsibility to combat DTDS and that the multilateral financial organizations have their own criteria and lines of financing, as well as established procedures for the allocation of resources to specific countries, programmes, projects, and actions, they do not always respond to national policies and plans, and therefore it is desirable to define the policies, strategies, actions, and resources required to guide and collaborate with these agencies, so that their contributions would be larger and conveniently coordinated in order for countries to make better use of them;

Cognizant of the need to give explicit importance and consideration to the DTDS in the strategies or programmes of financial agencies and the recognition of their links to other programmatic areas;

Bearing in mind the Ministers Declaration of Santo Domingo, which agreed upon the promotion of the effective implementation of the UNCCD and its linking to initiatives of mitigation and adaptation to climate change and the integrated management of ecosystems and that this requires a profound revision of the lines of financing, particularly those of the GEF;

Whereas decision 8 of the Eighth Conference of the Parties of the UNCCD held in Madrid in 2007, which commits the affected party countries to aligning their programmes of national action to the 10-Year Strategy of the UNCCD and, to formulating the integrated investment frameworks some countries in the region are developing based upon this, Integrated Financial Strategies for the move of financial resources aimed at combating the DTDS, which will enable in the short run the preparation of Integrated Investment Frameworks (IIF) with predictable and sustainable resources;

Taking into account that within the framework of the Ninth Conference of the Parties of the UNCCD held in September 2009 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the development of Regional Coordination Mechanisms was agreed upon for the implementation of the UNCCD and that they should play an important role to help countries better position the DTDS topics in the region;

Welcoming the document of the Regional Integrated Financial Strategy, RIFS, *"Towards the Design of a Regional Strategy: Patterns and Actions to increase the flow of Financial Resources Aimed at its implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean"*, which was requested by the Forum in Decision 16 of its Sixteenth Meeting and facilitated by the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD, in consultation with the Secretariat and the members of the Interagency Technical Committee.

DECIDE:

1. To welcome the proposal of the Regional Integrated Financial Strategy (RIFS) drafted with the help of the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD, in coordination with the Agencies of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (ITC), which outlines general guidelines to develop a process that promotes the financial resources mobilization aimed at supporting the effective implementation of the UNCCD at, under a focus of synergy.

2. To request the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD and the Regional Coordination Unit of the UNCCD, in consultation with the Regional Executive Committee of the UNCCD and with the support of the Secretariat of the Forum and the ITC, to draft a proposal for the operationalization of the RIFS, to be submitted to the Eighteenth Meeting of the Forum, in line with the 10-Year Strategy of the UNCCD. This proposal shall define its financial mechanisms – including the possibility of specific financing from the GEF in the context of its fifth replenishment cycle – as well as the operational modalities, actions, and institutional responsibilities that are needed.

3. To request, as pertinent, to the Forum Secretariat, the Global Mechanism and the Regional Coordination Unit of the UNCCD that in permanent consultation with the Parties by means of the Regional Executive Committee, the results achieved in monitoring this decision are reported in line with corresponding institutional mandates and at the next meeting of the Forum.

Decision 9 **Small Island Developing States (SIDS)**

Recognizing the special vulnerabilities and particular structural circumstances as regards to small size, extreme open exposure to economic crises, the concentration of narrow range of basic export products, limited capacity for diversification and high susceptibility to natural disasters as articulated by Agenda 21, the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island States (BPOA), the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI);

Recognizing the importance of the role of the UN Agencies in particular the GM/UNCCD, UNCCD Secretariat, UNEP and FAO in facilitating the implementation of the Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Land Management and also the investment made by Government of Trinidad and Tobago in the establishment of the support office hosted by the Caribbean Network, for Integrated Rural Development;

Taking into account decision 4 of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, and Decision five of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean;

Acknowledging the role played by the Ministerial Support Group on South-South Cooperation between Latin American countries and Caribbean SIDS under the Chairmanship of Chile in supporting the Implementation of the Caribbean SIDS Programme;

Recognizing the ongoing processes toward the development of a ten year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and UNEPs role in facilitating the preparation of the Caribbean sub regional action plan on SCP within the Marrakesh process;

Taking into account the results of the five-year review meeting on the progress of the BPOA/MSI that was held in Saint George's, Grenada in March 2010, and its Outcome Statement which includes priority issues and the way forward;

DECIDE:

- 1. To request** the agencies of the ITC to take into account the special circumstances of SIDS in the implementation of the RAP, when implementing their programme of work addressing the environmental component of the BPOA and the MSI.
- 2. To request** the Inter-agency Technical Committee of the Forum to provide technical and financial support for the implementation of the BPOA and the MSI, as well as to facilitate the strengthening of the institutional capacity for the Caribbean SIDS at the national, sub-regional and regional levels.
- 3. To call** on UNEP to maintain and further develop its technical programme for Small Island Developing States in the LAC region and to allocate dedicated technical and financial resources to facilitate its implementation, within available resources.
- 4. To request** UNEP to continue its support to the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) as a means of strengthening the sub-region's institutional and technical capacity.
- 5. To request** UNEP to provide additional support, within available resources, for the efforts being undertaken by Caribbean SIDS in greening their economies, in particular the transformation of Dominica into an environmentally sound organic island, the low carbon development strategy being pursued by Guyana and the Barbados and Suriname green economy initiatives.
- 6. To request** UNEP to continue support to the sub-region towards achieving economic sustainable development, particularly in the environmental component of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).
- 7. To request** ITC agencies to continue supporting Caribbean SIDS participation in the Marrakech Process for the development of the 10 YFP on SCP; including the development, mobilization of resources and execution of the Caribbean Sub-Regional Action Plan as proposed by the 4th Regional Meeting of Government Experts on SCP and reaffirmed at the second sub-regional meeting in Guyana in 2010, and the mainstreaming of SCP principles in national policies, programmes and projects.
- 8. To request** ITC agencies to support countries of the region in identifying gaps in the existing data, information and capacity for environmental monitoring, assessment and decision-making, including ILAC Indicators in SIDS, and make the efforts to fill the gaps through institutional building.
- 9. To encourage** all development partners to support Caribbean SIDS to develop and strengthen their environmental awareness programmes, campaigns and materials targeting all stakeholders including decision makers public and private sectors and the civil society.
- 10. To request** UNEP to continue working with their partners to provide technical and financial support, within available resources, for the ongoing Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Land Management.
- 11. To re-establish** the Ministerial Support Group, to facilitate deeper South-South cooperation between Latin American countries and Caribbean SIDS.

12. To urge that greater effort be made by the ITC, the Forum Secretariat and other relevant partners, including the Regional Coordinating Unit of the Caribbean Environment Programme, to seek to coordinate their interventions in Caribbean SIDS with a view to maximizing the benefits for member states.

13. To request the support of ITC agencies so that the initiative being undertaken by Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Haiti to establish a Caribbean Biological Corridor in the insular Caribbean continue to achieve positive results and commend its extension to include the other Caribbean SIDS.

Decision 10

Climate Change

Recalling decision 17 of the Sixteenth Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; January 2008);

Noting that we, the developing countries, are the most vulnerable to the negative impact of climate change, and that the poor and marginalized communities are even more vulnerable to these impacts, and that in our countries extreme climatic events have already been recorded with loss of lives and serious material damages that increase the level of poverty and make the economic growth of our nations more pressing;

Emphasizing that actions against climate change should be compatible with the sustainable development of the countries in our region;

Recognizing the need to increase the global response to climate change in the light of the scientific knowledge, promoting more participation of all countries, considering common but differentiated responsibilities;

Concerned by the delay of concrete actions by developed countries to fulfill their commitments, referring to technology transfer and financial support to address inevitable climate change.

Emphasizing, the global interest to adopt policies and measures for adapting to climate change in order to contribute to social development, economic growth and environmental conservation, which must receive quick and sufficient attention related to financial support and technology transfer; and convinced that the results of the Nairobi Action Plan on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change will allow the better coordination of efforts, initiatives and cooperation in the matter;

Taking note of the usefulness of the technical preparatory meetings for climate change negotiators of Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly those jointly organized by UNEP and the Secretariat of the Convention;

Reaffirming our commitment to actively participate in the negotiations towards the Sixteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change/Sixth Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, as well as our support to Mexico as the host of this event to be held in the city of Cancun, Mexico, from 29th November to 10th December, 2010.

DECIDE:

- 1. To promote and strengthen**, within our countries, the design and implementation of effective policies and measures to address adaptation to climate change and promote the exchange of experiences and successful programmes as well as national, sub-regional and regional plans on adaptation to climate change.
- 2. To promote** the successful conclusion by 2010 of the negotiation process initiated by the Bali Road Map, encourage the dialogue on issues of common interest of the international negotiations, and, where feasible, coordinate regional positions before and during the negotiating sessions.
- 3. To encourage** developed countries by virtue of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities to comply with and increase their financial and technical support to the countries of the region for actions on adaptation and mitigation, and to comply with their existing obligations considering their historical environmental debt to mitigate emissions, and to engage into new ambitious commitments for emission reductions beyond 2012.
- 4. To integrate** measures into national development policies, taking into account the social, economic and environmental vulnerability of the region, particularly of Small Island Developing States, low-lying coastal States and those with fragile mountain ecosystems.
- 5. To urge** for the exchange of experiences, tools and methodologies among countries in the region and assess the Clean Development Mechanism, *inter alia*, and the need to have a better regional distribution of projects.
- 6. To cooperate** at the regional level for the sustainable management activities for natural forest as an effective alternative to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and the effects of climate change.
- 7. To promote** practical adaptation actions in the countries of the region aimed at increasing their adaptive capacity to face the impacts of climate change, linked to an effective disaster risk management; and to urge countries in the region, Forum, UNEP, the ITC, and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system and international financial organizations to work towards this end.
- 8. To recognize** the need to promote, at the global and regional level, innovative financing mechanisms and cleaner technology centres, permitting capacity building and the facilitation of technology transfer to undertake actions related to climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- 9. To request** UNEP, and the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other relevant international organizations, to continue strengthening the regional capacity to participate actively in the process of implementing the Convention.
- 10. To support** the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and encourages closer cooperation within this

group to promote the role of biological diversity and Sustainable Land Management in mitigation and adaptation to Climate Change.

11. To request UNEP, in cooperation with the ITC and other relevant organizations, to facilitate access to climate change finance and associated technical assistance, especially in the areas of its priorities including ecosystem based adaptation.

12. To encourage and support regional, sub-regional and national initiatives to conduct vulnerability assessments, and improve collection and processing of regional data relevant for the support of climate change policy and decision making.

13. To promote education, public awareness and capacity building with regards to prevention, reduction of vulnerability, mitigation, and adaptation to climate change in the region, as well as to share information and relevant experiences to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and the establishment of alliances among civil society and governments.

Decision 11

Gratitude to the People and Government of Panama

To express the deep gratitude of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean held in Panama City, Panama from 26th to 30th April 2010, to the People and Government of Panama for the generous hospitality shown during this Meeting.

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Appendix 1 to Annex II on decision 1 “Regional Action Plan for 2010-2011 and assessment of implementation instruments”

Background

1. Following up on decision 1, *Evaluation of the Implementation of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC)*, paragraph 5 of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (the Forum), the Intersessional Meeting of the Forum held on 20 and 21 October in Panama City, decided to establish a Contact Group to revise the structure and contents of the Regional Action Plan (RAP) 2010-2011. The Contact Group is composed of two countries per subregion (Mesoamerica: Mexico and Costa Rica; the Caribbean: Saint Kitts and Nevis and the Dominican Republic; Andean sub-region: Ecuador and Peru; and Southern Cone: Argentina and Brazil), and members of the Interagency Technical Committee (UNDP, ECLAC, IDB, WB and UNEP)¹⁴.
2. After the Intersessional Meeting, the Contact Group had electronic exchanges and four virtual meetings facilitated by the Secretariat (UNEP), to advance on a proposed structure of the RAP. In order to finalize the proposed structure and its contents, the Brazilian government offered to co-sponsor with UNEP a meeting of the Contact Group in Brasilia, Brazil on 3rd and 4th February 2010.
3. At this face-to-face meeting, the Contact Group reached consensus on the format and contents of the draft proposal of the RAP 2010-2011, which was circulated to the countries to obtain their inputs. The Contact Group also agreed that the Secretariat should develop a format, to be used by the countries to report progress in the implementation of the RAP-2010-2011 on a bianual basis. This format is attached as Appendix 2 to this Annex. The RAP 2010-2011 is presented as follows.

¹⁴ The report of the meeting is available on-line at: <http://www.pnuma.org/forodeministros/17-reunion/documentos/FinalReport%20of%20theIntersessional%20Meeting.pdf>.

REGIONAL ACTION PLAN (RAP) 2010-2011 OF THE FORUM OF MINISTERS OF ENVIRONMENT

The Contact Group established at the Intersessional Meeting celebrated on 20 and 21 October 2009, in Panama City, Panama, in compliance with its mandate presents the Proposal for the Regional Action Plan 2010-2011 for consideration of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

ILAC Priority Areas	Regional Priorities	Strategies	Strategic Lines of Action	ITC agencies with relevant initiatives and programmes (non exhaustive list)	Focal Points	Calendar 2010-2011
CLIMATE CHANGE	<p>The linkage between climate change and all ILAC areas (including renewable energy and energy efficiency) is recognized</p>	<p>Development or strengthening of capacities for adaptation</p> <p>Regional Strategy on adaptation to climate change and strengthening of capacities for adaptation to the effects and mitigation of the causes of climate change</p>	<p>Climate Change</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exchange of knowledge and experiences regarding the implementation of actions for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change (i.e. through workshops, virtual meetings, networks, among others) 2. Dissemination of results and exchange of knowledge and experiences (for example, through publications, internet use, virtual libraries, blogs, etc.) 3. Promote inter sectoral research programmes on climate change, focusing on compilation, analysis and dissemination of data 4. Development of a regional strategy for climate change adaptation built on existing subregional strategies or those being developed 5. Develop regional renewable and efficiency energy programs 	<p>UNDP-UNEP and other agencies. Joint Program to achieve the MDGs focused on strengthening the capacity of the populations and countries to adapt to climate change and the capacity to carry out mitigation actions in Panama, Peru and Nicaragua (2008-2011)</p> <p>UNEP-UNDP-FAO. Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation UN-REDD</p> <p>WB-IDB. Investment Program in renewable energy and energy efficiency, agreed in country strategies</p> <p>IDB. Implementation of IDB Strategies and Action Plan for Climate Change in the region</p> <p>ECLAC-IDB. Economic Studies on Climate Change in Latin America and the Caribbean</p> <p>ECLAC and Spanish, English, German and French Cooperation Agencies. Courses on CDM, Adaptation to climate change, environmental economics; seminar on fiscal policy; support for the COP-Mexico process policy</p> <p>UNDP-CARICOM. Development of renewable energy projects in the Caribbean</p> <p>UNEP-BCIE. Accelerating investment on renewable energies through CABI Central American Bank for Economic Integration in Central America (ARECA)</p> <p>UNDP-WB Action Plan for the removal of barriers in the implementation of wind energy for commercial purposes</p> <p>UNDP-IDB. Development of micro and mini hydro electric plants to support the access to rural areas</p> <p>UNDP-IDB. Transformation of markets to develop energy efficiency</p> <p>UNEP. GEF projects in Climate Change in the region</p>		

ILAC Priority Areas	Regional Priorities	Strategies	Strategic Lines of Action	ITC agencies with relevant initiatives and programmes (non exhaustive list)	Focal Points	Calendar 2010-2011
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY	1. Increase of forest area	Strengthening of capacities in the area of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity	<p>1. Forest Cover</p> <p>1.1. Identify areas of regional cooperation</p> <p>1.2. Support awareness campaigns and strengthen management capacities for the conservation of primary forests and biological diversity, and the reduction of deforestation rates</p> <p>1.3. Increase the amount of certified forest cover through sustainable forest management</p> <p>1.4. Share experiences related to the use of information technologies for decision making</p> <p>1.5. Develop and strengthen reforestation campaigns with native species</p> <p>1.6. Promote technical cooperation amongst countries that are interested in exploring the possible benefits to countries that wish to participate in REDD+actions</p>	<p>UNDP-UNEP-ECLAC. Biodiversity and Ecosystems Project: Why they are important for Sustainable Growth and Equity in Latin America and the Caribbean?</p> <p>IDB-WB. Implementation of the REDD Programme by countries in the region within the framework of the Forest Investment Fund (FIF)</p> <p>IDB. Implementation of loan and technical assistance programs for the conservation of protected areas and management of marine and land ecosystems, according to agreed country strategies.</p> <p>UNDP-UNEP. Sustainable Management of Transboundary Forests of the American Gran Chaco</p> <p>UNDP-UNEP. Payment for ecosystem services</p>		
	2. Genetic resources- Fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use		<p>2. Genetic Resources</p> <p>2.1. Develop and strengthen institutional capacities for the implementation of the international regime on access to genetic resources and equitable sharing of benefits</p> <p>2.2. Promoting the fair and equal distribution of the benefits derived from the use of traditional knowledge from indigenous and local communities from the region associated with genetic resources</p>	<p>UNEP and regional partners. Strengthening national capacities for implementing access and benefit sharing regimes (GEF project)</p> <p>UNEP-GEF. Biosafety information clearing house (BCH) of the Cartagena Protocol for Biosafety (GEF project).</p> <p>UNEP-European Commission. Caribbean Biological Corridor</p>		
				<p>3. Forest cover and genetic resources</p> <p>3.1. Develop studies on the economics of biodiversity and ecosystems</p>		

ILAC Priority Areas	Regional Priorities	Strategies	Strategic Lines of Action	ITC agencies with relevant initiatives and programmes (non exhaustive list)	Focal Points	Calendar 2010-2011
WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT	1. Watershed management	Strengthening of capacities in the area of integrated water resources, marine and coastal zones management	<p>1. Watershed management</p> <p>1.1. Develop participative processes for integrated management of water resources</p> <p>1.2. Develop indicators of water potential at the national level</p> <p>1.3. Promote studies and research of the water potential at the regional level both on a qualitative and quantitative levels</p> <p>1.4. Develop participative processes that link integrated water resources management and sustainable land management</p>	<p>IDB-WB. Implementation of loan and technical assistance programs agreed in the country framework strategies</p> <p>IDB. Support to National Strategies for the Management of Hydric Resources (Brazil, Costa Rica and Peru)</p> <p>ECLAC-University of Cantabria. Evaluation of CC impacts in coastal zones</p> <p>UNEP. Watershed and Coastal Area Management (IWCAM) in the Caribbean SIDS (GEF project)</p>		
	2. Management of marine and coastal areas and their resources		<p>2. Management of marine and coastal areas and their resources</p> <p>2.1. Promote strategies and plans to incorporate international standards for the sustainable management of coastal and marine ecosystems</p> <p>2.2. Exchange knowledge and experiences regarding the implementation of actions related to the management of marine and coastal areas and their resources (i.e. through workshops, virtual meetings, networks, among others)</p>	<p>UNEP-Conference of Ibero-American Water Directors. Creation of capacities on IWCAM in Latin America</p> <p>UNEP and Regional Partners. Integrated and sustainable management of water resources in the Amazon River basin (GEF project)</p>		

ILAC Priority Areas	Regional Priorities	Strategies	Strategic Lines of Action	ITC agencies with relevant initiatives and programmes (non exhaustive list)	Focal Points	Calendar 2010-2011
VULNERABILITY, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES	1. Vulnerability and risk management	1. Strengthening of regional institutional capacities for risk management	<p>1. Vulnerability and risk management</p> <p>1.1. Implementation of land planning instruments</p> <p>1.2. Support the improvement and operationalization of early warning, monitoring and immediate response systems</p> <p>1.3. Exchange knowledge, experiences and use of tools developed in environmental risk management in the areas of public investment and environmental damage assessment</p> <p>1.4. Strengthen existing and support new partnership approaches to sustainable land management</p> <p>1.5. Support training of land users (for example land experts, technicians and workers) on soil conservation techniques and sustainable land management</p>	<p>ISDR. International Strategy for Disaster Reduction</p> <p>ECLAC-WB. Agreement on socio-economic evaluation of impacts and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction plans</p> <p>IDB. Country Risk Profiles in five countries in the region</p> <p>IDB. Implementation of integrated programs for risk management and reduction of vulnerability (Honduras and Peru).</p> <p>UNEP-UNDP-WFP-FAO. Haiti Regeneration Initiative</p>		
	2. Waste management	2. Strengthening of capacities for the prevention, minimization and efficient eco-management of solid wastes	<p>2. Solid wastes</p> <p>2.1. Promote the use of cleaner production technologies and for the reduction of solid waste</p> <p>2.2. Exchange of knowledge and experiences and use of technologies in the integrated management of solid waste (i.e. through workshops, networks, fora for local authorities regarding regulations, and management systems, among others)</p>			

ILAC Priority Areas	Regional Priorities	Strategies	Strategic Lines of Action	ITC agencies with relevant initiatives and programmes (non exhaustive list)	Focal Points	Calendar 2010-2011
SOCIAL ISSUES, INCLUDING HEALTH, INEQUITY AND POVERTY	Health and environment (pollution and chemicals)	Mainstreaming of the intersectoral approach to environmental management and health, and promoting cooperation on integrated management of chemicals, considering their life cycles	Pollution / Chemical Substances 1. Promote discussion fora and information exchange between environment and health sectors 2. Strengthening South-South exchange of experiences on sound and integrated management of chemicals and hazardous waste in related multilateral agreements.	<p>UNEP-Basel Centres. Latin America and the Caribbean mercury storage project. Study on options and regional consultation meetings</p> <p>UNEP-SAICM. Artisanal and Small Scale Gold Mining Regional Project in South America (Peru and Bolivia)</p> <p>UNEP-GEF. Supporting the Implementation of the Global Monitoring Plan of POPs in Latin America and Caribbean States (GEF regional project: Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay) executed jointly with UNEP and the Regional Centre of the Stockholm Convention in Uruguay¹⁵</p> <p>UNEP-SAICM. Capacity building for POPs analysis to support the Global Monitoring Plan of POPs for effectiveness evaluation of the Stockholm Convention Bahamas, Barbados, Haiti (co-financed by UNEP Chemicals and SAICM and supported by Stockholm Convention Secretariat)²</p> <p>UNEP-Convention Secretariats on Chemicals and Wastes</p> <p>Implementation of activities in collaboration with the Secretariats on chemicals and wastes</p> <p>SAICM-UNEP. Mainstreaming into Developing Plans Sound Management of Chemicals (SMC). Priorities for Key Development Sectors in Belize and Associated SMC Governance</p> <p>UNEP-UNDP. Partnership initiative for the implementation of SAICM (Belize, Ecuador, Honduras)</p> <p>UNEP-OAS-PAHO. Support to the dialogue process between the Ministers of Health and Ministers of Environment of the Americas</p> <p>UNDP-UNEP. Poverty and Environmental Initiative</p>		

¹⁵ These projects are being interlinked to enhance coordination, cooperation and capacity building of recipient countries.

ILAC Priority Areas	Regional Priorities	Strategies	Strategic Lines of Action	ITC agencies with relevant initiatives and programmes (non exhaustive list)	Focal Points	Calendar 2010-2011
ECONOMIC ISSUES, INCLUDING COMPETITIVENESS, TRADE AND PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION PATTERNS (ENERGY)	Sustainable Production and Consumption	1. Incorporation of sustainable consumption and production in development policies	Development policies 1.1. Promote the use of green purchasing systems 1.2. Incorporate Cleaner Production and Sustainable Public Procurement policies in the Action Plans of Public institutions 1.3. Identify and evaluate instruments including economic and financial to promote the adoption of changes in production and consumption patterns 1.4. Support the implementation of the recommendations made by the Fifth meeting of Government Experts on Sustainable Production and Consumption for LAC	UNEP-UNDESA. Marrakech Process on Sustainable Consumption and Production, including task forces on Sustainable Public Procurement and Sustainable Lifestyles UNEP. Implementation of Sustainable Public Procurement in pilot countries UNEP-ECLAC. Capacity Building for the Sustainable Resource Management in the region UNEP-UNIDO. Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production Programme UNEP and Regional Partners. Supporting biodiversity-based businesses in the Andean region (GEF project) UNEP-ECLAC. Subregional Action Plan on SCP for the Caribbean		
		2. Elaboration of patterns and indicators of production and consumption	Indicators and patterns 2.1. Studies and research to identify patterns of production and consumption 2.2. Production and consumption indicators: industrial production index, electric energy consumption, trade index, etc. 2.3. Studies and research to obtain production and consumption indicators: industrial production index, electric energy consumption, trade index, etc.			

ILAC Priority Areas	Regional Priorities	Strategies	Strategic Lines of Action	ITC agencies with relevant initiatives and programmes (non exhaustive list)	Focal Points	Calendar 2010-2011
INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS	1. Assessment and indicators	1. Strengthening capacities for generating, processing and disseminating of the ILAC indicators	1. Assessment and indicators 1.1. Support the implementation of the recommendations of the Working Group on Indicators 1.2. Develop a virtual capacity building module for the generation, processing and dissemination of the ILAC indicators 1.3. Continue the integration of the GEO Data Portal with national information systems 1.4. Integrate the compilation of environmental data within national statistical processes	ECLAC-UNEP. Development of environmental indicators ECLAC-UNDP-UNEP. Quantification studies of environmental expenses and financing in Latin America and the Caribbean UNEP-UNDP-WB. Creation of Centro Tierramerica aiming at organizing training courses for media journalists, companies, and NGO, and for granting awards and scholarships to researchers in the area of sustainable development and the environment UNEP-Universities of the Caribbean. Mainstreaming environmental issues in the curricula and operations of Caribbean universities		
	2. Environmental education	2. Strengthening capacities to integrate environmental education into all levels of formal and non formal education	2. Environmental education 2.1. Review and analyse environmental education programmes and plans (for example, networks including the Environmental Training Network of LAC, PLACEA, PANACEA, among others) and make recommendations 2.2. Support the dissemination of all activities contained in the RAP 2010-2011 2.3. Implement PLACEA in the region 2.4. Support the processes of subregional integration and establish a mechanism of institutional support for diverse sub regional emerging initiatives 2.5. Carry out workshops to strengthen capacities of negotiators of the region			

DEFINITION OF COLUMN HEADINGS OF THE PROPOSED RAP 2010-2011 MATRIX

ILAC PRIORITY AREAS (Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development)

The ILAC priority areas are those that are identified in the document entitled "Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development" (UNEP/LAC-SMIG.I/2 Friday, 30 August 2002).

See: http://www.pnuma.org/forodeministros/16-repdominicana/ILAC_EnglishVer.pdf.

REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Regional priorities are those that were agreed upon decision 1, paragraph 3 of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment and those revised in accordance with paragraph 5 of the same decision

See: http://www.pnuma.org/forodeministros/16-repdominicana/rde09tri_FinalReportSixteenthMeeting_08Feb2008.pdf).

STRATEGIES

- The strategies are the expected results of the strategic lines of action
- The strategies must show a contribution towards the attainment of the regional priorities.
- They require the effort of two or more countries or two or more agencies and other partners.

STRATEGIC LINES OF ACTION

Strategic lines of action are intended to achieve the strategies. These tasks should be undertaken by countries, agencies and other partners (see 'Focal Points ').

ITC AGENCIES WITH RELEVANT PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES (NON EXHAUSTIVE LIST)

It refers to programmes or initiatives of the work programmes of the agencies of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee (ITC) of the Forum of Ministers of Environment (United Nations Development Programme-UNDP, World Bank-WB, Inter American Development Bank-IDB, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean-ECLAC, United Nations Environment Programme-UNEP) approved by their governing bodies and which are associated with the strategic lines of action of the RAP 2010-2011.

FOCAL POINTS

Focal points are the administrative body within each Ministry of the Environment designated by the Minister as person responsible for monitoring and reporting on progress made on the strategic lines of action or regional priority. Active Working Groups will report to that focal point.

2010-2011 CALENDAR

This column heading refers to the estimated date of completion of events related to the activities of the RAP 2010-2011 by countries and ITC agencies, as well as for the submission of biannual reports.

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**Appendix 2 to Annex II on decision 1
"Regional Action Plan for 2010-2011
and assessment of implementation instruments"**

PROPOSED FORMAT FOR THE BIENNIAL REPORT ON THE PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL
ACTION PLAN FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (RAP) 2010-2011
(TO BE COMPLETED AFTER THE FINAL REVIEW OF THE MATRIX)

Country: _____

Governmental Entity: _____

Focal Point: _____

(Name of the person in charge and responsible unit within the governmental entity)

Semester: May to December: 2010 _____

Semester: January-June 2011: _____

Semester: July-December 2011: _____

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Annex III

List of Participants

Annex III List of Participants

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