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

Cartagena Colombia

B. Ministerial Segment
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Final Report
**XX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of
Environment of Latin America and the
Caribbean**
Ministerial Segment

Item I of the Agenda: Opening of the meeting

1. The opening ceremony began on Wednesday 30th March 2016 at 9:15 a.m. with a message from Mr. Gabriel Vallejo, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, Mr. Rafael Pacchiano, Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources of the Government of Mexico as Outgoing President of the Forum, and Mr. Achim Steiner, the Executive Director of UNEP, which acts as the Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.
2. Mr. Pacchiano highlighted that the XIX Meeting of the Forum at Los Cabos had important outcomes which helped in advancing central themes: climate change, biodiversity, chemicals and waste and sustainable consumption and production. As a follow up, Mexico as President of the Forum brought the regional priorities to other fora such as UNEA-1, COP20 and COP21 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. He thanked the support and leadership of Mr. Manuel Pulgar-Vidal, Minister of Environment of Peru, and the government of Colombia. He encouraged the region to continue enhancing the balance of the three dimensions of sustainable development and invited all countries to support and participate in the COP13 on Biodiversity.
3. The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources of the Government of Mexico recommended that the Forum elect the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia to serve as Chair of the XX Forum. The meeting approved the proposal.
4. The Minister of Colombia highlighted the need for the Forum to focus more on actions and cooperation rather than on the discussion of long documents and stressed the common responsibility and challenges that the Ministers of Environment are facing in their countries and in the region. One is to demonstrate the infinite benefits of environment to other ministries, which are not always perceived as such, and also to quantify the value of all actions and investments in preventing environmental damage. Colombia is in a historical moment of "proceso de paz" (peace process) which will also lead to important environmental benefits.
5. Later, the Minister acknowledged the presence of and paid tribute to UNEP's Executive Director, Achim Steiner, noting that he would finish his period in June this year. He then made a brief presentation related to Colombia's National Development Plan. He cited opportunities such as eco-tourism and the importance of green growth as a means to achieve sustainable development. He further emphasised the importance of environmental education, using the example of (illegal) deforestation. In conclusion, he noted that much remains to be done but that progress is being made in Colombia. Finally, he urged the meeting to conclude with concrete actions related to climate change and other priority issues, and expressed his pleasure for hosting the Forum in the beautiful city of Cartagena de Indias.
6. Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP, thanked the

Government of Colombia for hosting the Forum. Noting the dynamism of the region, he suggested that widespread changes were on the horizon. Referring to the peace process ongoing in Colombia, he linked the issue of conflict to natural resource management and sustainable development. He felt that the role of Ministers of Environment will change, from being a defensive one to speaking of the opportunities provided by it. Referring to the SDGs, he challenged Ministers to change the narrative towards the integration of environment into other sectors such as renewable energy. Highlighting ongoing debates such as green economy, loss of species and global warming, he encouraged Ministers to link such issues to the broader development agenda. He further offered UNEP's ongoing support, particularly through ROLAC, to the evolving environmental agenda in the region. Finally he appealed for solidarity from the region in support of UNEA, noting that it was Rio+20, held in the region, which decided to establish UNEA. He felt that the voice of the region needs to be heard more at UNEA and invited wide representation from the region at the second session of UNEA.

7. A message was then delivered by the Deputy Minister on behalf of the Minister of Environment from Brazil. He acknowledged the Government of Colombia's support for hosting the XX Meeting of the Forum and apologised for the Minister not being present. Brazil committed its support also to the government of Mexico for the CBD upcoming Conference of the Parties (COP) in Cancun, and welcomed the support from UNEP in the region, sub-region and country.

I.1. Adoption of the rules of procedure

8. The Ministers adopted, *mutatis mutandi*, the rules of procedure of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of UNEP to govern the procedures of the meeting.

I.2. Election of the Bureau

9. In accordance with the practices established in previous meetings, the Chair proposed that the Bureau maintain the membership adopted during the Preparatory Meeting of High-Level Experts. The proposal was approved by the participants and the Bureau was constituted as follows:

Chairman:	Colombia
Vice Chairs:	Costa Rica
	El Salvador
	Ecuador
	Uruguay
	Dominican Republic
	St. Lucia

Argentina

Rapporteur: Peru

I.3. Adoption of the agenda and programme of sessions of the Meeting

10. Under this item, the Ministers considered the Provisional Agenda and Annotated Provisional Agenda and the Calendar of Sessions proposed by the Secretariat and adopted them.

Item II of the Agenda: Results of the meeting of the High-Level Experts of the Twentieth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean

11. Because of some adjustments in the programme and the need to conclude discussions on the final proposals of decisions and the draft Ministerial Declaration to be submitted for consideration of the Ministers, the results of the high-level experts meeting was presented to the Forum after finishing the thematic panels.

Item III of the Agenda: Ministerial Dialogues

III.1. Ministerial dialogue on Sustainable Development

12. Ms. Paula Caballero, Senior Director of the Environment and Natural Resources Global Practice of the World Bank, Moderator of this Dialogue, referred to the two frameworks adopted in 2015, which represent a landmark for redefining the traditional view of development and recognize the environment as a core component of development. The 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement provide an opportunity to reposition the Ministries of Environment, and to demand greater attention and budgetary commitment for environmental issues.

13. The public sector faces a sizeable challenge arising from the current economic slowdown. Several countries are experiencing tax-related reform, prioritizing other issues without understanding that the environmental aspect is central to many economic and social achievements. Furthermore, bringing an end to short-sightedness is another challenge we face.

14. The 2030 Agenda is a call to rethink development in a structural manner, using a systemic approach. We must question our understanding of concepts such as prosperity and well-being, for which traditional approaches are no longer appropriate.

15. She highlighted three central considerations: the relationship between

the environment and poverty needs to be understood in order to reposition environmental agendas, as poor communities are more vulnerable to climate change, more dependent on natural resources, and are more exposed to the impacts of environmental degradation. The eradication of extreme poverty, today and tomorrow, requires resilient and functional natural systems.

16. Secondly, the complexities of development demand cross-sectoral responses and a systemic approach. The Ministries of Environment are neutral agents that can transcend sectoral agendas. The Ministries must be able to develop scenarios that set out the different development paths provided by various investment and policy options, to thus enable informed decision making. We also need to perform an assessment of ecosystem resources and services, as well as the costs of environmental degradation. Growth that is not sustainable may decrease certain countries' GDP by 4-10%. It is also the time to encourage programme-based approaches that boost resources from various sources.

17. Finally, she highlighted the importance of SDG 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production), which she considered the essence of the 2030 Agenda, and gives Ministries the opportunity and responsibility to rethink development.

18. After this introduction, the moderator invited the panellists to share their thoughts on the subject.

19. To the question on how UNEP should work in a cross cutting manner related to the SDGs and the role of UN in assisting countries to the implementation of this agenda, Mr. Achim Steiner identified two approaches which has been adopted by Ministries of Environment.

20. In the last thirty years the role of the Ministries was one of an intrusive mandate, which implies looking at the environmental footprint of sectors. Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda the role will now be one of a demand role. In this regard also UNEP is considered as a resource to other UN organizations.

21. Environmental responsibility has become mandatory to all ministries, and sectors as well as to the UN system. It is not an exclusive role for the Ministries of Environment, but for society as a whole, in light of the intrinsic linkages between the environment and other sectors, such as health and environment.

22. UNEP has started to work on these integration and partnerships. One example is the FAO-UNEP partnership on food waste and food loss and the campaign "think.eat.save". Another one is the Green Finance, where UNEP is the Secretariat of G20 on "Green Finance" and provides support to showcase the relevance of environment. Poverty and Environment Initiative implemented by UNEP and UNDP is another example.

23. He referred in particular to the importance of implementing the SAMOA (SIDS Accelerated Modalities Of Action) Pathway, which is a framework for SIDS sustainable development.

24. Mr. Antonio Prado, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), addressed the question on what are the main challenges for the region to track implementation of the SDGs and the role of indicators.

25. According to the central nature of SDG 12 (sustainable consumption and production), the great challenge we face relates to the environment and climate change. Our economies are based on ever-increasing consumption, representing both material and symbolic needs that generate a never-ending race towards greater consumption. This is a cultural issue that can be addressed through public policies.

26. Monitoring the SDGs is complex and may require new instruments. For example, SDG 11 (sustainable cities) still requires the harmonization of statistics to enable the comparison of data. An effort is needed in terms of capacity building and statistics harmonization, thus generating synergies; this in turn will require the involvement of the Ministries of Finance for the necessary budget. Cooperation in the context of the Statistical Conference of the Americas and South-South cooperation is essential in this process to strengthen capacities.

27. Finally, he emphasized the importance of adopting integrated accounts to not only measure flows, but also stocks, taking into account national capital.

28. Then the Moderator asked the Ministers at the Panel on what changes are needed to achieve the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development.

29. Dennis Lowe, Minister of Environment and Drainage of Barbados, commenced his presentation indicating that the Sustainable Development Goals began a new conversation on sustainable development as opposed to just development. The important question is how to tackle implementation. In tackling implementation one must recognize a scenario full of complexities, including, inter alia, the global space, local communities, national development policies, human behaviour (lifestyles, waste, conservation, learning styles). Changing people's behaviour and attitudes (towards consumption, conservation, compliance, and partnerships) is the business of today. It does not matter how formidable our policies are if our peoples do not see their actions in a different way.

30. He explained that our biggest challenge is to preserve the globe for generations to come. All people have to get on board on that commonality. When we talk about changing behaviour it is continuity versus progress and the real challenge comes at political level to integrate new views.

31. We have to see the bigger picture, not just about donors, recipients and institutions such as the UNEP. It is about generating partnerships with all partners sharing the same passion. In order to go forward we have to support one another by sharing the same vision.

32. He ended his presentation by calling for: 1) engaging world citizenship

on the 2030 Agenda, and 2) institutional and governance reform at all levels to ensure fit for purpose in the context of the 2030 Agenda, including the relationship between the Forum and the UNEA, so as not to be left behind.

33. Sergio Bergman, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina, began his intervention by referring to the creation of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development in Argentina, a political decision that shows a shift of paradigm of the environmental policy of the country, placing environment as an essential element of sustainable development. This change is necessary at all spheres, and should put people in the centre, because there is only one ecology, which comprehensive and humanist, the "human sustainability".

34. Part of this new paradigm is a change to the hierarchical order; First, the world is our nation, our common home which does not recognize political frontiers. "Our homeland is the planet, and all human beings are its people". This vision challenges the current institutional framework, and demand for a change in the structures of States by redefining politics and power. The key aspect is that the States' objective should be to lead by governing the common good, ensuring that this prevails over individual interests. Therefore, the discussion about the common good is not technical, but ethical: a healthy environment is a human right that we have, and which our children and future generations should also have. As it is said in the encyclical *Laudato si'*, it is not about a social or environmental crisis, but an integrated crisis that requires a fraternal dialogue which allows us to move forward towards a comprehensive ecology.

35. The common good and social peace are achieved through four ways or principles that are entrusted to politics: 1) the whole always prevails over any individual aspect, 2) unity will always transcend conflict, 3) time is always more important than space, 4) what's real surpasses what it is in the ideas. Practical and specific ideas are needed to transform reality, considering that others will reap these fruits in the future.

36. Attitudes need to be changed, especially with regard to SDG 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production); the current development model discards goods, resources and even the human being. Therefore, the change should be based on principles of ethics, sustainability and social inclusion.

37. In the ensuing discussion, the issues raised by Costa Rica and Cuba were highlighted in relation to mainstreaming the pillars of sustainable development and changing the patterns of consumption and production. The main conclusions could be summarized as follows: engaging the world's citizens regarding the 2030 Agenda and making available the means for its effective implementation, to ensure effective implementation of the Agenda 2030 there is a need for institutional and governance reform at all levels. Business as usual is not an option, and the cost of doing nothing is immense. It is necessary and possible to change the culture of consumption through public policies, and seek technological development to enable a change in the production processes and components that form part of consumption. The

main problem is consumption. Education is needed to foster values based on attitudes and role models. Caring and not wasting. The generation that grew up amid trash (recycling needs etc.), versus the generation that was born into the circular economy. We must react to penalties or incentives, but young people must instead lead based on their own, distinct outlook. Consumption has to be sustainable and responsible, so that it doesn't end up consuming us all.

38. Another critical concept is the one on urgency, we need ethics, the notion of complexity, change, but it is urgency that is critical: Water stress, agricultural production, 7 million people die because of pollution every year. This morality justified by our economies and our ways of consumption and production.

39. They also indicated that the multilateral system created a zone not to act, no one leading by example. Double standards every day, not only among countries but also from governments to their peoples. No generation before ours has had to reinvent its economic models in a couple of decades.

40. The Moderator brought the meeting to close by highlighting three key aspects regarding this stage:

- 1) The need to operate at scale. Identify the paths for development and not development solutions, as well as how we can lead that change at scale.
- 2) Think of well-being and not prosperity, because while prosperity is for a select few, well-being is for the many, including the planet.
- 3) The cornerstone of the SDGs is No. 12, but let's not forget about poverty. What are we doing for the poor of tomorrow? The path we're currently heading down is condemning the human beings of the future to that poverty.

41. The Minister from Colombia concluded the meeting by expressing that the environmental-ethical issue represents one of the values that we must preserve. Environmental education is key because our generation was raised believing that natural resources are unlimited. Changing that way of seeing the world is a challenge, this is the vision we want to put out, and it's the legacy we want the ministry to achieve. The countries' environmental responsibility rests not just in the ministry of environment but with the government cabinet, private sectors, and individual citizens.

III.2. Ministerial dialogue on Biodiversity in the 2030 Agenda

42. The Ministerial Dialogue on Biodiversity within the 2030 Agenda was aimed at highlighting the importance of biodiversity for development, and rendering an overview on how it is framed within the sustainable development objectives and the 2030 Agenda on development.

43. This dialogue was led by the Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico, Rafael Pacchiano. The members of the panel were Mr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary of the Biological Diversity Convention, Mr. Edgar Gutierrez, Minister of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica, and Mrs. Brigitte Baptiste, Director General, of the Humboldt Institute of Colombia.

44. The moderator started the session with a video made by Mexico on the preparations for the Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to be held in Cancun, Mexico, from December 4-17, 2016. At the end of the video, he invited all participants to attend the COP 13 and thanked the confirmation from the Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia.

45. The moderator, to give context to the session, highlighted the importance of biodiversity for development, and stressed the close connection between life biodiversity and well-being. He mentioned the privilege and responsibility of the region, as it has the most biodiversity in the world. Likewise, he reminded that Mexico is a mega-diverse country, but like with many other countries in the region, it has faced biodiversity loss issues. In such regard, he referred back to the conclusions of the 4th edition of the Global Biodiversity Objectives (GBO 4) report, which acknowledges the efforts made to reach the Aichi goals on biodiversity, but which also concludes that national actions are not sufficient to reach the goals defined for 2020.

46. The moderator urged the parties to join efforts and drives towards the coordination of public policies with the different international instruments available, such as biodiversity conventions, desertification and climate change, as well as with productive sectors. He mentioned the benefit of including the Aichi goals within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular the relevance of SGDs 14 and 15, which reflect the importance of biodiversity.

47. Mexico has achieved important political momentum to reach the Aichi goals before 2020. This commitment has led to the integration of biodiversity into national and sub-national programs and action plans. Hence, expeditious work is being undertaken to achieve gains on this matter. Furthermore, this commitment led Mexico to offer its country as venue for the upcoming meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 13) to be held from December 3-17 in Cancun, where the motto is 'Integrating Biodiversity to Wellbeing'. Likewise, he invited to the top-level session to be held prior to the COP 13, on December 2-3, where Ministers from important productive sectors such as fishing, forest, agriculture and tourism whose involvement is essential to biodiversity will be invited. Therefore, he explained that COP 13 will result in the industry's ability to provide essential services after incorporating biodiversity into its plans. He highlighted the importance of coordinating with the private sector and the formulation of alliances with stakeholders to ensure biodiversity becomes the main driver of development, as well as an instrument for risk mitigation. He concluded that

the goal of COP 13 is to exchange information, and to achieve a political support declaration integrating biodiversity as part of wellbeing. He invited the countries to share success cases where biodiversity is integrated within the industry, including the private sector.

48. The moderator invited Mr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to give his presentation, particularly to explain the importance of biodiversity and the main challenges and opportunities on the integration of biodiversity within public policies.

49. The Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity highlighted how many SDGs refer to biodiversity, and their integration to the new 2030 agenda for sustainable development. He emphasised that if the intent is to eradicate poverty, fight against hunger, ensure water availability and ensure health and wellbeing, biodiversity must be maintained. For example, he explained that without biodiversity, agriculture cannot be increased, and neither can the provision of medicines. Likewise, he highlighted that the fight against poverty is not just a matter of income, but also the access to ecosystem services that ensure a quality of life. This is a new agenda to improve the quality of life of people.

50. He mentioned the Paris Agreement and the role of the sustainable use of soil for mitigation and adaptation purposes. He also recalled the Sendai framework that acknowledges the role of ecosystems on the prevention of natural disasters and the results of the last meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Desertification.

51. He noted that this is the time for synergies on the promotion of sustainable development and indicated that sustainable development without biodiversity will not be possible. Therefore, the sustainable development framework will require the integration of other important sectors as a means to achieve the Aichi goals. He highlighted the complementarity of the SDGs with the Aichi goals – an aspect that will be addressed in the SBSTTA 20 and SBI 1, and commended Mexico's approach to the COP 13.

52. However, he indicated that further national efforts are required to integrate biodiversity into the laws of each country, and the need to have strong legislative frameworks where the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Benefits Sharing derived from their Utilization, and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety can be incorporated.

53. In such regard, he reminded that 29 countries from the region have not ratified yet the Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Protocol on responsibility and supplementary compensation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. 21 countries of the region have not reviewed their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and 5 countries have not delivered their fifth national report. He highlighted that in the past 4 years, 46 workshops on CBD have been carried out in the region.

54. He concluded that there is potential to expand information and increase governance through suitable regulatory frameworks to ensure the

integration of biodiversity on the sustainable development of countries.

55. The moderator invited Mrs. Brigitte Baptiste, Director General of Instituto Humboldt to give her presentation. The Director General mentioned that the difficulty to integrate biodiversity is partly due to the lack of information. In such regard, information must be arranged to introduce knowledge as part of comprehensive management. In other words, how can knowledge become an area to benefit other areas, thus improving services and wellbeing. He highlighted that knowledge is derived from those who learn-by-doing, such as farmers, traders, private sector. He wondered how this knowledge is integrated to the conversation we are currently having.

56. She highlighted that in the last 20 years, a better panorama has been achieved on the role of biodiversity, especially in the region; it has been possible to identify the wealth of biodiversity within countries and the status thereof. However, the use of this information must be part of the creation of sustainability scenarios - an aspect that's currently dispersed - not because of lack of data, but due to the type of data provided, and which must be restated to support national and production policies.

57. Information platforms must be carefully considered to determine their use; i.e. preservation, restoration. Such platforms are already in place, such as the Ibero-American Biodiversity Network, which is in decline due to the lack of financial resources. However, this network may be reactivated to build relevant information for decision-making.

58. She mentioned the work within the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), which suggests the systematization of ecosystem services as grounds for biodiversity management and national economic management. For example, pollinator value chains, which are established through the economic use on harvests. For example, the importance of pollinators for the production of goods and services, such as tequila and cocoa. In such regard, information and knowledge networks are required, which are not only used by the academia and by scientific developments, but also for decision making.

59. In Latin America and the Caribbean the process of the IPBES evaluation brings together over 100 experts who are writing on and reviewing information with an interdisciplinary approach that is to be launched in 2019. The first draft contains modelling of scenarios with indigenous, economic and social knowledge from local communities.

60. The moderator invited the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica, Mr. Edgar Gutierrez to share his comments. The Minister referred to the need to align agendas for the agendas to achieve the Aichi goals, including the SDGs.

61. He recalled that the Earth Summit of Rio de Janeiro in 1992 was important to incorporate the environment into countries' development and place people's well-being at the core of the Development agenda. The Rio conventions on Biodiversity, Desertification, and Climate Change were

achievements of the utmost importance. He also underlined that the Paris Meeting was an equally significant achievement. Environment was highlighted as a key axis for development and the need to see people as the core of development to fight poverty and inequality. He mentioned that well-being cannot be mentioned separate from biodiversity. In this regard, quality of life is to be improved through knowledge. Traditional knowledge is important, provided it leads us to new sustainability paradigms.

62. The Minister mentioned the need for SDGs and Aichi objectives to support poverty eradication. Similarly, he emphasized the need to align our national and regional goals with international goals. However, he said that these national and regional goals must be registered based on the understanding of national and regional priorities, rather than of foreign schemes and agendas.

63. He recognized the frequent dilemma faced by countries regarding conservation and development decisions, the need for a more fair and equitable distribution, and the reduction of poverty. He proposed national experiences in the implementation of comprehensive projects, such as in the case of productive settings incorporating biodiversity, desertification and climate change, that is to say, the three Rio conventions.

64. To conclude, he underlined the COP13 opportunity for the agendas to become aligned within priorities among the countries and the NBSAPs as instruments that support identification of these biodiversity priorities and their combination of national development plans.

65. The moderator mentioned that it is not possible to talk about well-being if degraded soils and poverty persist, and he recalled that this effort should come not only from the Ministries of Environment, but from all Ministers for industry.

66. The moderator opened the session to comments from the countries for panellist comments.

67. The Viceminister of Brazil congratulated the panel. He recalled the role of the private sector and the need to integrate them into the biodiversity integration role. For example, he mentioned how in Brazil the forest code provides for maintaining nearly 50% of their properties for conservation. This goal is currently being achieved, and this therefore means that the same can be achieved with respect to biodiversity conservation. Almost half of Brazil operates under the federal code structure. Likewise, he mentioned the case of Congress, which approved the new laws on ABS where the private sector is recognized as an important stakeholder.

68. The Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina emphasized the need that laws integrate biodiversity to support executive decisions. He also underlined the importance of sustainable consumption and production, proposing eco-labelling to protect biodiversity, in line with the social dimension. He ended by recalling that the biodiversity capital of the region is important and must be valued and taken into account

for the region's development.

69. A civil society representative emphasized the role of local governments for sustainability. He mentioned that there are many groups allied to these processes as local partners and, if the impact is to be expanded, the civil society is needed. It is also necessary to integrate with local governments towards COP 13.

70. The Minister of Environment of Chile mentioned that climate change has overshadowed certain environmental themes such as biodiversity. However, he said that biodiversity is a priority and, therefore, there will be actively participating in COP 13. He shared three important concepts: (1) The conceptual point of view of biodiversity as a resource that can be harnessed but there are numerous species that are part of a fragile equilibrium that must be protected; (2) It is key to increase the level of knowledge. For example, marine coastal ecosystems are important but quite often not very well understood; (3) It is relevant to deepen on the concept of biodiversity and territorial planning,

71. The moderator thanked the panellists and the countries for their comments.

72. The President of the Meeting thanked the Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resource, Rafael Pacchiano, for the conduction of the panel.

73. He finalized indicating that COP 13 should explore and define three key areas, (1) land use, renewable energies and sustainable cities. Where are the boundaries between sustainable development and the conservation of biodiversity; (2) the dilemma in oil producers and the generation of jobs, where given the low prices these jobs are disappearing. Despite the challenges this generates, it should be seen as an opportunity to reshift sustainable development; (3) new areas of bioprospection and biotechnology which provide opportunities for the development of new industries such as the pharmaceutical industry.

III.3. Ministerial dialogue on Health and Environment

74. The moderator for the panel, Mr. Rolph Payet, Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, gave an introduction on the issue, pointing out how important chemicals currently are to the entire economy, as well as to social well-being. However, at the same time, he warned of the risks to health and the environment arising from its unsound management. As an example, he quoted reports from the World Health Organization that have identified approximately 100 types of diseases related to exposure to chemicals. He also noted that children and women are particularly vulnerable, as are the poorest populations. Problems stemming from pollution are reversible, but in order to address them, one must also understand their economic dimension. Finally, Mr. Payet emphasized the intrinsic relationship between a healthy environment and a healthy

population, and he also illustrated examples of work done on food waste and waste from electrical and electronic equipment.

75. He then invited Ms. Agnes Soares, Regional Advisor of the Pan-American Health Organization, to comment on the challenges faced by Latin America and the Caribbean in this regard. Ms. Soares started by expressing the importance of developing public policies and awareness regarding the cost of inaction, which is extremely high given the impact in both deaths and years living with disability. She reported on trends that relate a range of environmental factors to an increase in non-transmittable diseases, and discussed some of the main sources of impact, such as air pollution or the use of biomass as fuel in households. Moreover, she mentioned some of the strategies recommended for the reduction of this risk, such as the use of public transport, the introduction of clean energy for cooking and heating in households, the reduction of occupational exposure, increased controls for the registration and use of chemicals, and improved access to water and sanitation. She concluded by calling for further development regarding public policies, greater private sector involvement, and the need for joint work between the environment and health sectors.

76. Meanwhile, Mr. Rafael Zabala, FAO Representative in Colombia, delved into issues related to food security, stressing the need for inter-sectoriality in order to produce food in an efficient, sustainable and safe manner. While agriculture has traditionally been seen as a source of environmental pressures, it is essential in order to feed a population of 7 billion people, which continues to rise. He stressed the importance of moving towards a model of sustainable agriculture, shortening distances between producers and consumers, operating under quality standards, promoting smart subsidies, and producing healthy food at affordable prices. He agreed on the importance of joint work between ministries of health and environment, and concluded by recalling the need for new approaches to combat illicit crops.

77. Mr. Alejandro Gaviria, Colombia's Minister of Health, further analysed the integration of sectoral policies. He provided some specific examples for the country, including the actions taken to ban aerial spraying of agrochemicals in certain crop areas, based on health and environment considerations, in line with the precautionary principle. He mentioned the challenge of working under a scenario where actual health determinants differ from those that are perceived by the population (for example, where they assign greater importance to health services than lifestyles). Beyond health sector policies, he highlighted the importance of health aspects being considered among the group of policies from other sectors, as well as the need to influence changes in lifestyles.

78. Ms. Eneida de León, Minister of Housing, Land Planning and Environment of Uruguay, agreed on the need to adopt specific actions, as well as the appropriateness of addressing these issues from a perspective of human rights and equity. He warned of the impact from chronic non-transmittable diseases, and the effects of agrochemical pollution on human health, particularly with regard to the poorest populations. He reported on

the actions that have been carried out with the Ministry of Health in Uruguay in areas such as monitoring of pollutants in water, soil and air, as well as developing action protocols and institutional frameworks. With specific regard to mercury, in addition to exposure studies, progress has been made in controlling the main sources, as well as the regulation and replacement of mercury-containing products and their disposal. She stressed the importance of involving private stakeholders and financial institutions.

79. During interventions from the countries, the representative from the Bahamas agreed on the importance of strengthening communication between ministers of health and environment, and noted that mercury pollution is relevant to all countries, although the sources of exposure may be different. Meanwhile, the Cuban Deputy Minister noted that it was difficult for some countries to address some particular problems, due to a lack of technological solutions, such as in managing electronic waste, or addressing certain environmental liabilities, e.g. lead-contaminated sites. The Minister from Argentina suggested working together on the development and implementation of indicators to measure progress on issues related to health and environment.

80. Finally, Mr. Payet summarized some of the key elements identified by the panel, including the consideration of cultural aspects and lifestyles, the need for studies and information, and the importance of developing suitable cross-cutting policies together with other ministries and involving the private sector, all under the precautionary principle.

81. In their final messages, the panellists added that inter-sectoral policy is necessary but more difficult to implement, and that in addition to inter-ministerial work it is also important to involve civil society. Some specific challenges were also identified, such as illegal mining and air pollution.

III.4. Ministerial dialogue on Climate Change

82. The Minister from Peru, Manuel Pulgar-Vidal, began the panel by thanking Colombia for its excellent chairmanship of the forum, as well as the UNEP Secretariat for the role it played. Then, as the central theme of the panel, he suggested exploring the priorities for the Paris Agreement work programme, so that the region could have tools to reduce its vulnerability.

83. To put this issue in context, the Minister reflected on the multilateral climate change process. He expressed that Latin America played a fundamental role when hope in multilateralism had been lost, following the Copenhagen COP. The region demonstrated significant negotiation capacity during the most difficult stages of the process. As such, he appreciated that Argentina had put itself forward to host the 2018 COP, the year in which the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions will be reviewed with a view to being more ambitious.

84. The Minister also mentioned that the region has not always lived up to what's been required by the circumstances, specifically in terms of internal

unity; this is in contrast to other regions such as Africa, which have managed to act as a united negotiating group, thus resulting in greater global impact for African countries.

85. The Minister also argued that sustainable development had become part of the States' political agendas. Despite existing for 25 years, there has been an apparent slowness in the maturing and generation of results from these processes. What role should the Ministries of Environment play if we want the Paris, New York and Sendai agreements to come to fruition? The Ministries have great weaknesses and limitations, which is why he suggested finding support in (and becoming) leaders who promote the mainstreaming of environmental issues. At the same time, he called on the contribution of the private sector, where there are also leaders capable of achieving influence, and who are also critical in terms of attaining the financing necessary to achieve everything agreed in 2015.

86. This makes it necessary to set out agendas and messages to communicate clearly what the Paris Agreement means. The Minister stressed the critical importance of the Forum of Ministers of Environment in terms of sharing information among all countries in the region, to thus make it possible for Latin America and the Caribbean to not only have Ministries of Environment that demonstrate better leadership, but also take specific action on climate issues.

87. Addressing the issue regarding the scientific aspects that determine vulnerability, which should be considered for implementation of the Paris Agreement in the region, Mannava Sivakum, Director of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), explained that the IPCC was established in order to provide scientific knowledge, as well as scenarios and impacts regarding climate change. According to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, last year marked the highest emissions of greenhouse gases in history, with levels not seen since 800,000 years ago. This is coupled with a population increase of 2.3 billion (to 7.4 billion people) in only the last 50 years.

88. Global warming has increased the temperature in the region from 0.7 to 1 degree compared to pre-industrial times. In some areas, warming has been between 3 and 4 degrees. Also, the region has experienced 613 weather events between 2000 and 2013, where 53 million people have been directly affected, causing losses totalling 52 billion dollars.

89. Land use in the region has changed dramatically in recent years, causing massive deforestation, which has had a critical impact on environmental degradation. This has turned ecosystems into a significant driver of climate change, species extinction, depletion of fisheries, water shortages in cities, power generation limitation and food reduction, among others.

90. The IPCC Fifth Assessment Report concludes that Central America could suffer warming between 2 and 3 degrees by mid-century on average. In some areas of the sub-region, this increase would be between 5 and 6

degrees, resulting in dramatic impacts.

91. In small island states, the following is expected: a water level rise, intensified cyclones, changes in the distribution and frequency of rainfall, all of which will have a profound effect on the countries. This will have impacts on the sub-region's economy, affecting tourism (which is the main economic driver) due to the erosion of coasts and beaches, coral bleaching and a rise in diseases such as malaria or dengue fever.

92. In South America, there will be a large temperature increase in the region south of the Amazon, as well as a reduction in precipitation in Chile. The rainfall extremes will cause water shortages and will transform the Amazon forest into savannah. This "savannisation" will have significant impacts in terms of biodiversity loss, as well as critical health effects.

93. Regarding agricultural productivity, as an example, it is expected that by 2030 Brazil will lose 50% of its current meat production and 70% of its soy production. Countries such as Peru and Colombia will be those hardest hit in terms of losses of fisheries. All of this reflects the need for the Ministries of Environment to work hard to strengthen resilience among each of these sectors.

94. Minister Daniel Ortega, Minister of Environment of Ecuador, began his presentation by stating that the 33 countries are extremely diverse in terms of their positions and interests, but that this is also the main advantage that the region possesses. He also referred to the region's great wealth in natural resources, as it contains nearly 50% of the planet's fresh water, 23% of its oil reserves, and seven of the main strategic minerals. However, in contrast to this, only 1% of global patents are generated in the region.

95. Despite economic growth of 1.3% this year, the region is expected to become the third-leading global economy over the next 30 years, behind Asia and North America.

96. The region generates about 9% of global emissions, mainly due to the change in land use and agriculture. However, the region will see a 5% GDP loss due to climate change (or 100 billion per year) according to figures from the ECLAC.

97. Minister Ortega spoke of the opportunity presented to the region by climate change. He suggested thinking of carbon neutrality at a regional level. There is already a list of identified projects that would generate a large amount of investment, and therefore economic development. An example of this is the forthcoming construction of an electric vehicle factory (backed by Chinese capital) in Ecuador, with support from the CAF. In this regard, he mentioned the importance of the upcoming CELAC meeting in June 2016, which will set out how climate investment should be made in the region.

98. The Minister believes that the Meeting of CELAC Environment Ministers in 2012 was a political dialogue opportunity supplementary to the Forum of Ministers of the Environment. Minister Ortega reiterated the willingness of his government (rebutting the rumours that had been spread) to uphold and not

work against the object of the Forum of Ministers of Environment.

99. Minister Vallejo of Colombia subsequently responded, stating that they hope the Forum of Ministers will become a centre of innovative ideas, with fewer debates, and more practical ideas created, in line with that set out for the future Regional Platform on Climate Change proposed in this forum, with specific actions at the regional level. He also stated that this Forum represents a shared vision for the region, despite their different views.

100. Minister James Fletcher, Minister of Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology of Saint Lucia, began his presentation by reflecting that it was the Lima COP that enabled the success of the Paris Agreement in 2015. He also said that the Ministries of Environment need to achieve an impact and communicate beyond their parishes/provinces/regions, which are already cognisant of the need to take action. He mentioned the importance of working with civil society and the media to create greater social awareness, to thus achieve continuous action.

101. He also spoke about the need for environmental data to generate metrics, and thus measure progress or the lack of it. He also called for closer ties with the Ministries of Health, because climate change represents the greatest threat to public health, based on a recent study published by the University of London.

102. He set out the fundamental importance of coasts for Caribbean islands and how these will be affected by rising waters, fishing or the acidification of the seas, as well as the impact on infrastructure, which costs billions each time a new hurricane or storm hits the islands.

103. Minister Badenier of Chile spoke during the comments segment, and said that the region must work to reach common and agreed positions, like Africa, so as to further its ability to negotiate in international negotiations. He also reflected on the importance of having emission inventories, economic instruments and verification systems, and downplayed the importance of the Green Climate Fund, because despite its impact, it isn't the only solution available to the countries.

104. The Minister of Environment of Panama, Mirei Endara, also reported her Cabinet's recent approval of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions for Panama, as well as the creation of a REDD centre in line with the Paris Agreement, to bring sustainable development for communities living around or in forests. Finally, she informed those present that on 24th June the Meeting of CELAC Ministers will be held in Panama, and on 26th June the Panama Canal expansion will be opened, inviting the ministers to attend both events.

105. The Minister from Peru concluded the panel by thanking all the speakers and stating that the region will be able to implement the agenda agreed globally in 2015, provided it is able to reach consensus positions on key issues. He also concluded with the need for the Forum to include important issues like subsidies, and have a thematic and technical regional

agenda aimed at decision-making and action.

Item IV of the Agenda: Other matters

106. No other matters were included in the agenda.

Item V of the Agenda: Review of the Draft Final Report of the Twentieth Meeting and adoption of the Ministerial Declaration

107. The Chairman invited the representative from the Civil Society to make a statement. Following is an abridge summary of the Statement made by the Civil Society on the behalf of Civil Society including women and youth.

108. The representative of the civil society commented that they firmly believe that the sum of cumulative local actions have a regional and global impact. He request urgently, to the Presidency of this Forum, more active and collaborative participation of the Major Groups and Stakeholders, with at least one representative from each of the nine (9) major groups, beyond the current 2 regional representatives, proposing that the next meetings of the Forum include side events of the Mayor Groups and Stakeholders to deliver proposals to the Forum Presidency before the development of the Forum, for review and analysis from ministries.

109. He also indicated that they strongly insist that forum resolutions include language on gender equality and women's rights. Second, a crucial element of Agenda 2030 is the practical concern for the rights, livelihoods and well-being of indigenous people, especially those who practice traditional occupations that preserve and maintain the habitat and biodiversity. In their view, this concern is not adequately represented in the current proposals. The implementation of these agreements requires a huge increase in the human capacity for sustainable development at local, national and regional level. We believe that the only way this happens is through improving education.

110. Finally, he indicated that the Small Island Development States have special and different needs and call for increasing specific efforts to ensure that these needs are reflected in the resolutions. In UNEA -2 should emerge substantial development and implementation of the New Urban Agenda to be agreed at Habitat III in October 2016. In this, the contributions from the Major Groups of Local Governments has a key role as facilitator of the parties and the others Mayor Groups and Stakeholders considering that the sum of local actions cumulatively have a regional impact and global.

111. Delegations reviewed the draft final report presented by the Rapporteur, including the entire set of decisions and the draft Ministerial Declaration for the meeting, which were developed during the two days of the Meeting of Experts, based on timely proposals submitted by delegations. It should be noted that the various versions of these eleven (11) Decisions proposed and the draft Declaration were enriched by dialogue and input from

delegations at successive meetings in which all delegates participated . It is pertinent to point out that, at the request of several delegations, it was also agreed to limit (deadline) the opportunity for the inclusion of additional draft decision texts. The delegations provided proposals and new texts were included not only during the meeting of experts but also during the first day of the Ministerial Meeting. Finally, delegations after reviewing the final report, adopted them after incorporating the agreed amendments, and noting in this report, at the request of the delegations mentioned below, of the following:

112. With respect to decision 7 regarding to the Regional Platform on Climate Change, Bolivia's delegation, on behalf of the Minister of Environment and Water, Dr Alexandra Moreira, thanked "the government of Colombia for its hospitality in hosting the twentieth Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, where sister countries have gathered and come together to identify common interests and to adopt strategic decisions for the Latin America and Caribbean region."

113. The Bolivian delegation stated that "in this specific decision of this forum relating to climate change, the Bolivian delegation expresses its profound concern that because of aspects referred to as "methodologies and rules", the inclusion of essential and substantive aspects was not permitted, despite their submission within the agreed terms and deadlines."

114. The paragraphs proposed by the Bolivian delegation "to enrich the document and which were not inserted, not even in brackets, in spite of the request from our delegation for consideration by the ministerial segment", are as follows:

"In the preamble section:

- Recalling the fundamental Principle of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change regarding Common but Differentiated Responsibilities. When the responsibilities of developed countries are recognised and evident with respect to severe impact from climate change, damage and losses. "

In the decisions section:

- Integration of the Regional Platform on Climate Change with other platforms such as the platform for the exchange of knowledge, practices and technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities, the platform for the non-market based approach, and that of the Climate Technology Centre (CTC).

Echoing the comment by the Minister from Ecuador, this decision should have tacitly included:

- That every action in this platform must fall within the context of the indicative framework of priorities adopted by our Heads of State in the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) at its IV Summit held on 27 January 2016.

115. The Minister of Environment of Panama requested that it be noted that

Panama will host the Second Meeting of Ministers of the Environment and High Level National Authorities related to Climate Change of the CELAC, on 24 June, 2016.

116. The delegations from Cuba, Ecuador and Bolivia supported the statements made by Bolivia in relation to the importance of ensuring the coordination of the Regional Platform for Climate Change with other existing platforms, as well as other political bodies in the region. Cuba also mentioned that all resolutions must maintain the same structure.

117. The delegation from Bolivia stated: "We express our pleasure that in the Declaration of the XX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, we recalled Resolution 1/10 of UNEA-1m whereby the countries mandated the Executive Director of the UNEP to organize a workshop at UNEA-2 on the various approaches, visions, models and tools to achieve sustainable development, considering the Good Living approach in balance with Mother Nature."

118. The Viceminister from Honduras referred to the whereas section relating to vulnerability of the Latin America and the Caribbean region vis-à-vis the adverse effects of climate change. He mentioned that his country is the second most vulnerable with respect to climate change.

119. The Minister from Santa Lucia, as regards the paragraph on vulnerability, recalled that the exact wording of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change regarding the Caribbean is "highly vulnerable" instead of simply "vulnerable" and that, in fact, it is so expressed in decision 7 of this meeting.

120. The delegation from Bolivia made a call for self-reflection, referring to the short time devoted to reviewing the decision proposals, as the delegations only received them on Holy Thursday. As regards the methodology, he stated that inflexible rules had been put in place. In his opinion, these forums must be used to strengthen the region and its positions in terms of international negotiations, acknowledge countries' achievements and express the region's solidarity.

121. With regard to the report of the meeting with this agenda item, it was agreed that the Secretariat would send the draft to the delegations and that a period of ten days open to post comments

122. Based on the submissions of Argentina and Paraguay, it was agreed that the XXI Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean will be convened jointly by Argentina and Paraguay.

123. Regarding the proposals from the countries for Chairing UNEA-2, the Minister from Costa Rica nominated himself to this role. He underlined that the UNEA is an opportunity to seek joint visions and define specific actions in pursuit of environmental and sustainable development. He also stressed that Latin America and the Caribbean must actively participate in this process by means of proposal-related positions and by taking the decisions made in the

region's Forum of Ministers of Environment to that meeting, so that these are integrated into the global environmental agenda and also so that the region can achieve greater visibility. The Ministers from Peru and Colombia supported this nomination, as did the other countries.

124. The Director and Regional Representative of UNEP reminded everyone that the UNEA has seven Vicechairs and that a country from the region may be nominated to each of these. The Minister from Santa Lucia proposed Barbados, whose delegate accepted the nomination, as did the rest of countries.

Item VI of the Agenda: Closing of the Twentieth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean

125. After thanking all participants for their efforts to reach agreements and progress on the path of regional cooperation for sustainable development, the Minister Vallejo adjourned the meeting at 17:00 hrs.

126. The Regional Director of UNEP thanked the Government of Colombia for their hospitality and for the excellent work for the preparation and conduct of the meeting.

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

28th – 31st March 2016, Cartagena, Colombia

**ANNEX I
Cartagena Declaration**



Cartagena Declaration

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

We, the participating Ministers and Delegation Leaders in the XX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean gathered in Cartagena, Colombia, from 28th to 31st of March 2016:

Reaffirming that to achieve sustainable development and face the challenges of implementing the 2030 Agenda, each country has different approaches, outlooks, models and tools, based on their national circumstances and priorities without prejudice of which innovative, transforming views, coordinated actions and consistent cooperation initiatives for countries and Latin America and the Caribbean, depending on their national circumstances and priorities;

Taking into account that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development requires the decisive and effective support of developed countries to developing countries;

Highlighting the work done by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on the indicators of the Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals, which were approved by the Statistics Commission in the framework of the United Nations;

Recognising that there are different approaches, views, models and tools, developed by United Nations Member States with the purpose of achieving sustainable development and, in this regard, takes notes of the proposal of Good Living in balance and harmony of Mother Nature, accepted by some countries, as a holistic, comprehensive approach of sustainable development that can guide humanity to live in harmony with nature and lead the efforts to restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystems and with reference to decision UNEP/E.A.1/L14 of UNEA1;

Noting that the UN General Assembly resolution 69/15 of 14 November 2014, entitled SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, including inter alia small island developing States remain a special case for sustainable development, in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities, and that they remain constrained in meeting their goals in all three dimensions of sustainable development, and recognising the ownership and leadership of small island developing States in overcoming some of these challenges, while stressing that, in the absence of international cooperation, achieving success will remain difficult;

Acknowledging that doubling efforts is required for the development of public policies aiming to preserve and use, in an inclusive, equitable and sustainable manner, the biodiversity and the ecosystem functions that abound in the region; in the framework of comprehensive development of the peoples and eradication of poverty always respecting the sovereignty of the countries with regard to their natural resources, as established by Principle 2 of the Rio Declaration of 1992; and fostering the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, the promotion of social inclusion and equality;

Recalling the need to move forward with the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples and their relevant role in accomplishing sustainable development in our countries;

Welcoming the undertaking of the XIII Meeting of the Conference of the Parties on Biological Diversity in Mexico, to be held in Cancun from 4th to 17th December 2016 and whose core topic is "Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Well-being" (Mexico), and the III Meeting of the Regional Agreement Negotiation Committee on the Information Access, Public Participation and Access to Justice on Environmental Affairs in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Uruguay (5th – 8th April 2016); the holding in Ecuador of the III Conference on Sustainable Urban Housing and Development –Habitat III (17th – 20th October 2016);

Acknowledging the importance of resolutions approved by the United Nations Environment Assembly during its first period of sessions that took place in June 2014; and its essential role on the promotion of full integration, and coherent and balanced application of the environmental dimension of sustainable development and its potential to identify opportunities and propose solutions to the United Nations Environmental Programme;

Bearing in mind that between 23rd and 27th May 2016, the second Meeting of the United Nations Environmental Programme – UNEP, will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, with the main subject being "Complying with the Environmental Dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development";

Considering the discussions held among the Heads of State and Government during the IX Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean States Community, held in Quito, Ecuador on 27th January 2016, as well as the First Ministers of Environment Meeting of the ECLAC held in that very city in January 2012;

Highlighting the importance of the undertaking of the first Foreign Affairs Ministers Meeting, Ministers of Environment, and other high level national authorities related to climate change on the Member States of ECLAC, as well as the briefing of the Common Elements document of the ECLAC Member Countries on COP21;



Embracing the adoption - last September in New York - of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the General Assembly of the United Nations;

Bearing in mind the adoption of the Paris Agreement and its enabling decisions, within the framework of the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in December 2015, which will be applicable to the countries that become a Party,

Agree to:

- 1. Promote** the healthy functioning of ecosystems as a global, crosscutting and comprehensive condition, key for a better and fairer future for all, fundamental to achieve sustainable development and the eradication of poverty;
- 2. Commit** to the implementation and strengthening of environmental education programmes to transform collective and individual values and behaviours which promote sustainable consumption and production patterns and the comprehensive protection of the environment, promoting alliances and exchanges between our countries and other actors;
- 3. Reaffirm** our commitment to complying with that stated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the aim of eradicating poverty, protecting the environment and fostering inclusive, social and economic development in harmony with nature. In turn, make a call to take coordinated and accelerated action at all levels to implement the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda, recognising the profound connections and the interdependent relationship that it has with the economic and social dimensions of sustainable development, in a balanced comprehensive manner, pursuant to our countries' policies and circumstances;
- 4. Highlight** our commitment to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions, economic, social and environmental, in the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development;
- 5. Welcome** the fact that the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development is of a universal nature, in accordance with the sustainable development outlooks of our countries, their legal frameworks and development policies and their capabilities, in line with the principle of 'leave no one behind';

6. **Acknowledge** that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is universal, equally applicable to all, through a revitalised world alliance of collaboration, with the spirit of global solidarity, particularly with the poorest and with those under vulnerable situation, and bringing together governments, private sector, civil society, social movements, the United Nations System and other agencies, and mobilising all resources available;
7. **Request** from the regional bodies of the United Nations their coordination and cooperation with the States regarding their national processes for defining the national indicators on each of the countries that make up our region, taking into account the existing asymmetries amongst the States, and the circumstances of each country;
8. **Also request** support and cooperation of those regional bodies in close coordination with States for the strengthening of their technical and methodological capacities of our countries by the regional bodies of the United Nations in a coordinated manner, with the process that will be carried out at the Statistical Conference of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) on the development of the regional indicators;
9. **Promote** the strengthening of UNEP at regional level, and recommend that this programme expands its cooperation with States and stimulates alliances which could include the private sector and other stakeholders to contribute to efforts to mobilise resources with the objective of implementing the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to meet our needs, priorities and realities in an effective manner;
10. **Acknowledge** the great challenges that the implementation imposes on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, specifically, because the means of implementation approved do not respond to the challenges of the other 16 objectives, the goals and indicators and therefore recommend that UNEP strengthen its efforts to mobilise the means needed to implement this ambitious global development framework, based upon the spirit of solidarity and centred around the needs of the most poor and vulnerable, with the collaboration of all countries, all stakeholders and all people;

- 11. Invite** countries to work on the identification of synergies and connections between the objectives and goals, in order to implement the comprehensive approach of the 2030 Agenda;
- 12. Express** our support to the Mexican Government as incoming Chair and venue of the COP13 to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is supported and endorsed by Latin American and Caribbean countries, especially to foster actions aimed at the integration, preservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the plans, programmes and policies of the different sectors, with an emphasis in key sectors such as Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Tourism;
- 13. Call** for support for the SIDS resolution that will be considered by UNEA 2;
- 14. Reiterate** that the Latin American and Caribbean region is highly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change due to, among other reasons, its biodiversity wealth, high endemism and the highly vulnerable populations that inhabit their islands and coasts, high mountain ecosystems and areas affected by drought, among others; therefore, it will be fundamental to continue ensuring broad and inclusive recognition of this vulnerability in the various multilateral forums;
- 15. Also reiterate** that efforts to reduce the region's greenhouse gas emissions and climate change vulnerability require urgent responses by all our countries and the international community, ensuring the provision of adequate, new and additional financial resources, technology transfer and capacity building by developed countries so that our adaptation and mitigation needs can be addressed, in accordance with the principle of common, but differentiated responsibilities;
- 16. Highlight** that the Paris Agreement and its enabling decisions, within the framework of the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in December 2015, which will be applicable to the countries that become a Party, acknowledges that both mitigation and adaptation require the attention and efforts of all, making it essential to fulfil the commitments made in the period prior to, and after 2020, including the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC), according to national capacities, the provision of means of implementation required by our countries for the implementation thereof;
- 17. Recognise** that the environmentally sound management of chemical substances and products and waste is essential for the protection of human health and the

environment, and thus we urge the region to adopt measures to minimise the adverse impact and effects from the production and use of chemical substances and products and waste generation, especially in the most vulnerable populations;

- 18. Recognise as well** that the environmentally sound management of chemical substances and products and waste is essential for the protection of human health and the environment, and therefore we reiterate the importance of promoting cooperation and coordination between the three conventions addressing the management of chemicals and hazardous wastes (Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm) and the implementation of 2030 Agenda, strengthening actions aimed at the early implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, as well as its ratification, with a view to the prompt entry into force of this instrument;
- 19. Reaffirm** the region's will to actively participate in the inter-sessional meetings to discuss the future of the Strategic Approach to Integrated Chemicals Management (SAICM) after 2020, and also participate in the operationalisation of the Special Programme for institutional strengthening nationwide, to thus fulfil the international chemicals agenda;
- 20. Reiterate** the commitment of the Latin America and Caribbean region to support the implementation of the Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) and maintain a leadership role in its promotion. Additionally, encourage links and synergies with Sustainable Development Goal 12 of the 2030 Agenda;
- 21. Invite** countries wishing to do so, to implement the Good Living vision in harmony with Mother Nature, a common expression in some countries and regions, in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, in accordance with their national circumstances and priorities, and to ask the countries at the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly to request that the UNEP fully implement Resolution 10 of the UNEA in Nairobi, in 2014;
- 22. Express thanks for and warmly welcome** the presence of representatives of the ministries of health in this Forum, given the close relationship between the environment and health, which brings to light the need for coordinated work and actions to address these issues holistically;
- 23. Highlight** our commitment to take measures for the sustainable protection, conservation and utilisation of the environment, biodiversity and ecosystem

services, and creation of capacity in developing countries, taking into account the conceptual framework of the Intergovernmental Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES);

24. Urge countries and UNEP to continue implementing Montevideo Programme IV for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law, addressing the conclusions and recommendations of the Meeting of Senior Government Officials Expert in Environmental Law, held in Montevideo in September 2015;

25. Strengthen regional cooperation on environmental law, facilitating capacity building in order to help achieve results in the thematic areas prioritised by the Forum;

26. Reiterate the region's commitment to the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and the protection of biodiversity and the marine environment, as demonstrated by the recent measures of protection of the oceans such as by the creation of marine sanctuaries and marine protected areas and as expressed by the Special Declaration on Oceans and Seas adopted by the Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, who met in Quito, Ecuador, as part of the IV Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) on 27th January 2016;

27. Reaffirm that it is essential to promote the complete implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, in line with the reality and national legislation, for which it becomes fundamental the strengthening of international cooperation and the creation of capacity in the countries of the region;

28. Express our commitment to use regional mechanisms created by the Forum of Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean for cooperation between our countries and achieve successful exchanges of experiences, with tangible and replicable impacts, as well as use the occasion of the meetings of the Forum to promote a dialogue which drives forward actions inspired by those experiences which permits the achievement of our environmental and sustainable development aims;

29. Request the Chairman of the XX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean to present this Declaration on behalf of the region's countries, at the Second Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the UNEP, and other relevant forums and environmental processes;



30. Express profound thanks to the Government of Colombia for the generosity and solidarity it has shown in holding the XX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Cartagena, Colombia, from 28th to 31st March 2016.

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

28th – 31st March 2016, Cartagena, Colombia

**ANNEX II
Decisions**

**Decision 1. Latin American and the Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable
Development: Moving together towards a Sustainable Future**

The Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean gathered at the XX meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean:

Decide

I. **To adopt** the update of the Latin American and the Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development, as follows:

II. **Background**

1. Almost 15 years after its adoption by the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Latin American and the Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) has played a pivotal role in making sustainable development one of the top priorities in the region. ILAC has been the source of a wide range wide range of programmes and projects focused on promoting, facilitating and enabling the integration of the social, economic and environmental dimensions at various levels, from local to national and regional.

2. ILAC has also served as a regional platform for the implementation of multilateral agreements, such as the Agenda 21 (adopted at the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992); the Barbados Programme of Action (adopted by the 1994 United Nations Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States), and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action – the Samoa Pathway (adopted at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Apia on 1st to 4th September 2014). In particular, since its inception 10 years after Rio-92, ILAC has helped to identify and propose solutions to some of the most pressing sustainable development challenges to be met in the region. The recently adopted 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development¹

¹ As a follow-up, on 25 September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity, which also seeks to strengthen universal peace and access to justice. Member States of the United Nations adopted a resolution recognising that the greatest challenge in the world today is to eradicate poverty. They reaffirmed that “Poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development”. The

provides a new framework for action; it is in this context that the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean have decided to renew, affirm and strengthen the ILAC as a strategic initiative to effectively support the region in advancing towards the promotion of sustainable development, taking into account the different approaches, visions and tools to achieve this end.

3. The ILAC has promoted actions at national and regional level to address environmental challenges of the region. Likewise, it has supported the mobilisation of resources for cooperation, including South-South cooperation, aimed at strengthening the capacities of environmental authorities, institutions and other stakeholders to promote the integration of environmental sustainability into policies and programmes. Some examples of the accomplishments, which provide the foundations for a new phase of the ILAC, include the following:

- i. Progress on the mainstreaming of environmental sustainability in development and sectoral planning and programming at the national level and strengthening of the institutional capacity on environment at the subregional, national and local levels.
- ii. The establishment of networks² of experts on ILAC priority areas, which have allowed the exchange of experiences, knowledge and information. These networks have focused on capacity building activities, experiences sharing and technical assistance, mostly on the basis of South-South cooperation, with the support of the Interagency Technical Committee.
- iii. The positioning of the interests and priorities of the region in international political fora and negotiations. This includes the joint contributions, according to the countries' interests, to the development of an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing, reflected in the Nagoya Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity; the regional meetings of climate change negotiators to share views, identify and discuss elements of convergence with regard to the international negotiations; the regional contribution to the adoption of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) in Rio+20; and, the region's leadership in the negotiations of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, among others.

Agenda 2030 proposes 17 Goals and 169 targets for Sustainable Development, integrated and indivisible, and encompassing economic, social and environmental dimensions. In this regard, States expressed their resolve to protect the planet against degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, inclusive and quality education, sustainable management of natural resources and urgent measures to address climate change, in order to meet the needs of present and future generations; and to ensure that all human beings can enjoy a prosperous and fulfilling life.

² The network of ILAC environmental indicators, which has identified indicators to measure progress in its implementation, as well as common methodologies; the Council of Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production, which was key for the approval of the Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Conference on Sustainable Development, 2012, and that actively participates in its implementation; the Intergovernmental Network on Atmospheric Pollution, whose work led to the adoption and implementation of the Regional Plan of Action on Atmospheric Pollution; the Environmental Training Network through which an active community of practice has been consolidated among education units of Ministries of Environment, resulting in the exchange of experiences on policies and programmes on environmental education at national and local level as well as increased cooperation between universities and ministries of environment in the development of environmental indicators of universities.

- iv. The progress made in the development, adoption and implementation of a framework of ILAC indicators, which has contributed to the development and consolidation of the National Environmental Information Systems in some countries of the region, becoming one of the focal areas for cooperation, transfer of technologies and improvement of capacities. The results obtained will support the implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Sustainable Development Goals' indicators to be agreed in 2016.
- v. The implementation of specific actions through the cooperation of developed countries, multilateral and regional organizations, including financing and strengthening of South-South cooperation.
- vi. South-South cooperation activities promoted through the implementation of joint projects at the regional and subregional levels, and the development of technical studies and evaluations for informed decision-making on environmental policies, such as assessments on the environmental situation at regional, subregional or local levels, and others on emerging and priority issues for the region.

III. ILAC Objectives

- 4. In light of the results of the implementation of ILAC, as well as the commitments made by the region in the multilateral framework, and changes at regional and global levels, the objectives of the Latin American and the Caribbean Initiative are as follows:
 - a) To consolidate the ILAC as a platform for regional cooperation and dialogue for the monitoring of and feedback into the agreements adopted by the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, taking account of the decisions adopted by other relevant high-level policy dialogue spaces, aiming to avoid duplication of efforts towards fast-tracking the implementation of sustainable development solutions in Latin America and the Caribbean.
 - b) To support efforts that aim to eradicate poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.
 - c) To continue and deepen the efforts in selected thematic areas, based on the political will of States, to stimulate the active participation of the private sector and civil society and other forms of social organisation, and therefore mobilise resources and promote investments to support the achievement of the SDGs and the INDCs, applicable to those countries which have submitted it, in accordance with national capacities and policies.
 - d) To promote, in accordance with national capacities and policies, the implementation of sustainable development models backed by public policies and enabling conditions, which facilitate the development and application of science and clean technologies, financing sources, human resources capacity-building, and institutional strengthening for sustainable development.

- e) Periodically monitor and analyse information and knowledge management on the progress made by the region towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taking into account each country's social, economic, environmental and political conditions;
- f) To contribute to identifying and prioritising financial, technological, technical and institutional mechanisms, and the creation of capacity to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Samoa Pathway; and,
- g) To contribute to the dialogue in the framework of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

5. This Initiative will also identify mutually agreed themes for cooperation with ministerial fora from other regions, such as the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Asia and Pacific and the Council of Ministers of the Middle Eastern Region, among others, and will also promote partnerships amongst multiple stakeholders.

IV. Priority Areas, Guiding Goals and Indicative Purposes

6. The proposals for action identified in this Initiative aim at the full and comprehensive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They may guide future cooperation and high-level political dialogue on policies for Latin American and Caribbean countries in terms on sustainable development imperatives, taking into consideration the progress that has already been made. The region recognises that, to fully achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, means of implementation and possible partnerships must be identified and mobilised, both from national and international sources. The Guiding Goals and Indicative Purposes are presented below:

a) Protection and restoration of ecosystems and their biological diversity.

- ✓ Ecosystems
 - i. By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements (SDG 15.1)
 - ii. By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally (SDG 15.2).
- ✓ Territory under protected areas
 - i. Create the conditions to ensure the comprehensive and effective management of network of protected areas administered by the countries in the region, in

an effective and equitable manner, including, as correspond, transition zones and biological corridors in line with target 11 of the Aichi Targets.

- ii. Enhance the effective protection of existing designated terrestrial and marine protected areas through south-south cooperation and capacity building initiatives.

✓ *Genetic resources - Equitable sharing of benefits.*

- i. Promote mechanisms and regulatory frameworks for access to genetic resources, as well as for fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from their use, including the protection of associated traditional knowledge, compatible with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol, in accordance with national legislation.
- ii. Promote cooperation, information exchange, awareness raising and the enabling conditions to assure that the sustainable use of genetic resources, the protection of associated traditional knowledge and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits comply with national legislations compatible with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol, in accordance with national legislation.
- iii. Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities (SDG 15c).
- iv. By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forest, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and restoration globally (SDG 15.2).

✓ *Marine biodiversity*

- i. Ensure the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources in the region, with particular emphasis on marine and coastal ecosystems.
- ii. Collaborate to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fisheries, to allow the recovery of highly impacted ecosystems and promote activities such as sustainable artisanal fishing which also contributes to the eradication of poverty.

b) Water resources management

- ✓ Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all – all SDG 6
- i. By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all (SDG 6.1).

- ii. By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations (SDG 6.2).
- iii. By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally (SDG 6.3).
- iv. By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater (SDG 6.4).
 - i. By 2030 Implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation, as appropriate (SDG 6.5).
 - ii. By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes (SDG 6.6).
 - iii. By 2030, guarantee the responsible participation of the private sector in the efficient use of water and establish mechanisms to solve conflicts when private use collides with the accomplishment of the objectives described above.

✓ *Watershed management.*

- i. Improve at national level the institutional arrangements for the integrated management of water basins and aquifers, among other measures, by strengthening basin organisations and establishing water basin committees with the participation of all subnational levels of government, civil society, the private sector and all involved stakeholders.

✓ *Management of marine and coastal areas and their resources.*

- i. Implement local, sub-national and national action plans to sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, and adopt measures for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.
- ii. By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution (SDG 14.1).
- iii. Adopt a holistic and integrated approach to the management of marine ecosystems, through the development of a comprehensive strategy for their conservation and sustainable use.
- iv. By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information in each country (SDG 14.5).

- v. Develop and strengthen national systems to address overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

c) Climate change

- i. Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries through, among others, accessing resources for and stepping up investments in adaptation, including ecosystem-based approaches, and participatory or community-based approaches as appropriate.
- ii. Develop and strengthen policies and programmes towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement, that will be applicable to those country that become Parties, through among others: the implementation of the iNDCs, for those countries submitting them; the improvement of the sustainability of the energy mix in many countries; the mobilisation of resources for the public and private investment in clean technologies; acquisition, adaption and deployment of appropriate technology; and, strengthening of human and institutional capacity, including the design, and enforcement of climate change legislation.
- iii. Mainstreaming climate change measures into all relevant national policies, strategies and planning, and national budgets.
- iv. Develop cooperation projects on adaptation, mitigation, loss and damages, creation of capacities and technology transfer, towards a resilient and low-carbon development. Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning (SDG 13.3).

d) Vulnerability, human settlements and sustainable cities

✓ *Land-use planning.*

- i. Implement land-use planning policies and plans from a sustainable development approach.
- ii. Incorporate risk management instruments in land-use planning.
- iii. Promote sustainable urban-rural linkages in land-use policies and plans.

✓ *Sustainable, resilient and inclusive cities*

- i. Substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change and resilience to disasters.

- ii. Implement integral programmes towards sustainability in cities regarding, among others, proper management of solid waste and sanitation, urban energy supplies, building efficiency codes, improvement of air quality and transport systems.
- iii. Implement programmes to ensure access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all.
- iv. By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities (SDG 11.7).

✓ *Air pollution.*

- i. Regulate, monitor and control the pollutant emission sources to reduce the concentration in the air of polluting emissions, according to goals and capacities of countries.

✓ *Waste*

- i. By 2030 reduce significantly waste generation through policies for prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse, according to the countries' targets and capacities (SDG 12.5).
- ii. Implement integrated management of wastes, including appropriate treatment and final disposal, according to goals and capacities of countries.

✓ *Vulnerability to anthropogenic disasters and those caused by natural phenomena.*

- i. Implement and strengthen regional risk management cooperation mechanisms to lessen the impact of anthropogenic disasters and those caused by natural phenomena, including setting up a regional early warning system and forming immediate response groups, in accordance with the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Management.
- ii. By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations (SDG 11.5).
- iii. Mainstream disaster risk reduction strategies in national development plans.

✓ *Vulnerability and risk management*

- i. Refine and apply vulnerability indicators and map the most vulnerable areas at the regional level in accordance to the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Management.
- ii. Incorporate vulnerability and resilience indicators into national development plans.

e) Social issues, including health, inequity and poverty

✓ *Poverty and inequity.*

- i. By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day (SDG 1.1).
- ii. By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions (SDG 1.2).
- iii. Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable (SDG 1.3).
- iv. By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance (SDG 1.4).
- v. By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters (SDG 1.5).
- vi. Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions (SDG 1a).
- vii. Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions (SDG 1b).
- viii. By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round (SDG 2.1)
- ix. By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality (SDG 2.4)

- x. By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed (SDG 2.5).

✓ *Health and environment.*

- i. Implement policies and plans to reduce environmental risks that cause damage to health, in particular those transmitted by water, vectors, air pollution, paying special attention to sanitary factors affecting countries, considering in particular the situation in Haiti in relation to the proliferation of transmittable diseases, and exposure to chemical substances and hazardous waste.
- ii. By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment (SDG 12.4).
- iii. Increase the proportion of green and healthy areas per inhabitant.

✓ *Environment and job creation.*

- i. Promote the formulation and implementation of sustainable development projects and programmes that will help to create jobs.
- ii. Support the development of climate-resilient and sustainable livelihood opportunities in local communities.

f) Economic issues, including competitiveness, trade and sustainable patterns of consumption and production

✓ 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP)

- i. Improve progressively, through 2030, resource efficiency and sustainable patterns of consumption and production, to support equitable inclusive economic growth.
- ii. By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources (SDG 12.2).
- iii. Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

- iv. By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature (SDG 12.8).
- v. Increase the regional contribution to the development and implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) and the SDGs and increase the regional participation in the development and implementation of the 10YFP programmes, considering the region's and each country priorities.
- vi. Provide further support for the development and/or implementation of regional, subregional and national SCP strategies/programmes with an active inter-ministerial and multi-stakeholder engagement, in accordance with national mechanisms.
- vii. Consolidate and strengthen the regional network of Cleaner Production and Resource Efficiency Centres, in order to scale up the adoption of key SCP approaches.
- viii. By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities (SDG 9.4).
- ix. Promote awareness raising and the enabling conditions (regulatory, economic and infrastructural) to adopt sustainable lifestyles in harmony with nature at regional, subregional and national levels.

✓ *Energy.*

- i. By 2030, guarantee universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services (SDG 7.1).
- ii. By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the energy mix (SDG 7.2).
- iii. By 2030, substantially increase energy efficiency in the region.

✓ *Economic instruments.*

- i. Strengthen the use of economic and financial instruments to promote greater resource efficiency and an inclusive and sustainable growth.
- ii. Development of methodologies for the identification and promotion investments that maximize the economic, environmental and social benefits.
- iii. Evaluate instruments and mechanisms to support to redirect investment in key economic sectors, as well as enhance sustainable productive and

industrial processing that will save natural resources and energy and eventually reduce the amount of effluents discharged into water, land and the air.

g) Governance and institutional arrangements

✓ Governance

- i. Develop and implement regulatory frameworks and sectoral regulations that include appropriate instruments and mechanisms to implement sustainable development policies, programmes and projects, in accordance with national laws.
- ii. Strengthen mechanisms and institutional coordination for compliance with and enforcement of environment law.

✓ *Environmental education.*

- i. Improve and strengthen the incorporation of the environmental dimension into formal and non-formal education.
- ii. Incorporate environmental sustainability as cross-cutting issue in primary, secondary and university education.

✓ *Training and capacity building of human resources.*

- i. Build capacities to address vulnerabilities in the region.
- ii. Establish programmes for capacity building and the creation of new skills needed for the public and private sectors and at the community level, thorough cooperation.
- iii. Build capacity among financial institutions in environmental and social risk analysis.

✓ *Evaluation and indicators.*

- i. Strengthen environmental information systems and effectively integrate them into national information systems for sustainable development.
- ii. Develop and implement an outreach mechanism on the goals and targets, to follow up the progress made towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals, adopting national and regional sustainable development indicators that respond to the region's and each country's unique social, economic and political features.

✓ *Participation of society.*

- i. Establish appropriate mechanisms to ensure that environmental information is available to the public in a clear and accessible manner.
- ii. Establish and strengthen participation mechanisms to deal with sustainable development issues, with representatives from government, non-government and the new forms of social organisation in accordance with national realities, in all countries of the region, in accordance with Principle 10.
- iii. Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle (SDG 12.6).
- iv. Incorporate society as a protagonist, in its various forms of organization, to the plans, programmes and projects conducive to achieving the objectives of SDGs.

V. Guiding principles for the Initiative

- 7. The operational guidelines of this Initiative are:
 - i. Make progress in the accomplishment of the multilateral commitments, including those under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Samoa Pathway, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Doha Declaration, as well as those reflected in the multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant global agreements;
 - ii. Highlight the challenges that the countries of the region face as middle-income economies, particularly with regard to access to technologies and financing under preferential terms without conditions.
 - iii. Ensure the full implementation of Rio Principle 10, , strengthening the participation of relevant all relevant type of social organisations, in accordance with the reality of each country, and the transparency in the decision-making processes and supported by adequate and relevant education, knowledge and skills.
 - iv. Contribute to an inclusive, resource efficient and resilient economic growth to face potential global and regional crises;
 - v. By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries. (17.19)
 - vi. Recognize, demonstrate and incorporate the capacities of regeneration of ecosystems, environmental functioning and environmental services in decision making processes in public and private prioritizing based on the environmental, social and economic impacts.
 - vii. Establish new and strengthen existing public-private partnerships and/or scientific panels to promote the technical, technological and scientific

progress contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and the implementation of an integrated approach to sustainable development.

- viii. Promote a participatory and inclusive follow-up and monitoring process of ILAC.
- ix. Fully implement the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities of States, and the respect for the sovereign rights of each country over its natural resources.
- x. Reiterate the commitment to the precautionary principle as defined in the Rio Declaration, as a key component of environmental policy, so as to safeguard our natural and social heritage;
- xi. Urge developed countries to fulfil their commitment to support Small Island Developing States of the region in the implementation of the Samoa Pathway, and countries of the region to support its implementation through regional cooperation and other means as appropriate.
- xii. Mobilise resources and assistance from national and multilateral financial institutions, and global, regional and subregional cooperation organizations, as well as the private sector, including the financial sector, to support programmes and projects identified in the framework of this Initiative, in accordance with the legislation of each country.

8. These guidelines will be followed when implementing the programmes and projects intended to face the region's sustainable development challenges, by:

- i. Supporting the implementation of public policies aimed at promoting inclusive economic growth eradicating poverty and reducing social inequality while maintaining the healthy functioning of the Earth's ecosystems, by increasing resource efficiency, creating jobs and new opportunities for a sustainable development.
- ii. Implementing integrated human health and environment measures to ensure that more recognition is given to the health and well-being of the people of the region, and that those measures are systematically and effectively translated into policies and programmes.
- iii. Underlining the urgency to achieve sustainable consumption and production patterns and its related economic, social and environmental benefits, promoting the enabling conditions for governments, enterprises and consumers to apply approaches and behaviours that imply social and environmental responsibilities.
- iv. Creating or strengthening, in accordance with the countries' capacities, regulatory, economic, tax and fiscal instruments to incentivize progress toward sustainable development, as well as stimulating the adoption, by governments and the productive sector, of voluntary instruments in order to create the enabling conditions for sustainable development.

- v. Initiating or continuing, as appropriate, environmental or natural resources evaluation processes to make better use of the region's comparative advantages, incorporating sustainability indicators related to environmental liabilities and assets to permit their inclusion in national accounting systems and the metrics of sustainable development.
- vi. Initiate or continue, as appropriate, the characterization of ecosystem functioning and services and the non-monetary valuation processes of the natural resources.
- vii. Strengthening cooperation with regional, sub-regional and national institutions, as well as sub-national mechanisms, to implement, follow up and monitor policies, programmes and projects deriving from this Initiative.
- viii. Formulating strategies to promote the transfer and development of appropriate technologies, and developing South-South and triangular cooperation for capacity building, knowledge sharing and education activities across all ILAC goals.

Decision 2. ILAC Indicators

The Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recognising the need to promote further synergies among the global, regional, subregional and national initiatives involved in environmental integrated assessment, environmental monitoring and indicators in Latin America and the Caribbean, with emphasis on those most relevant for the ILAC, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Samoa Pathway;

Reaffirming the importance of environmental indicators in the achievement of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on access to environmental information and public participation;

Considering that one of the objectives of the ILAC is to assess on a regular basis the progress made by the region in its transition towards sustainability, particularly through the adoption and implementation of a common framework of sustainability indicators, taking into account each country's social, economic, environmental, legal and political conditions;

Acknowledging the work of the Working Group on Environmental Indicators (WGEI) and the progress achieved over the last eight years in developing a robust and clear set of ILAC indicators;

Recognising that although many countries in the region have advanced significantly in the implementation and consolidation of their national environmental information systems, important capacity gaps still exist, including –inter alia-, with regards to collection, processing, integration and analysis; regular monitoring and assessment; policies on full and open access to environmental data and metadata; and capacity building for the effective use of environmental data and indicators in policy and decision making;

Considering that the revision of the ILAC provides an opportunity to produce a new, more integrated and result oriented indicator framework, including a focus on indicators to assess the level of implementation of the various ILAC objectives, goals and activities;

Noting that effective communication of environmental issues should rely on highly interactive systems able to provide access to up-to-date data and statistics on the state of

the environment as well as to tools and relevant information produced by UNEP and other agencies in the region;

Recognising the value and importance of strategic partnerships such the cooperation agreement between the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) and UNEP to support the ILAC on matters related to the development, implementation and use of indicators on Sustainable Consumption and Production;

Taking into account all the recommendations made in Decision 6 of the XIX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean;

Decide

1. **To take note** of the achievements made by the WGEI during the past biennium, as presented in the WGEI report on Decision 6 of the XIX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean (Document UNEP/LAC-IC.1.2015/3.Rev2);
2. **To request** the WGEI to coordinate with relevant regional initiatives and ILAC focal areas, also in light of the outcomes from the revised ILAC document, to propose new indicators and/or to update the existing ones, and to clearly define the mechanisms by which these indicators would be reported and used in the context of the 2030 Agenda;
3. **To recommend** the WGEI to consider in the construction of the indicators the various approaches and visions that the countries have to reach the sustainable and integral development
4. **To request** the WGEI to continue with the development of a set of indicators on Sustainable Consumption and Production in coordination with the Focal Points of the Council of Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production to advance the implementation and use of these indicators in the region;
5. **To request** the WGEI, with the support of the Secretariat, to promote subregional meetings for topics such as the construction and revision of the indicators, methodological sheets, protocols and guidelines;
6. **To request** the WGEI, with the support of the Secretariat, to prepare a proposal to advance the work on environmental indicators in LAC, including a resource mobilisation and allocation strategy, and taking into account the need for enhanced

harmonisation between the ILAC and the SDGs indicators global and regional, based on the priorities, most relevant topics and the different capacity building needs across the region;

7. **To request** the WGEI, with the support of the Secretariat, to explore options to produce indicators using regional or thematic data sources, such as those from Earth observations or those from citizen science;
8. **To request** the WGEI to provide recommendations on how to improve and streamline the production, integration, communication and use of environmental indicators in LAC, including aspects related to their publication in platforms such as UNEP Live, and their use as the basis for integrated environmental assessments (such as the GEO regional, national and thematic assessments) and MEA reporting;
9. **To encourage** the use of indicators as a critical component of the science-policy interface on all issues related to sustainable development, promoting a broad social participation.
10. **To reiterate** the need to fully implement the actions derived from the Decision 6 of the XIX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, in particular the following action items:
 - To encourage the development of environmental information systems on platforms accessible to the public;
 - To promote the government programmes of South-South Cooperation that already exist and urge Governments to attach priority to cooperation in support of national environmental information systems, the transfer of good practices and the development of national capacities for statistics and geospatial information, with the aim of integrating environmental considerations in economic and social policies;
 - To invite governments that do not participate in WGEI to designate focal points for the Working Group, through their Ministries of Environment and National Statistical Offices;
 - To recognize the efforts of countries that have produced national reports on the ILAC indicators, calling on other countries to take forward similar efforts and, in particular, to use the indicators to keep the state of environment under review and to support policy making;
 - To utilize resources effectively and avoid duplication of efforts through inter-institutional communication and the creation of synergies between environmental information initiatives, both at the national and international levels;

- To invite the agencies of the Inter-Agency Technical Committee and other international organizations concerned with the management of environmental information, in accordance with their respective mandates, to cooperate with the Working Group on Environmental Indicators of the Forum of Ministers.

Decision 3

Environmental Education for Sustainable Development

The Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Whereas environmental education is a key part of policies for sustainable development, to take care of the planet to understand the causes of environmental degradation processes and its consequences, to propose solutions and to transform values, behaviour and visions towards sustainable development, devoted to poverty eradication, peace, inclusion, respect for multiculturalism, gender equality, participation of youth, sustainable consumption and production, decent work, improving the quality of life and environmental protection;

Recognizing that public demand and social movements in environmental education have increased; however, this has not been accompanied by an equivalent contribution of resources (financial, human, institutional, among others) to meet this increasing demand;

Taking into account the importance of including traditional knowledge and ancestral wisdom in education and training processes to achieve sustainable development;

Considering the need to further expand and strengthen the operational mechanisms of the Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean, through the active participation of all countries in the region and strengthening the environmental education, public participation and communication units of the Ministries of Environment of the region¹; also promoting greater participation¹ of civil society, academia and the private sector as well as social movements as well as new forms of social organization according to national realities;

Given the guidance on education for sustainable development in the document "The Future We Want" (June 2012) and the "Global Programme of Action for Education for Sustainable Development" coordinated by UNESCO (November 2012);

¹ See VII Iberoamerican Environmental Congress – Lima Declaration (2014): "4 Our will to strengthen the Environmental Training Network of Latin America and the Caribbean coordinated by UNEP and integrated by the Ministries of Environment..."

Given that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” includes the sustainable development goal (SDG) number 4 on "Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning" and its target 7 aims that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development² and that all SDGs are integrated with each other and environmental education is necessary to achieve these SDGs;

Taking into account the adoption of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change which will be applicable to the countries becoming Part and which highlights renewed and urgent commitments so that education and training contribute to enhance the capacity and ability of developing country Parties, in particular countries with the least capacity, such as the least developed countries, and those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, such as small island developing States, to take effective climate change action;

Recognizing that Latin America and the Caribbean is particularly vulnerable to climate change threats; due to, among other reasons, its rich biodiversity and high endemism and highly vulnerable populations living in the coasts, high altitude mountains ecosystems and ecosystems affected by droughts, among others;

Underlining the interconnection between climate change, biodiversity loss, soil erosion, rising sea levels and salinization of coastal areas and that the Convention on Biological Diversity and other multilateral environmental agreements promote the inclusion of these issues in education programmes;

Given that the current review of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development adopted in 2002 in the Plan of Implementation of Johannesburg (within the framework of the World Summit on Sustainable Development) has established “environmental education” and “training of human resources” with renewed goals under the guidance target 5 on "institutional aspects”;

Noting the progress in identifying indicators of environmental sustainability in universities by various countries in the region, the establishment and strengthening of new national university networks and fora on the environment and sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the elaboration of diagnosis on the integration of environmental and sustainability aspects in higher education institutions and their

² Target 7 of SDG 4: By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

articulation with ministries of the environment and initiatives such as ARIUSA³ (for its acronym in Spanish) with GUPES⁴ MESCA⁵ initiative;

Whereas in recent years South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation have increased in Latin America⁶, intensifying collaboration, integration and alliances among countries, contributing to institutional and methodological capacities, in different sectors, including environmental education, participation and communication in various sectors of the Latin American and Caribbean population;

Whereas the Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean is the only inter-governmental forum for exchange on environmental education at the regional level, formalized more than three decades ago for cooperation between the ministries of environment and other related-sectors, so it is important that decisions taken as commitments by their focal points and endorsed by the environment ministers are part of the institutional framework of each country to serve and strengthen environmental education.

DECIDE

1. **To request UNEP** to systematize the new experiences on environmental education which embrace comprehensive approaches and ascribing these experiences to the Network, for building the future Work Plan 2016-2018.

2. **To request UNEP as Secretariat of the Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean (ETN-LAC)**, and through the national focal points of the ETN-LAC in the environmental authorities to coordinate the development of the ETN-LAC workplan for the period 2016-2018, including the identification of responsible people, actions, timeline, indicators, necessary financial resources, as well as synergies with other programmes and regional and subregional initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean on environmental education. This Plan should be finalised at the latest within six months and it will include the following guidelines and actions:

a. Promote environmental education and training activities, including topics on sustainable lifestyles, climate change, greenhouse gases emissions, wildlife

³ Alianza de Redes Iberoamericanas de Universidades por la Sustentabilidad y el Ambiente

⁴ GUPES que impulsa el PNUMA significa Alianza Mundial de Universidades sobre Ambiente y Sostenibilidad (*Global Universities Partnership on Environment and Sustainability*)

⁵ *Mainstreaming Environment in Caribbean Universities*

⁶ See Report South South Cooperation in Iberoamerica of the General Iberoamerican Secretariat (2015)

- trafficking, solid waste management, chemicals and mercury pollution, disasters risk management, biodiversity, reforestation and forest regeneration, and air quality, sustainable consumption and production partners, amongst other;
- b.** Develop environmental standards and sustainability skills for public servants in all sectors; Strengthen regional dialogue, cooperation and exchange of experience develop common criteria on environmental standards and sustainability skills for public servants in all sectors.
 - c.** Develop attractive information and communication materials for various stakeholders and the public sector, including parliamentarians, decision makers, among others.
 - d.** Develop guidelines on environmental education for local or municipal plans;
 - e.** Deepen monitoring and evaluation systems of environmental education strategies, action plans or alike and on the design of indicators.
 - f.** Continue to promote the active participation of universities of the region in UNEP GUPES initiative, strengthening the relationship with ARIUSA and MESCA; continue the development of national diagnosis on the inclusion of environmental considerations in universities; promote the inclusion of environmental criteria in accreditation systems of higher education institutions, where they are in place; promote inter-faculty dialogues within universities and among national university networks on the environment and sustainability in the framework of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda;
 - g.** Joint actions with UNESCO to strengthen the capacity of educators, trainers and teachers to facilitate learning on the new challenges of sustainable development;
 - h.** Articulate actions with the water and environment-related centres of excellence in the region and the national systems of universities.
 - i.** Expand the scope of the Network to other productive sectors and private sector.
 - j.** Develop technical assistance for capacity building for sustainable development, more innovative approaches to sustainable living and appraisal of the implementation of education plans.
 - k.** Translate from Portuguese into Spanish, and adapted to the context of Latin America of the following courses: (i) sustainable lifestyles; (ii) The child and sustainable consumption; (iii) Sustainable Production and Consumption; (iv) environmental education, social participation and water management; and (v) Environmental Education and Climate Change. (Brazil)
 - l.** Elaboration of a draft South-South cooperation project, to submit to the Brazilian Cooperation Agency, aiming at raising funds for the realization of the educational process on environmental education and climate change (Brazil)

m. A publication on public policy and environmental education in Latin America and the Caribbean (Brazil)

3. To promote access and exchange of information, knowledge, experience and technical resources, as well as South-South cooperation among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the areas of environmental education, participation and communication, including intercultural dialogues and knowledge and participating, when applicable, and assisting technically and financially, when it corresponds, regional environmental education congresses. Within the framework of South-South cooperation to promote the establishment of regional working groups of the Environmental Training Network.

4. To strengthen cooperation between UNESCO, UNEP and other agencies and programmes of the United Nations on environmental education and training within the framework of the decisions of the meetings of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, with emphasis on the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) and the Environmental Training Network for Latin America and the Caribbean.

5. To ensure cooperation between the Environmental Training Network and the Regional Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production, to identify synergies and jointly contribute to the Sustainable Development Objective number 12 “Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns” and the goals of other related ensuring that people, including young people, have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.

6. Join efforts at the national and regional level, to mobilize financial resources, when it corresponds, that enables the implementation and dissemination of environmental education policies, prioritizing them in domestic budgets (ministries of environment, education, industry, planning and economics, among others), in credit operations of national, regional and multilateral banks, and also taking into consideration the relevance of building partnerships with the private sector, civil society, social movements and other forms of social organisation.

7. To identify opportunities for cooperation on environmental education between the Environmental Training Network and the Secretariats of the main multilateral environmental agreements.

8. To welcome initiatives in the region for the development of research programmes, capacity-building, environmental education, and knowledge networks on topics relating to decreasing deforestation and forests degradation, integrated forest management, disasters risk reduction and adaptation to climate change as well as biodiversity and environmental management.

9. To request UNEP a report on the functioning of the Trust Fund of the Environmental Training Network to enable its assessment and definition of strategies to strengthen it, for countries' consideration at the next meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment.

10. To ratify the importance of the annual contribution payment to the Trust Fund of the Environmental Training Network by all Latin America and the Caribbean countries and consider alternatives, like in-kind contributions to ensure the effective implementation of the Network's Work Plan.

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

The Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Decide

1. **To reaffirm** that the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean constitutes one space for regional dialogue, exchange of good practices and experiences and follow-up of public policies, inter alia, the integration of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the 2030 Agenda implementation and its relationship with poverty eradication, [], as well as the challenges that the region faces in this regard. Therefore, the Forum will provide leadership, relevant inputs and contributions on the environmental dimension to the regional follow-up mechanisms of the implementation of 2030 Agenda in the region, as well as to the UNEA.
2. In that regard, also agree that the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean will, *inter alia*:
 - a) Provide political guidance on recommendations regarding the environmental dimension of sustainable development at the regional level taking into account the decisions taken by relevant political instances;
 - b) Promote the application of integrated and holistic approaches in the implementation of the Agenda 2030, in which the updated Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) can make meaningful contributions;
 - c) Evaluate, with an integrated approach, the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda in the region; taking into account relevant mandates and the inputs from the Working Group on Environmental Indicators of the Forum, as contributions to the comprehensive process of revision of the 2030 Agenda implementation;
 - d) Promote international and regional cooperation and national capacity-building for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through south-south and triangular cooperation;

- e) Identify regional and, as appropriate, national gaps, emerging challenges and common targets for effectively implementing the environmental dimension in the Sustainable Development Goals and their respective targets;
 - f) Foster peer learning by sharing good practices, experiences and lessons learned;
 - g) Encourage participation of all relevant stakeholders;
 - h) Promote coordination and coherence of national development plans and strategies with global frameworks.
3. **To request** the Government of Colombia, as President of the Forum, to communicate this decision to the UNEA and to UNEP, as Secretariat of the Forum, to communicate it to the Secretariats of the relevant UN agencies, funds and programmes, including the regional economic commissions.

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Decision 5. Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration
Access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters

The Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Taking into account paragraph 99 of the document *The Future We Want*, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and approved by the United Nations General Assembly in its Res 66/288 of 27 July 2012, that encourages action at regional, national, subnational and local level, to promote access to information, public participation in decision making and access to justice in environmental matters, as appropriate;

Recalling that the UNEP Governing Council adopted in February 2010, the Voluntary Guidelines for the development of national legislation on access to information, public participation in decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Bali Guidelines);

Recalling also Resolution 1/13 of the United Nations Environment Assembly, which encourages countries to continue their efforts to strengthen international dialogue and cooperation, technical assistance and capacity-building in support of the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, taking into account relevant advances, instruments, experiences and practices since its adoption and to work for the strengthening of environmental rule of law at the international, regional and national levels;

Considering the document *“Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”*, adopted by the Summit of Heads of States and Government on 25 September 2015;

Also considering the Declaration on the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted by several countries in the region during the Rio +20 Conference, which launched a regional process that records significant progress and has a growing number of signatory countries;

Taking note of the work done by ECLAC as the Technical Secretariat of the regional Declaration process and the valuable support and active involvement of UNEP, UNITAR and other institutions with presence in our region;

Noting the progress being made at the national level to strengthen the rights recognized by Principle 10, and the challenges for its implementation as well as the particular conditions of each country;

Emphasizing that broad public participation and access to information and judicial and administrative procedures based on national legislation are essential to promote sustainable development;

Taking note of the process of the Declaration for the application of Principle 10 of Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular the establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee with ECLAC as technical Secretary;

Decide

1. **To reaffirm** the commitment to work towards achieving full implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

2. **To continue** efforts to strengthen regional dialogue and cooperation, technical assistance and capacity building in support of the construction and implementation of its own regional agenda on the rights of access, considering the advances, tools, experiences and practices in place since the adoption of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including the ongoing intergovernmental negotiation process in which participate the countries of the region that have joined the Declaration A/CONF.216/13 on application of Principle 10.

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Decision 6. Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)

The Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Considering the commitments made in the Agenda 21 at the Earth Summit in 1992; in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002; and in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20) in 2012, where member states reaffirmed that changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production is one of the three overarching objectives and essential requirements for sustainable development;

Recalling that the Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) adopted in paragraph 226 of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012 will contribute to the three dimensions of sustainable development, that its programmes should respond to national, sub-regional and regional needs and priorities, as well as take into account the different approaches, visions, models and instruments according to the national circumstances of each country;

Recalling that which is stated at the General Assembly Resolution 70/1 of September 2015, *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and affirming the commitment of the international community towards achieving the objectives and targets set in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also recognising that the issue of sustainable patterns of consumption and production is a crosscutting theme in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which not only contributes to achieving the SDG number 12 and its associated targets but also to the advancement of other SDG and related targets;

Emphasising that it is stated at the General Assembly Resolution 69/313 of July 2015, *Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development* "to continue to support developing countries to strengthen their scientific, technological and innovative capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production, including through implementation of the 10YFP";

Bearing in mind that the adoption of sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of consumption and production, with developed country Parties taking the lead, plays an important role in addressing climate change;

Recalling that sustainable consumption and production is an important approach to prevent and adapt to the effects of desertification and drought, and to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, and other global and regional environmental priorities;

Taking into consideration that strengthening the sustainability performance of SMEs is one of

the four regional priorities, according to Decisions N° 5 and 6 in 2010 and 2012 respectively of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment, which recognise and take into account that in the LAC region, SMEs are an important source for economic growth and employment and the base of supply chains, therefore it is necessary to support them in their integration in the global value chains;

Recognising the exponential urban development of the region, where 80% of the population lives in cities, and identifying the critical contribution of cities in the use of natural resources, emissions and waste generation and in the lifestyles of its inhabitants; as well as the context of the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) to be held in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016;

Recalling the Declaration of Lima of the VII Ibero-American Congress on Environmental Education held in September 2014 in Peru, urging people and governments of Ibero-America and around the world to take and fulfil specific commitments to develop and implement environmental education policies that generate equitable and inclusive social realities, new modes of behaviour, consumption and production to enable sustainable lifestyles both at the local and global levels;

Recalling the launch of the “SCP for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Initiative within the 10YFP” in the framework of the Third International Conference of Small Island Developing States held in Samoa during September 2014;

Taking into account the progress made regarding the implementation of: i) the Regional Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production and its roadmap (2015-2016); ii) Decision 7 on Sustainable Consumption and Production of the XIX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean; and iii) the proposals for action to the 10YFP Secretariat and the 10YFP Board, elaborated during the *Eighth Meeting of the Regional Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production of Latin America and the Caribbean*, which took place in Panama from 4th to 5th May 2015;

Recognising the progress that the countries of the Latin American and the Caribbean region have made in adopting and implementing policies, programmes and initiatives to promote more sustainable consumption and production patterns;

Decide to

1. **Reiterate** the commitment of the Latin America and the Caribbean region to support the implementation of the Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP) and to maintain an active role in its promotion.
2. **Invite** countries of our region to use the 10YFP as one of the mechanisms to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), including not only the SDG 12 but also other goals and objectives to which the implementation of SCP contributes significantly.
3. **Invite** countries to work towards the implementation of the Regional Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production and its roadmap (2015-2016), as appropriate; both

documents framed within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and aligned to the achievement of the SDGs.

4. **Reiterate** its support to strengthen the 10YFP National Focal Points and the 10YFP Stakeholder Focal Points. This includes: i) to provide the highest political support to the 10YFP National Focal Points to facilitate their role and functions as national coordinators of SCP; ii) to facilitate and strengthen the active participation of the nine Major Groups in the promotion of SCP practices and the implementation of the 10YFP programmes at regional, national and local levels; iii) to facilitate inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral dialogues and cooperation among multiple stakeholders, integrating SCP in key sectors and with an active participation of private sector.
5. **Integrate** as a crosscutting element in all of the 10YFP programmes, the need to assist the small and medium enterprises (SMEs), supporting them in strengthening their sustainability performance and eco-innovation; and continue to consider the possibility of the creation of a specific programme on PYMEs within the 10YFP.
6. **Promote** integrated waste management as a new programme of the 10YFP, in order for each country to define its priorities and strategies according to its own policies; and to promote the prevention, reuse, recycling and valorisation of waste, among others, tending towards lower final disposal. This taking into consideration potential synergies with the regional network on chemicals and waste that is currently being developed under the framework of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.
7. **Replicate and scale up** the best practices on sustainable public procurement, which helps governments to lead by example in the adoption of sustainable consumption and production, and also provides added value as well as social, environmental and economic benefits.
8. **Strengthen** the inclusion of sustainable consumption and production approaches in the regional and national climate change strategies and initiatives, which contributes significantly to mitigation and adaptation.
9. **Invite** all the countries in the region to use the available scientific knowledge on efficient management of natural resources and reduction of environmental degradation, on integrated and sustainable development; respecting the regeneration capacity of life-systems; and on consumption and production patterns; which could assist in the formulation of science based-public policies and decision-making. This including, among others, the specific expertise of the International Resource Panel in this field.
10. **Articulate** environmental education and training processes in the development of policies and technical and operative tools to achieve sustainable consumption and production patterns, with the allocation of adequate financial resources and evaluation instruments.
11. **Strengthen** efforts aimed at improving resource efficiency in cities in order to minimise their environmental and social impacts and to build cities with more sustainable and inclusive lifestyles in the region, contributing at the same time to the objectives of the United Nations

Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) to be held in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016.

12. **Strengthen** the protection of biodiversity through SCP policies and practices, thereby contributing as well to the Aichi target number 4 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the COP 13 on Biodiversity.
13. **Continue** to support sustainable development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) with the 10YFP and with the implementation of the Regional Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production and its roadmap (2015-2016); asking for more support to countries in the region and the international cooperation to promote the "SCP for SIDS Initiative".
14. **Facilitate and strengthen**, according to national legislation, the active participation of the productive and service sectors, both SMEs and large enterprises, in the implementation of practices of sustainable consumption and production, which implies creating access to new market opportunities, innovation and environmental sustainability, among others.
15. **Urge** international cooperation, private sector, financial sector and countries, to provide technical assistance and funding for initiatives involving implementation of SCP in the region, including those which have as an objective the transfer and dissemination of technology, capacity building and innovation in the context of equity and common and differentiated responsibilities. Also, to invite countries and other relevant actors to promote mechanisms for South-South cooperation.
16. **Promote** the inclusion of issues associated with SCP as well as the analysis of possible synergies with other political forums or relevant intergovernmental organisations in the region and sub-regions.
17. **Continue** to work on the development and harmonisation of SCP indicators as appropriate, in response to Decision 6 of the Regional Forum of Ministers of Environment (Quito, 2012) and coordinate this task with existing initiatives in the region while seeking synergies, especially within the context of monitoring the agenda of Rio+20 and the Sustainable Development Goals.
18. **Ratify** Executive Committee members for the 2016-2018 period, as indicated below:
 - Caribbean sub-region: Barbados and Jamaica
 - Mesoamerican sub-region: Mexico and Costa Rica/Honduras (sharing seat, Costa Rica for the first year and Honduras for the second);
 - The Andean sub-region: Bolivia and Colombia;
 - The Southern Cone sub-region: Argentina and Brazil.

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Decision 7. Regional Platform on Climate Change

The Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recognizing that Latin America and the Caribbean is a region highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and its population is considerably dependent on the various ecosystems affected by climate change and the basic services and functions these provide.

Aware that climate change is a central issue for sustainable development, and that effective responses to this global challenge must be based on a holistic view of the environmental, economic and social dimensions.

Reaffirming the importance of sharing information, experiences and best practices on effective action against climate change, and that the region already has a great deal of good practices and experiences that are global examples of climate action and innovation.

Bearing in mind that, although several countries in the region have already made significant progress in the implementation of actions for regional and South-South cooperation, there are significant opportunities to delve deeper into the implementation of regional cooperation schemes to fill existing capacity gaps.

Recalling the decision of the XIX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Los Cabos, Mexico, which decided to advance in the development of a Regional Cooperation Programme on Climate Change, as a framework for South-South and triangular cooperation.

Recognizing the recommendation of the intersessional meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment, Mexico City, November 2015, to revise the Regional Cooperation Programme on Climate Change, in light of the results of the COP-21 and considering the Nationally Determined Contributions, only applicable to those countries that submit them, towards the establishment of a Regional Platform on Climate Change, of voluntary participation.

Highlighting the importance of the First Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Ministers of Environment or other national high-level authorities related to climate change of the CELAC member countries and the regional submission of the Common Elements document of the CELAC member countries at COP-21.

Keeping in mind the decision of Heads of State at the Second CELAC Summit, to continue working towards the establishment of an environmental agenda based upon the results and regional

ongoing actions, while avoiding duplication of efforts and existing structures, in particular the Forum of Environment Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Bearing in mind the decision of the Heads of State at the Fourth Summit of CELAC, to convene the Second Meeting of Ministers of Environment or other national high-level authorities related to climate change, based on the agreements and commitments reached at the COP 21, in order to progress on the goals set by the region on this matter. The Republic of Nicaragua is not part of the Paris Agreement.

Decide to

1. **Establish** a Regional Cooperation Platform on Climate Change for Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be led by the countries of the region participating voluntarily, and will comprise three key priority areas: (1) dialogue and exchange of experiences on climate public policy; (2) climate action, on adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage; and, (3) financing and other means of implementation, including transfer of climate technologies and capacity building that will promote regional cooperation on climate change.
2. **Resolve** that the key objective of the Regional Platform shall be to strengthen capacities and cooperation in countries of the region, as an essential pillar for taking action to tackle climate change, while taking into consideration particular needs of countries in the region.
3. **Request** the Chair of the Forum, jointly with the Board of the Forum, to develop a draft plan to operationalize the Platform. This draft will be sent to all countries in the region for consideration and eventual approval. To achieve this, the Secretariat and other member agencies of the Interagency Technical Committee are requested to facilitate support. Synergies with other ongoing cooperation initiatives will need to be considered.
4. **Request** the agencies of the Interagency Technical Committee and other relevant institutions, to contribute actively to facilitate the dynamic operation of the Regional Platform, and promote action in the different areas of the Platform in the framework of the priorities defined by the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.
5. **Ensure** that the implementation of the Regional Platform prioritizes efficiency, coordination and avoids duplication of efforts.
6. **Work** towards mobilizing resources, both national and from international cooperation and other sources, for the implementation of activities within the framework of the Platform promoting equitable access to all countries, so that the proposed objectives are achieved.

Decision 8. Chemicals and Waste

The Ministers of environment of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Regional Cooperation

Recognizing the urgent need for concerted action by all countries in the region to effectively address the risks posed to human health and the environment associated with the unsound management of chemicals and all wastes, as well as of the importance to have regional coordination mechanisms;

Reiterating the need to promote, in collaboration with international organizations and other stakeholders, the required financial support for the implementation of the environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste;

Decide

1. **To establish** an intergovernmental network on chemicals and waste for Latin America and the Caribbean, whose Terms of Reference are annexed to this Decision, with the main objective of strengthening the environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste, reinforcing sub-regional and regional cooperation and facilitating the exchange of experiences, ensuring cooperation and coordination with agreed international and regional frameworks, as well as improving engagement and communication with other stakeholders.
2. **To invite** the Secretariat of the Forum to support the establishment of a working group with the objective of developing a regional action plan, that identifies the priority issues to be addressed by the network, including areas for capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer, as appropriate, as well as strategic approaches, for the consideration of the XXI meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. **To promote**, with the support of the Interagency Technical Committee and the Secretariat, initial actions to facilitate exchange information, experiences and where applicable, expertise, among the network focal points.

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

Recognizing that the environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste is one of the requirements for sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presents an opportunity to ensure increased political attention and effective implementation of actions in this area;

Recalling the goal to achieve by 2020, the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, as reflected in the Rio+20 outcome document “The Future we Want”, and integrated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in the updated version of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC), and is in line with the CELAC Declaration of Belen of January 2015;

Welcoming the work developed during the fourth International Conference on Chemicals Management, including the development of the Overall Orientation and Guidance for achieving the 2020 goal, as well as the establishment of an intersessional process to further elaborate the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals beyond 2020;

Decide

1. **To reiterate** the commitment of countries of the region to undertake joint and specific actions oriented towards the environmentally sound management of chemicals, strengthening dialogue and institutional engagement with all relevant sectors;
2. **To encourage** countries to undertake the six core activity areas of the Overall Orientation and Guidance towards the achievement of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management.
3. **To express** also, the willingness of the countries to the implementation of risk reduction measures related to emerging policy issues, such as highly hazardous pesticides, lead in paint, harmful chemicals in products, hazardous substances in electrical and electronic products, environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants, among others, to the extent possible and in accordance with national and international commitments.
4. **To reaffirm** the willingness of the region to actively participate in the meetings convened during the intersessional period to discuss to further elaborate the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals beyond 2020.
5. **To encourage** countries of the region to include, where appropriate, the sound management of chemicals and waste within national development planning processes and relevant sector policies.

6. **To undertake** South-South cooperation actions to strengthen technical capacities enabling to address the different needs to implement an environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste; among other, the strengthening of the financial and technical capacity of the regional centres in Latin America and the Caribbean of the Conventions on Chemicals and Waste.
7. **To develop** jointly with countries in the region relevant and technically feasible mechanisms of action to prevent accidents and respond against contingencies and disasters, either at local or regional level;

Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions

Recalling the decisions adopted at the respective meetings of the Conferences of the Parties to 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, in May 2015;

Recognizing the work undertaken to strengthen coordination and cooperation among the chemicals and waste conventions and SAICM;

Reaffirming the need to increase the technical and scientific capacity of the countries of the region, including the needs related to the inclusion of new chemicals in the Conventions, and acknowledging the support provided to Parties within the region and sub-regions through the Basel and Stockholm Convention Regional Centres, as well as the support provided by their hosting countries;

Welcoming the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals;

Decide

1. **To reiterate** the need to strengthen, in collaboration with international organizations and other relevant stakeholders, the financial and technical capacity of the Basel and Stockholm Regional Centres network in Latin America and the Caribbean, to facilitate the effective delivery of capacity building, technical assistance and technology transfer to support implementation of the chemicals and waste conventions, and where appropriate, the Minamata Convention on Mercury.
2. **To welcome** the progress achieved to date in relation to coordination and cooperation among the Secretariats of the chemicals and waste conventions, and to further encourage countries within the LAC region to ensure that effective coordination and cooperation at national and regional levels is fully achieved.

3. **To urge** countries to increase their individual and collective efforts to cooperate on the prevention, minimization and recovery of hazardous wastes and other wastes, in accordance with the Basel Convention Cartagena Declaration¹, as well as on the control of illegal traffic of hazardous waste and chemicals.
4. **To welcome** the widening of the area for chemicals within the Global Environmental Facility to continue increasing the funds until the seventh replenishment and to continue work on the financing of projects that generate co-benefits for the different conventions on chemicals and waste.
5. **To pay special attention** to the needs of landlocked developing countries towards ensuring the sound management of hazardous wastes, particularly in its transboundary transport to final disposal sites.

Mercury and Lead

Welcoming the progress achieved to date by countries of the region in the ratification and early implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, as well as the actions undertaken at the national and regional levels to minimize risks of exposure to mercury and mercury compounds on human health and the environment;

Recognizing the challenges and opportunities related with the implementation of the provisions of the Minamata Convention once it has entered into force, and countries' need to further develop their legal, institutional and technical capacities, for which technical and financial support from multilateral, regional and national organisms is required;

Aware of the serious risks on human health and the environment associated with the exposure to lead, particularly to children population;

Decide

1. **To continue to encourage** countries of the region to take the necessary steps to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, thus contributing to its early entry into force.
2. **To cooperate** with other governments of the region and stakeholders in different areas related with the provisions of the Minamata Convention, such as the preparation of inventories, development of national and sub-regional strategies and plans to reduce and when feasible ultimately eliminate the use of mercury in the artisanal and small-scale gold mining, emissions and releases of mercury,

¹ Basel COP10, Cartagena, Colombia, October 2011.

remediation of polluted sites, control of legal and illegal trade of mercury, and the storage and sound management of mercury waste.

3. **To invite** UNEP to continue supporting the governments of the region in the development of an information exchange mechanism on mercury priority issues, particularly on remediation of polluted sites, the management of mercury in river ecosystems, as well as the reduction and, when feasible, elimination of mercury in artisanal mining.
4. **To urge** countries to adopt, with the support of the Interagency Technical Committee and other stakeholders, measures to minimize exposure to lead, promoting particularly the phase-out of lead in paint and the sound management of used lead-acid batteries, in accordance with the principles and technical guidelines of the Basel Convention.

Waste management

Recalling the request to the Secretariat, as outlined in the Los Cabos Declaration, to develop a regional outlook on the main challenges and trends on integrated waste management, and recognizing the progress achieved to date;

Considering the adverse effects on human health and environment that can be derived from the unsound management of waste, and aware of the progressive increase in the amount and complexity of waste generated in urban settlements;

Decide

1. **To request** the Secretariat to continue the development of the outlook on waste management in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to report on its outcomes at the next meeting of the Forum of Ministers, in order to provide orientation in the planning of national and regional policies and programmes, as appropriate.
2. **To promote** the development and adoption of integrated strategies and policies on waste prevention and management, with the support of the Interagency Technical Committee of this Forum and other relevant multilateral organizations, and in coordination with other related initiatives such as the 10YFP.

ANNEX

Terms of Reference of the Intergovernmental Network on Chemicals and Waste for Latin America and Caribbean

Objectives

General objectives:

- Contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by facilitating the achievement of the chemicals and waste-related goals and targets in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC);
- Support the implementation of the chemicals and waste international agreements in the countries of the region;
- Strengthen regional cooperation and facilitate exchange of information and best practices on the sound management of chemicals and waste;
- To promote technology transfer mechanisms and capacity building for the reduction on the use of chemicals; and
- Provide recommendations at policy and programme level for consideration of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean

Specific objectives:

- Support the development and implementation of a regional action plan on chemicals and waste in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, in coordination with other relevant initiatives and stakeholders;
- Identify and disseminate among the countries in the region financing opportunities and support resource mobilization to undertake activities related with the area of chemicals and waste;
- Facilitate the strengthening of capacities and exchange of information, experiences, policies, projects and good practices on the sound management of chemicals and waste among the countries of the region and with other regions, including through south-south cooperation actions and engaging different stakeholders, and with the support of the network of regional centers of the Basel and Stockholm Conventions;
- Promote the knowledge generation and research activities within this area;
- Promote awareness raising and dissemination of information on risks and impacts linked to chemicals and waste;
- Identify priorities, challenges and opportunities, and make recommendations for consideration of the LAC Forum of Ministers of Environment and other relevant forums;
- Support the development of information exchange mechanisms, in areas such as remediation of polluted sites, the management of mercury in river ecosystems, as well as reduction and, when feasible, elimination of mercury in artisanal mining
- Contribute to other objectives on chemicals and waste defined by the Forum of Ministers of Environment of LAC.

Structure and functioning

Members:

The intergovernmental network on chemicals and waste for LAC will comprise the focal points nominated by governments in the region. Other related stakeholders will be invited to nominate their respective focal points, with the aim of encouraging its participation and promoting an integrated vision of the actions to be addressed by the regional network. For the identification of stakeholders, the SAICM regional structure will be taken into account as a reference.

Steering Committee:

The network will have a Steering Committee comprising two members from each of the sub-regions of Latin America and the Caribbean (Mesoamerica, Caribbean, Andean and the Southern Cone). The members of the Steering Committee will be nominated for a period of two years on a rotational basis, among the countries in the sub-region.

Secretariat:

The network will be supported by the Secretariat of the LAC Forum of Ministers, which is in the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Operation:

The intergovernmental network on chemicals and waste will meet at least once every two years (subject to available resources), and will carry out periodic conference calls. The Steering Committee will meet at least once per year and will develop at its first meeting the internal rules of operation of the network establishing the consultation procedures with the governmental focal points, and the modalities of participation of focal points nominated by the stakeholders.

Regional Action Plan:

The network will develop a biennial strategy or regional action plan which will be submitted for adoption by the Forum of Ministers. The first regional action plan will be prepared by a working group composed of the members of the Steering Committee and experts from other relevant organizations, with the support of the focal points. The Plan will reflect regional cooperation priorities on chemicals and waste, and the potential actions and resources needed to undertake them.

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

28th – 31st March 2016, Cartagena, Colombia

Decision 9. Towards the full implementation of the Regional Plan of Action on Atmospheric Pollution

The Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean

Conscious that atmospheric pollution is a serious threat to public health, quality of life and ecosystem integrity and exacerbates local, regional, and global climate change;

Recognising that poor air quality and the related high human health and environmental costs is a significant impediment to the sustainable development of the countries of the region;

Noting that reducing air pollution goes hand in hand with reducing climate emissions, both short-lived and long-lived climate pollutants, and can support the achievement of climate mitigation and adaptation goals and commitments.

Acknowledging that many countries committed voluntarily to reduce emissions of atmospheric pollutants and their precursors to reduce air pollution and achieve climate management in synergy with sustainable development and public health objectives reflected in the Regional Plan of Action on Atmospheric Pollution simultaneously.

Reaffirming that fast action to improve air quality is fundamental to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and will directly contribute to the achievement of the targets under the SDGs on health, climate change, energy, food security, biodiversity and sustainable cities.

Recalling Decision 8 of the XIX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Los Cabos, Mexico in 2014, by which the Regional Plan of Action on Atmospheric Pollution was adopted as a voluntary guide for the development of national action plans appropriate to the particularities of each country with emphasis on technical exchange, capacity building and alternative techniques and technologies to reduce air pollution;

Acknowledging the efforts that the countries of the region have made in the development of their national implementation plans or national strategies on air quality, guided by the Regional Plan of Action on Atmospheric Pollution;

Recalling Resolution 1/7 on *Strengthening the function of UNEP in promoting air quality*, adopted at the First Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) held in

Nairobi, Kenya in June 2014, as a call to Governments to take action against air pollution and a request to UNEP to support this process;

Bearing in mind that the Regional Plan of Action on Atmospheric Pollution is to be updated every four years, and that the next review is scheduled for 2018;

Decide

1. To recognise with appreciation the intersessional work undertaken by the experts of the Regional Network on Atmospheric Pollution, with the support of the Secretariat, towards strengthening regional and national capacity to implement policies to improve air quality, through regional cooperation and the exchange of information and experiences.

2. Recognise the ongoing efforts to finalise the *Integrated Assessment of Short-Lived Climate Pollutants in Latin America and the Caribbean* document.

3. To make strategic use of information gathered in different upcoming reports and develop an effective outreach strategy, including: a) the Integrated Assessment on Short-Lived Climate Pollutants in Latin America and the Caribbean; b) the upcoming UNEP report on Air Quality efforts made by governments as per Resolution UNEA 1/7 and; c) the GEO LAC and GEO 6 reports, amongst others.

4. To encourage governments to develop mechanisms or processes at the regional, national and local levels to make air quality data easily accessible and understandable to the general public.

5. To foster collaboration and coordination at regional and national levels towards the implementation of national policies and programmes to significantly improve air quality and protect public health and the environment, also promoting joint efforts within the framework of the Intergovernmental Regional Network on Atmospheric Pollution.

6. Reinforce South-South cooperation on matters related to air quality with a view to those more developed States in the region transferring capacity and knowledge so that the remaining States can implement effective norms and mechanisms to control and monitor air quality.

7. To promote, as appropriate, synergies amongst the different initiatives addressing air quality and climate change mitigation and adaptation and to align them with the Regional Intergovernmental Network on Atmospheric Pollution adopted by the Forum of Ministers in its XIX meeting, with the objective of avoiding the duplication of efforts.

8. To promote the use of modelling-based on meteorological data, information on air quality sourced from existing monitoring networks to improve the identification of pollution sources and transport between regions aimed at the interface between science and technology for decision making and the implementation of policies, strategies and measures to control and reduce atmospheric pollution.

9. To promote the use of cleaner technologies as a way to reduce emissions of atmospheric pollutants.

10. To request the Steering Committee of the Intergovernmental Regional Network on Atmospheric Pollution to develop its workplan for the period 2016-2018, as well as identify and mobilise resources from international and national sources, as necessary, for the successful implementation of the Regional Plan of Action on Atmospheric Pollution, with the support of the Secretariat and the agencies of the Interagency Technical Committee, as well as the World Health Organisation and the Pan American Health Organisation.

11. To call upon the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Special Climate Change Fund and other relevant financial institutions to prioritise fast action measures that simultaneously support reductions in atmospheric pollution while providing short-term benefits for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

12. To request the Chair of the XX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers to communicate this decision to the Second Session of UNEA and to all relevant actors included in the resolution.

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28-31 March 2016, Cartagena, Colombia

Decision 10. Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in Harmony with Nature

The Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling that the Nineteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Los Cabos, Mexico in 2014, reaffirmed the commitment and the need for action to address the causes of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation;

Recognizing that the Convention on Biological Diversity is the most important global instrument to promote and ensure the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources;

Recognizing that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity targets provide a universally accepted framework for action on biodiversity, and noting that enhanced efforts are required to achieve the targets by 2020;

Observing that, significant progress has been made to achieve the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets, this progress will not be sufficient to deliver results by 2020, therefore additional accelerated efforts are required to meet with these commitments;

Reiterate that, the effective implementation of the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets depends among others, the improving the creation of capacities, of technical and scientific cooperation, and the effective strategy of mobilization of resources;

Bearing in mind that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes goals and targets that are aimed at promoting the sustainable use of ecosystems, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss, for the integral and sustainable development, to end poverty in all its forms applying integrated approaches;

Also bearing in mind that biodiversity, and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and the protection and restoration of ecosystems, offers opportunities to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of several of the Sustainable Development Goals, in an effective and cost efficient manner.

Also considering that biodiversity, in its quality as a transversal element of sustainable development, has a fundamental role in the implementation of the Agenda 2030, in particular in components of social and economic dimensions such as hunger, poverty, human health, food security and the provision of water and sustainable energies;

Taking into account that synergies will be necessary to implement the Agenda 2030, the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets, in order to strengthen their mutual implementation.

Decide

1. **To support** the Government of Mexico in the successful hosting of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the eighth meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the second meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to be held in Cancun, Mexico from 2 to 17 December 2016 with the slogan: "Mainstreaming biodiversity for well-being" including by participating in the High-level Segment, contributing with pledges for action, and the work towards an effective Ministerial Declaration.

2. **To promote**, at the COP 13 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the adoption of decisions that favour the implementation of policies and measures oriented to the integration of holistic and integrated approaches towards mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in different productive sectors, and other sectors linked to environmental planning, in order, to ensure compliance with the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan and the Aichi Targets, the operationalization of the strategy on resource mobilization, as well as Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

3. **To promote**, communicational strategies to facilitate the understanding by productive sectors, civil society and organized communities on biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and services, with a view of facilitating their participation in the achievement of the Strategic Plan 2011-2020, the Aichi Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals.

4. **To develop** a Regional Cooperation Programme on Biodiversity to support the building of national capacities, with the aim of supporting the implementation of the Agenda 2030, to promote mainstreaming of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the agriculture and cattle raising, forestry, mining, exploitation of hydrocarbons, energy, fisheries and tourism sectors, that contribute among others, to end poverty, end hunger, integral sustainable development, improved living conditions and the enjoyment of a healthy environment.

5. **To support** ongoing work on the elaboration of a Caribbean Biodiversity Strategy for SIDS, as an important means of enhancing the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets in the Caribbean basin.

6. **To consider**, in the regional cooperation programme, measures to encourage active participation of other actors, local governments, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society and social movements, as well as new forms of social organization according to national realities, for the effective biodiversity mainstreaming and Integral Sustainable Development and achieve conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, where applicable, thereby contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the updated National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

7. **To promote** within the framework of this forum, the strengthening of legal and institutional frameworks for mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in different sectors, where applicable, and the identification and exchange of good practices for the mainstreaming of biodiversity and integral sustainable development.

8. **To boost** the adoption and implementation, in the region, of the Nagoya Protocol, taking into account the visions of each country, strengthening national, sub-regional and regional technical and research capacities promoting the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

9. **To promote** the adoption and implementation, in the region, of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol.

10. **To promote** efforts to strengthen synergies in the implementation of the Biodiversity Strategic Plan 2011-2020 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Strategic Plans of Biodiversity-related Conventions.

11. **To consider** decision making that imply financing the implementation of programmes on ecological restoration of degraded ecosystems that generate connectivity with protected areas, and restore ecosystem functioning, in the provision of basic ecosystem services.

12. **Invites** to coordinate actions to boost an interactive dialogue, to live in harmony with nature, at the 13th Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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28-31 March 2016, Cartagena, Colombia

Decision 11. Oceans

The Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling the outcome document, entitled “The Future We Want” of the Rio+20 Conference, which emphasises "the importance of conservation and sustainable use of oceans and seas and their resources for sustainable development, including through its contribution to poverty eradication, sustained economic development, food security, creating sustainable livelihoods and decent work, and at the same time, the protection of biodiversity and the marine environment and measures to address the effects of climate change."

Considering the Sustainable Development Goal No. 14, whose purpose is to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in its three dimensions: social, environmental and economic.

Taking into consideration Aichi Targets, such as target 11¹ that highlights the importance of establishing Marine Protected Areas and Marine Reserves to ensure the protection of ecosystem processes, habitats, biodiversity and marine species.

Bearing in mind the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its recognition of the ocean as a carbon sink of greenhouse gases, as mentioned in article 4.1 (d) of this international instrument, and a means of livelihood to reduce poverty.

Highlighting the threat posed by sea level rise to the very existence of some Small Island Developing States, a threat recently increased in light of the latest scientific information.

¹ Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascape.

Recognising with concern some phenomena and activities that have seriously affected the sustainability of the ocean and its resources, such as overfishing, the use of destructive fishing techniques, the illegal, undeclared and non-regulated fisheries, ocean pollution, especially with plastic products, and acidification as consequence of climate change.

Considering that coral reefs and associated ecosystems such as mangroves and seagrass are key ecosystems which provide great socioeconomic benefits to States and **recognising with concern** their vulnerability and the state of deterioration.

Further recognising the serious adverse effects of climate change on the oceans throughout Latin America and the Caribbean and particularly in countries such as Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean which threatens food security and livelihoods and which will increase in magnitude and frequency if urgent measures are not taken regionally and globally.

Also recognising the ongoing efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean undertaken by regional, sub-regional and national organisations in support of conservation, protection and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources.

Paying particular attention to the marked increase in the level of human activity in the deep oceans and the interest in accessing genetic resources of marine biological diversity.

Recognising the importance of the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 69/292 on 'Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction', where countries from the region participate.

Considering the importance of the ocean for the welfare of the countries, due to its cultural, economic and environmental value for stability and protection and conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems.

Decide to

1. **Recognise** the importance of the ocean in the fight against climate change, both in its role as a sink for greenhouse gases and the challenges for adapting to the adverse consequences of climate change in oceans, seas and marine resources, acidification and the rise in sea level.
2. **Also recognise** the importance of the integrity of all ecosystems including oceans, which has been included in the Paris Agreement adopted recently in the Climate Change COP21, which will apply to countries that subscribe.

3. **Takes note** of the United Nations General Assembly resolution No. 70/226 of December 2015, which calls for a United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development.
4. **Promote** the exchange of information among countries on efforts to create and manage measures for coastal and marine areas, such as marine spatial planning and the creation of Marine Protected Area systems, focusing on strategies to manage, protect and conserve ecosystems and the services they provide, and preserve marine biodiversity, while ensuring livelihoods and food security, and to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change.
5. **Encourage** marine spatial planning as a technical instrument for the protection, conservation and sustainable development of regional marine species.
6. **Enhance** cooperation among countries member of the Forum in the protection, conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources to its fullest extent, identifying synergies and taking advantage of mutual learning experiences through exchange of experts and promotion of scientific research, particularly for ecosystem-based adaptation approaches relevant to national circumstances.
7. **Express their interest** to collaborate against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing through regional cooperation, and jointly strengthening national capacities of countries in order to prevent, deter and eventually eliminate this illegal activity.
8. **Strengthen** regional cooperation to ensure the protection, conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and also promote dialogue and exchange of experiences between the different sub-regional bodies dealing with this matter.
9. **Encourage** regional and national efforts to reduce pollution resulting from plastic waste and illegal ghost fishing nets which affect ocean health in the region.
10. **Identify** during the intersessional period of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, starting from the XX meeting of the Forum through a regular system of meetings and follow-up, a work plan in consultation with relevant regional, sub-regional and national stakeholders in order to advance the elements mentioned in this decision.