



**United Nations Environment Programme  
Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean**

PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONNES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE  
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT  
PROGRAMA DAS NAÇÕES UNIDAS PARA O MEIO AMBIENTE

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**Regional Meeting of the Civil Society of Latin America  
and the Caribbean in preparation for the twenty-third  
session of the UNEP Governing Council/  
Global Ministerial Environment Forum**

**Panama City, Panama  
22 and 23 November 2004**

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**Final Report of the Regional Meeting of the  
Civil Society of Latin America and the Caribbean  
in preparation for the twenty-third session of the  
UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial  
Environment Forum**

**Panama City, Panama  
22 and 23 November, 2004**



## I. Introduction

1. The UNEP summoned the Regional Meeting of the Civil Society of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Panama City on November 22nd and 23rd, 2004, as a preparatory phase for the 23<sup>rd</sup> period of sessions of the UNEP Governing Council (GC-23), the Sixth Global Civil Society Forum and the Sixth Global Ministerial Environment Forum, to be held on November 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2004 in Panama City <sup>(1)</sup>.

2. The civil society proposed a valuable contribution referring to the following issues:

- a) A larger participation by the civil society and the strengthening of the Latin American and Caribbean Civil Society Platform.
- b) A universal membership for the strengthening of the UNEP.
- c) The participation of civil society in intergovernmental meetings.
- d) Preliminary contributions on the document entitled "Revision of the Preliminary Work Programme of the UNEP 2006-07, from the perspective of the civil society" (**UNEP/LAC-CS-GC/5**).
- e) Organization proposal by the Civil Society of Latin America and the Caribbean for its relation with UNEP/ROLAC and the UNEP Governing Council.

3. The following were the basic documents to centre the feedback process of the regional meeting<sup>(2)</sup>:

- a) "Committing the Civil Society in the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum" (**UNEP/LAC-CS-GC/2**).
- b) "Accreditation Process and the NGOs" (**UNEP-LAC-CS-GC/3**).
- c) "International Environmental Governance (IEG) and the Strategic Governmental Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building (**UNEP-LAC-CS-GC/4**).
- d) "Revision of the UNEP's Preliminary Work Programme 2007-07, from the Perspective of Civil Society (**UNEP-/LAC-CS-GC/5**).
- e) "Decision No. 6: Civil Society Participation." Final Report of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Environment Ministers Forum. Panama City, Panama, November 20<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, 2003. (**UNEP-LAC-IG.XIV/4**).
- f) "Minutes of the Civil Society Meeting, Panama City, Panama, November 22nd, 2003." (**UNEP-LAC-CS-CG/6**)

## II. Objectives of the Meeting

4. The objectives were the following:

- a) To assess the agreements of the last Civil Society meeting, held on November 22nd, 2003 in Panama City, Panama; mainly on the implementation of the Civil Society Platform.
- b) To make contributions that could improve the Work Plan between the Civil Society and the UNEP for the 2006-07 biannual period.

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<sup>1</sup> The agenda that corresponds to the two-day meeting is shown as **Annex 1** of this report.

<sup>2</sup> The list of documents is outlined in **Annex II** of this report.

- c) To achieve lines of institutional-cooperation strengthening with the Civil Society. In order to do so, a civil society position must be analyzed and created to strengthen the General Policies on International Environmental Governance;
- d) Drafting of a regional proposal outlining the priority issues of the Latin American and Caribbean Civil Society Platform (2005-2006).
- e) Drafting of the Latin American and Caribbean document for the Nairobi meeting.
- f) Election of two civil society members who will attend the preparatory meeting (Nairobi, Kenya, December 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>, 2004) to draft the civil society document that will be presented at the Sixth Global Civil Society Forum, and the election of four representatives of the region's civil society who will attend the Sixth Forum and the 23<sup>rd</sup> period of sessions of the UNEP Governing Council.

### III. Participants

5. A total of 25 people attended the Civil Society meeting, representing various nongovernmental organizations (NGO) and various organizations from twelve Latin American and Caribbean countries, such as the Law and Ecology Association (DEECO); the Latin American Radio Association (ALER); the World Community Radio Stations Association of Latin America and the Caribbean (AMARC/LAC), Caretakers of the Environment International/Tunza Youth Advisory Council (UNEP/TYAC) / Youth Environmental Organization (OJA); the Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development (CNIRD); the State Ecology Council (COEECO) / Michoacan Society for Sustainability, S.C.; Latin American Council of Churches (CLAI); Consumers International (CI); Coordinator of the Cities for the Weather Protection Programme (AMMAC/ICLEI); Environment and Development (CPDC); Latin American Federation of Cities, Municipalities, and Local Government Associations (FLACMA); Brazilian Forum of NGOs and Social Movements for the Environment and Development (FBOMS); CCAD Civil Society Forum; Antonio Nunez Jimenez Foundation for Nature and Mankind (FANJ); Eugene Eisenmann Bird-Fauna Foundation/Latin American Environmental Journalists Network; Universal Ecological Foundation (FEU); Tlaloc Foundation; NGO Steering Committee to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD); Ecological and Environmental Observatory for Latin America (COEPAL)/Latin American and Caribbean Environmental Communicators Network; Green Panama – GEO Youth; Sustainable Chile Programme; National Ecological Action Network (RENACE); WEDO / Caribbean WAVE<sup>(3)</sup>.

### IV. Opening of the Meeting

6. Dr. Ligia Castro, Administrator General of Panama's National Authority for the Environment (ANAM), began her speech by pointing out that she is a strong believer of the participation of all segments of the organized society; without it, sustainable development will be not be possible. The consultation process is essential to accomplish sustainable development management. She said that she valued the work that the civil society will accomplish during the regional meeting summoned by the UNEP. She expressed her hope that the agreements reached will contribute to the sustainable development in the region.

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<sup>3</sup> The Final List of Participants is shown as **Annex III** of this report.

7. In turn, Mr. Ricardo Sánchez, UNEP Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, thanked participants for their presence and for having accepted the invitation from UNEP to actively participate in the civil society meeting. Mr. Sánchez outlined the significance of this meeting, where he reiterated the following objectives:

- a) To gather the contributions made by the main civil society networks to the preparation of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Period of Sessions on the UNEP Governing Council, since this Programme has given further opportunities to civil society organizations.
- b) To strengthen the Strategic Intergovernmental Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building.
- c) To promote the consolidation of UNEP world tasks to strengthen environmental administration.
- d) To reflect on the role of women as a special focus for development and the environment. Sustainable development would not be possible without the full incorporation of women. Broach on the issue and make considerations on it.

8. Ricardo Sánchez thanked the participants for attending and congratulated Dr. Ligia Castro for opening the meeting.

## V. Presentation of and analysis on the basic documents

9. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Alvaro Gomez Concha, Coordinator of the UNEP Latin American and Caribbean Civil Society, an appointment made at the Fifth Regional Civil Society Forum held on November 22nd, 2003 in Quito, Ecuador.

10. Mr. Mateo A. Castillo Ceja was appointed to support the activities of the Secretariat to prepare the Final Report and the Declaration of the Regional Meeting.

11. The documents were presented in the following order:

- a) Mrs. Lorena San Roman, Coordinator of the Global Environmental Citizenship Programme, presented the following documents to be analyzed: UNEP/LAC-CS-GC/2; UNEP/LAC-CS-GC/3; UNEP/LAC-CS-GC/4. Ricardo Sánchez made comments on these documents to explain them further.
- b) Mr. Carlos Mendieta presented the Minutes of the Civil Society Meeting held on November 23rd, 2003 (**UNEP/LAC-CS-GC/6**).
- c) Mr. Alvaro Gomez presented the document entitled "Declaration of the Fifth Civil Society Forum, Eighth Special Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum" (Jeju Island, South Korea – March 28th, 2004 -- **UNEP/LAC-CS-GS/8**).
- d) Mr. Kenneth Ochoa Vargas presented the document entitled "Revision of the Preliminary Work Programme of the UNEP 2006-2007, from the perspective of Civil Society" (**UNEP/LAC-CS-GC/5**).
- e) The meeting's rapporteurs were Mateo Castillo Ceja and Carlos Tamez Luna.

## VI. Organization of the works

12. The meeting began with a broad discussion and wide feedback on the previously mentioned documents, and later proceeded to create three work groups in order to get to a consensus on the answer to the following basic questions:

- a) How would you like the Civil Society to participate at the intergovernmental meetings, and what activities do you propose to carry out between the two meetings?
- b) Analyze and make preliminary indications to the UNEP on the document entitled "Revision of the Preliminary Work Programme of UNEP 2006-2007, from the perspective of Civil Society," regarding opportunities, gaps, synergies, and duplications (**UNEP/LAC-CS-GC/5**).
- c) How should the structure of the Latin American and Caribbean Civil Society be, and how should its relation with the UNEP/ROLAC, UNEP/Nairobi and its Governing Council be?

## VII. Final Discussions and results of the works

**13.** The groups presented their consensus, which became a valuable input to draft the meeting's declaration<sup>(4)</sup>. The representatives then proceeded to elect the following:

- a) *Representatives to the preparatory meeting for the Sixth Global Civil Society Forum of the UNEP (December 2004):* Alvaro Gomez of the National Ecological Action Network (RENACE), Chile; and Mr. Gordon Bispham of the Caribbean Conservation Association (Barbados).
- b) *Representatives to the meeting of the Sixth Global Civil Society Forum of the UNEP to be held in February 2005:* Mateo A. Castillo Ceja of the State Ecology Council of Michoacan, Mexico; Ms. Maria del Carmen Solis of the Antonio Nunez Foundation of Cuba; Ms. Yolanda Diaz of the Latin American Environmental Journalists Network, Colombia; and Alvaro Gomez of the National Ecological Action Network (RENACE), Chile.

**14.** In compliance with the agreement to create the Latin American and Caribbean Civil Society Coordinating Group, representatives were appointed according to the Latin American and Caribbean subregions. They are as follows:

Region	Main Representatives	Alternates
<b>Caribbean</b>	Mr. Gordon Bispham, <b>Caribbean Conservation Association</b> (Barbados). Ms. Maria del Carmen Solis, <b>Antonio Nunez Jimenez Foundation for Nature and Mankind</b> (Cuba).	Ms. Monique Essed-Fernandes, <b>WEDO/Caribbean WAVE</b> (Suriname). Mr. Lloyd Rankine, <b>Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development</b> (Trinidad and Tobago).
<b>Southern Cone</b>	Mr. Alvaro Gomez, <b>National Ecological Action Network (RENACE)</b> (Chile). Ms. Esther Marianne Neuhaus, <b>Brazilian Forum of NGO's and Social Movements for the Environment and Development</b> (Brazil).	Ms. Elena Palacios, <b>Universal Ecological Foundation (FEU)</b> . (Argentina). Ms. Paula Castello, <b>World Community Radio Stations Association, Latin America and the Caribbean (AMARC/LAC)</b> (Argentina).
<b>Mesoamerica</b>	Mr. Mateo A. Castillo Ceja, <b>State Ecology Council of Michoacan / Michoacan Society for Sustainability S.C.</b> (Mexico).	Ms. Margarita del Socorro Cortez Hodgson, <b>Civil Society Forum of the Central American Environment and Development Commission</b>

<sup>4</sup> The "Civil Society Declaration of the Regional Civil Society Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean" is shown as **Annex V** of this report.

Region	Main Representatives	Alternates
	Ms. Beatriz Schmitt, <b>Eugene Eisenmann Bird-Fauna Foundation/Latin American Environmental Journalists Network</b> (Panama).	(Nicaragua). Mr. Carlos Tamez Luna, <b>Latin American Council of Churches (CLAI)</b> (Mexico)
<b>Andean Zone</b>	Ms. Yolanda Diaz, <b>Ecological and Environmental Observatory for Latin America (COEPAL) / Latin American Environmental Journalists Network</b> (Colombia). Mr. Gaizko Cirion Zubiri, <b>Latin American Radio Education Association (ALER)</b> (Ecuador).	To be appointed

### VIII. Closing of the meeting

**15.** During the closing speech, the UNEP/ROLAC Director, Mr. Ricardo Sánchez, thanked the attendants for having actively participated in the meeting and emphasized plurality as a sustainable development instrument.

**16.** The meeting closed at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, 23 November, 2004 in Panama City, Panama.

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## **Annex I. Agenda**

### **Monday, 22 November, 2004**

#### **I. Institutional Strengthening – Cooperation with the Civil Society / II. Regional Aspects**

- 8:00 am - 8:45 am** Registration of Participants
- 9:00 am - 9:30 am** Presentation of Mr. Ricardo Sánchez, Director, UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
- 9:30 am – 10:45 am** Presentations of items 1, 2 and 3 of the 22 November agenda, and items 1 and 4 of the 23 November agenda ([Documents UNEP/LAC-CS-GC/2 to UNEP/LAC-CS-GC/9](#)).
- 10:45 am – 11:00 am** *Coffee Break*
- 11:00 am – 1:00 pm** Presentations (continued).
- 1:00 pm. - 2:30 pm.** *Lunch*
- 2:30 pm - 5:00 pm** Presentations (continued).

### **Tuesday, 23 November 2004**

#### **I. Institutional Strengthening – Cooperation with the Civil Society / II. Regional Aspects**

- 8:30 am – 10:45 am** Working Groups
- 10:45 am – 11:00 am** *Coffee Break*
- 11:00 am – 1:00 pm** Presentations of Working Groups
- 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm** *Lunch*
- 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm** Presentation and discussion of the Draft Final Report
- 6:00 pm** Closing of the Meeting

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## Annex II. List of Documents

### A. Working Documents

Provisional Agenda	<b>UNEP/LAC-CS-GC/1</b>
Engaging civil society in the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum. Background document for the Regional meetings in preparation of the sixth Global Civil Society Forum )6 <sup>th</sup> GCSF) – 14 October 2004.	<b>UNEP/LAC-CS-GC/2</b>
Accreditation process	<b>UNEP/LAC-CS-GC/3</b>
Background Paper for the 6 <sup>th</sup> Global Civil Society Forum International Environmental Governance (IEG) and the Intergovernmental Strategic Plan on Technology Support and Capacity Building (IGSP). Final DRAFT (6 October 2004).	<b>UNEP/LAC-CS-GC/4</b>
Review from a Civil Society perspective of UNEP's draft Programme of Work for 2006-2007 (September 2004).	<b>UNEP/LAC-CS-GC/5</b>
Minutes of the Meeting of the Civil Society - Panama City, Panama – Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November, 2003.	<b>UNEP/LAC-CS-GC/6</b>
Report of the Global Women's Assembly on Environment on the work of its first meeting.	<b>UNEP/LAC-CS-GC/7</b>
Statement of the 5 <sup>th</sup> Global Civil Society to the 8 <sup>th</sup> Special Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (Jeju Island, South Korea - 28 <sup>th</sup> March, 2004).	<b>UNEP/LAC-CS-GC/8</b>
Minutes of the Meeting of the Civil Society of Latin America and the Caribbean in preparation for the Twenty-third Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (Panama City, Panama – Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November, 2004).	<b>UNEP/LAC-CS-GC/9</b>

### B. Information Documents

Preliminary List of Documents	<b>UNEP/LAC-CS-GC/Inf.1</b>
Provisional List of Participants	<b>UNEP/LAC-CS-GC/Inf.2</b>
Information note for Participants	<b>UNEP/LAC-CS-GC/Inf.3</b>
Eighth special session of the UNEP Governing Council/ Global Ministerial Environment Forum Jeju, Republic of Korea, 29–31 March, 2004 Proceedings of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its eighth special session.	<b>UNEP/LAC-CS-GS/Inf.4</b>

### C. Websites related to Civil Society issues:

[www.unep/dpdl/cso](http://www.unep/dpdl/cso)

[www.unep.org/civil\\_society](http://www.unep.org/civil_society)

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## Annex III. List of Participants

### Asociación Derecho y Ecología (DEECO)

Sr. Sergio Manuel Gómez Mendieta, Presidente de la Junta Directiva  
**Asociación Derecho y Ecología (DEECO)**  
Estafeta Universitaria. Entrega General  
Panamá, Panamá

**Phone:** (+ 507) 264-4242  
**Fax:** (+ 507) 264-4242  
**E-mail:** deeco13@hotmail.com

### Asociación Latinoamericana de Educación Radiofónica (ALER)

Sr. Gaizko Cirión Zubiri, Responsable Sostenibilidad Económica  
**Asociación Latinoamericana de Educación Radiofónica (ALER)**  
Valladolid No. 511 y Madrid  
Casilla 17-03-4639  
Quito, Ecuador

**Phone:** (+ 593-2) 252-4358, 250-3996,  
255-9012  
**Fax:** (+ 593-2) 252-4358, 250-3996,  
255-9012  
**E-mail:** gaizko@aler.org y  
proyectos@aler.org  
**Website:** www.aler.org.ec

### Asociación Mundial de Radios Comunitarias, América Latina y el Caribe (AMARC/ALC)

Sra. Paula Castello, Coordinadora de proyectos  
**Asociación Mundial de Radios Comunitarias, América Latina y el  
Caribe (AMARC/ALC)**  
Lambaré No. 873  
(ABA 1185 ) Buenos Aires, Argentina

**Phone:** (+ 54-11) 4867-3806, 4865-  
7554  
**Fax:** (+ 54-11) 4865-7554  
**E-mail:** paulacastello@amarc.org  
**Website:** www.mexico.amarc.org /  
[www.alc.amarc.org /](http://www.alc.amarc.org/)  
[www.pulsar.amarc.org](http://www.pulsar.amarc.org)

### Caretakers of the Environment International/Tunza Youth Advisory Council (UNEP/TYAC) / Organización Juvenil Ambiental (OJA)

Sr. Kenneth Ochoa Vargas, Coordinador de GEO Juvenil Colombia  
Presidente de la Organización Juvenil Ambiental  
**Caretakers of the Environment International/Tunza Youth  
Advisory Council (UNEP/TYAC) / Organización Juvenil  
Ambiental (OJA)**  
Calle 170 No. 58-30  
Bogotá, D. C., Colombia

**Phone:** (+ 57-1) 671-1819, 601-1165  
**Fax:** (+ 57-1) 671-1584, 256-7715  
**E-mail:** [kennethochoa@yahoo.com](mailto:kennethochoa@yahoo.com) /  
[nacional@geocolombia.org](mailto:nacional@geocolombia.org)  
**Website:** www.geocolombia.org

### Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development (CNIRD)

Mr. Lloyd Rankine, Director  
**Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development (CNIRD)**  
40, Estern Main Road, St. Augustine  
Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

**Phone:** (+ 1-868) 645-6458  
**E-mail:** cnird@carib-link.net  
**Website:** www.cnird.org

### Consejo Estatal de Ecología (COEEO) / Sociedad Michoacana para la Sustentabilidad, S. C.

Sr. Mateo A. Castillo Ceja, Punto Focal de la Carta de la Tierra en  
México yb Presidente del COEEO  
**Consejo Estatal de Ecología (COEEO) en Michoacán**  
Av. Universidad No. 1234 - Fracc. Villa Universidad  
CP 58060 Morelia, Michoacán, México

**Phone:** (+52-443) 327-3936, 327-4575  
**E-mail:** mateo@integra.net.mx

### Consejo Latinoamericano de Iglesias (CLAI)

Sr. Carlos César Tamez Luna, Coordinador Programa de Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible  
**Consejo Latinoamericano de Iglesias (CLAI)**  
Arenal No. 36 A-5, Col. Chimalistac  
CP 01050 México, D.F., México

**Phone:** (+ 52-55) 5661-1800  
**Fax:** (+ 52-55) 5661-1800  
**E-mail:** [tamez@comunidadccm.org](mailto:tamez@comunidadccm.org) / [tamezcladec@hotmail.com](mailto:tamezcladec@hotmail.com)  
**Website:** [www.clai.org.ec](http://www.clai.org.ec)

### Consumers International (CI)

Sr. José Vargas Niello, Director Regional  
**Consumers International (CI)**  
Las Hortensias No. 2371 - Providencia  
Santiago, Chile

**Phone:** (+56-2) 335-1695  
**E-mail:** [pepevargas@hotmail.com](mailto:pepevargas@hotmail.com) / [vargasniello@consint.cl](mailto:vargasniello@consint.cl)  
**Website:** [www.consumidoresint.cl](http://www.consumidoresint.cl)

Sr. Cristian Marcelo Candia Rodríguez, Coordinador para América Central y el Caribe Hispano  
**Consumers International (CI)**  
Misión para América Central y el Caribe  
Vista Hermosa Vía Fernández de Córdoba  
Plaza Córdoba, Oficina No. 19  
Panamá, Panamá

**Phone:** (+ 507) 229-0750 - Celular: 675-8941  
**Fax:** (+ 507) 229-0750  
**E-mail:** [cristian.candia@consint.cl](mailto:cristian.candia@consint.cl) / [cristian.candia@gmail.com](mailto:cristian.candia@gmail.com)  
**Website:** [www.consumidoresint.cl](http://www.consumidoresint.cl)

Sra. Yakarta Ríos, Sub-Coordinadora  
**Consumers International (CI)**  
Misión para América Central y el Caribe  
Vista Hermosa, Vía Fernández de Córdoba,  
Plaza Córdoba, Oficina No. 19  
Panamá, Panamá

**Phone:** (+ 507) 229-0750, 675-8942  
**Fax:** (+ 507) 229-0750  
**E-mail:** [consumerintec@cableonda.net](mailto:consumerintec@cableonda.net)  
**Sitio web:** [www.consumidoresint.cl](http://www.consumidoresint.cl)

### Coordinador del Programa Ciudades por la Protección Climática (AMMAC/ICLEI)

Sr. Edgar Villaseñor Franco, Coordinador de Proyectos ICLEI  
**Coordinador del Programa Ciudades por la protección Climática (AMMAC/ICLEI)**  
Asociación de Municipios de México A.C.  
Adolfo Prieto No. 1634, Col. Del Valle  
CP 03100 México, D.F., México

**Phone:** (+ 52-55) 5524-4020  
**Fax:** (+ 52-55) 5524-3141  
**E-mail:** [evillasenor@ammac.org.mx](mailto:evillasenor@ammac.org.mx) / [ccp-iclei@ammac.org.mx](mailto:ccp-iclei@ammac.org.mx)  
**Website:** [www.ammac.org.mx](http://www.ammac.org.mx)

### Environment and Development (CPDC)

Mr. Gordon Bispham, Consultant  
**Environment and Development (CPDC)**  
Caribbean NGO Policy Development Centre  
"Halsworth", Welches Road  
St. Michael - P.O. Box 284  
Bridgetown, Barbados

**Phone:** (+ 1-246) 437-6055/56 / **Cell:** (+1-246) 231-9308  
**E-mail:** [cpdc@caribnet.org](mailto:cpdc@caribnet.org) / [gobisxx@hotmail.com](mailto:gobisxx@hotmail.com)  
**Website:** [www.cpd.cngo.org](http://www.cpd.cngo.org)

### Federación Latinoamericana de Ciudades, Municipios y Asociaciones de Gobiernos Locales (FLACMA)

Sr. Jaime Torres Lara, Director Ejecutivo  
**Federación Latinoamericana de Ciudades, Municipios y Asociaciones de Gobiernos Locales (FLACMA)**  
Centro Latinoamericano de Capacitación y Desarrollo de los Gobiernos Locales (CELCATEL)  
Agustín Guerrero No. 219, entre José María Ayora y Pacífico Chiriboga  
Casilla 17-01-1109 - Quito, Ecuador

**Phone:** (+ 593-2) 246-9365, 246-9356  
**Fax:** (+ 593-2) 243-5205  
**E-mail:** [jtorreslara@flacma.org](mailto:jtorreslara@flacma.org) / [flacma@flacma.org](mailto:flacma@flacma.org)  
**Website:** [www.flacma.org](http://www.flacma.org)

### Foro Brasileño de ONG y Movimientos Sociales para Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo (FBOMS)

Sra. Esther Marianne Neuhaus, Gerente Ejecutiva  
**Foro Brasileño de ONG y Movimientos Sociales para Medio  
Ambiente y Desarrollo (FBOMS)**  
SCS, Quadra 08, Bloco B-50  
Edifício Venâncio 2000, Salas 133/135  
CEP 70333-900  
Brasília, D. F., Brasil

**Phone:** (+ 55-61) 3033-5535, 3033-5545  
**Fax:** (+ 55-61) 3033-5535  
**Móvil:** (+55-61) 8406-0696  
**E-mail:** [coordenacao@fboms.org.br](mailto:coordenacao@fboms.org.br) / [estherneuhaus@uol.com.br](mailto:estherneuhaus@uol.com.br)  
**Website:** [www.fboms.org.br](http://www.fboms.org.br)

### Foro de Sociedad Civil de CCAD

Sra. Margarita del Socorro Cortez Hodgson, Representante  
**Foro de Sociedad Civil de CCAD**  
Cámara de Industrias de Nicaragua  
Rotonda El Gueguense 300 metros al sur  
Managua, Nicaragua

**Phone:** (+ 505-2) 66-8847 al 51  
**Fax:** (+ 505-2) 66-1891  
**E-mail:** [mcortes@cadin.org.ni](mailto:mcortes@cadin.org.ni) / [cadin@cadin.org.ni](mailto:cadin@cadin.org.ni)  
**Website:** [www.cadin.org.ni](http://www.cadin.org.ni)

### Fundación Antonio Núñez Jiménez de la Naturaleza y el Hombre (FANJ)

Sra. María del Carmen Solís Hernández, Director  
Cultural Extensión Programme  
**Fundación Antonio Núñez Jiménez de la  
Naturaleza y el Hombre (FANJ)**  
Calle 5ª B No. 6611, entre 66 y 70, Miramar  
11600 La Habana, Cuba

**Phone:** (+ 53-7) 209-2885, 209-2887, 209-2833  
**Fax:** (+ 53-7) 204-2985  
**E-mail:** [mdelcarmen@fanj.cult.cu](mailto:mdelcarmen@fanj.cult.cu)  
**Website:** [www.fanj.org](http://www.fanj.org)

### Fundación Avifauna Eugene Eisenmann/ Red Latinoamericana de Periodistas Ambientales

Sra. Beatriz Schmitt, Directora Ejecutiva  
**Fundación Avifauna Eugene Eisenmann**  
Coordinadora, **Panamá de la Red Latinoamericana de Periodistas  
Ambientales**  
550038 Paitilla  
Panamá, Panamá

**Phone:** (+507) 264-0272  
**Cell:** 677-1479  
**Fax:** (+507) 269-6461  
**E-mail:** [bschmitt@cablonda.net](mailto:bschmitt@cablonda.net)

### Fundación Ecológica Universal (FEU)

Sra. Elena Palacios, Coordinadora / Dirección de Juventud  
**Fundación Ecológica Universal (FEU)**  
Av. Corrientes No. 1393 - 7º  
C1043ABA Buenos Aires, Argentina

**Phone:** (+ 54-11) 4373-3996  
**Fax:** (+ 54-11) 4373-1243  
**E-mail:** [epalacios@feu999.org](mailto:epalacios@feu999.org)  
**Website:** [www.feu999.org](http://www.feu999.org)

### Fundación Tlaloc

Sr. Carlos Mendieta Zerón, Fundador y Director General  
**Fundación Tlaloc**  
Felipe Villanueva Sur 1209, Col. Rancho Dolores  
50170 Toluca, Estado de México, México

**Phone:** (+ 52-722) 217-6605, 280-2465  
**Fax:** (+ 52-722) 215-4512  
**E-mail:** [mendietazc@hotmail.com](mailto:mendietazc@hotmail.com) / [fundaciontlaloc@yahoo.com.mx](mailto:fundaciontlaloc@yahoo.com.mx)

### NGO Steering Committee to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

Sra. Esmeralda V. Brown, Southern Co-Chair  
**NGO Steering Committee to the United Nations Commission on  
Sustainable  
Development (CSD)**  
Southern Caucus of NGO's in  
Sustainable Development  
777 United Nations Plaza, 11th. Floor  
10017 New York, N.Y., U.S.A.

**Phone:** (+ 1-212) 682-3633 Ext. 3102  
**Fax:** (+ 1-212) 682-5354  
**E-mail:** [ebrown@qbgm-umc.org](mailto:ebrown@qbgm-umc.org) / [southcaucus@aol.com](mailto:southcaucus@aol.com)

**Observatorio Ecológico y Ambiental para América Latina (COEPAL) /  
Red de Comunicadores Ambientales de América Latina y el Caribe**

Sra. Yolanda Díaz Lozano  
Directora del **Observatorio Ecológico y Ambiental para América Latina (COEPAL)**  
Coordinadora para Colombia de la **Red de Comunicadores Ambientales de América Latina y el Caribe**  
Diagonal 83 No. 24-17, Apto. 402  
Bogotá, D. C., Colombia

**Phone:** (+ 57-1) 618-5368, 691-0513  
**Fax:** (+ 57-1) 618-5368  
**E-mail:** [aurayola@aolpremium.com](mailto:aurayola@aolpremium.com) /  
[yolandadiaz80@hotmail.com](mailto:yolandadiaz80@hotmail.com)  
**Website:** [www.redcalc.org](http://www.redcalc.org)

**Panamá Verde - GEO Juvenil**

Sr. Ennio Edgar Arcia Tejedor, Coordinador Nacional  
**Panamá Verde - GEO Juvenil**  
El Dorado, Edificio Aventura No. 425  
Panamá, Panamá

**Phone:** (+507) 236-5619  
**Celular:** (+507) 620-1965  
**Fax:** (+507) 236-5619  
**E-mail:** [ennioat@yahoo.com](mailto:ennioat@yahoo.com) /  
[ennio@panamaverde.org](mailto:ennio@panamaverde.org)  
**Website:** [www.panamaverde.org](http://www.panamaverde.org)

**Programa Chile Sustentable**

Sra. María Paz Aedo Zúñiga, Coordinadora de Programas y Proyectos  
**Programa Chile Sustentable**  
Seminario No. 774  
Nuñoa - Santiago, Chile

**Phone:** (+ 56-2) 209-7028  
**Fax:** (+ 56-2) 364-0472  
**E-mail:** [programa@chilesustentable.net](mailto:programa@chilesustentable.net)  
**Website:** [www.chilesustentable.net](http://www.chilesustentable.net)

**Red Nacional de Acción Ecológica (RENACE)**

Sr. Alvaro Eugenio Gómez Concha, Director  
**Red Nacional de Acción Ecológica (RENACE)**  
Seminario No. 768, Nuñoa  
Santiago, Chile

**Phone:** (+ 56-2) 223-4483  
**Fax:** (+ 56-2) 225-8909  
**E-mail:** [alvaro@renace.cl](mailto:alvaro@renace.cl)  
**Website:** [www.renace.cl](http://www.renace.cl)

**WEDO / Caribbean WAVE**

Ms. Monique Essed-Fernandes  
**WEDO / Caribbean WAVE**  
Ceresstraat No. 31, Elisabethshof  
P.O. Box 1395  
Paramaribo, Suriname

**Phone:** (+ 597) 55-0939, 862-9070  
**Fax:** (+ 597) 55-0939  
**E-mail:** [messed@parbo.net](mailto:messed@parbo.net)

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## Annex IV. Provisional Agenda

**Monday 22 November, 2004**

**I Institutional Strengthening – Cooperation with the Civil Society**

1. General Politics on the International Environmental Governance (IEG).
2. UNEP Governing Council.
3. Discussion of the Civil Society regarding the UNEP Twenty-third Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC 23).

**Tuesday 23 November, 2004**

**II Regional Aspects**

1. Discussion on the Latin American Civil Society Document (*UNEP/LAC-CS-GC/6-Meeting of the Civil Society–Panama City, Panama–Saturday 22 November, 2003*)
2. Elaboration of a regional proposal with priority issues of the Latin American and Caribbean Civil Society Platform (2005-2006)
3. Elaboration of the Latin American and the Caribbean document for the meeting to be held in Nairobi, Kenya.
4. Report of the Global Women’s Assembly on Environment held by UNEP: Women as the Voice for the Environment (WAVE), Nairobi, Kenya – 11-13 October, 2004.
5. Election of two (2) civil society representatives to attend the meeting for the preparation of the draft document in the Civil Society Meeting on 2-4 December, 2004 in Nairobi, Kenya; and election of four (4) representatives of the civil society for the 6<sup>th</sup> GCSF.

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## **Annex V. Declaration of the Civil Society General Consensus Document**

- 1.** The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in its principle 10 establishes the participation of the various groups of civil society which was ratified at the Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- 2.** In 2002, in Cartagena, Colombia, the governments ratified the annual practice of UNEP, by organizing the Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF) along with the Governing Council of the UNEP/Global Ministerial Environment Forum by adopting Decision SSVII.5, which requires that *"The Executive Director continues the current practice of summoning civil society to a regionally objective and representative forum coinciding with the meetings of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum to consult very closely with civil society."*
- 3.** The most recent GCECF and the 5<sup>th</sup> Global Civil Society Forum were held in Jeju, Korea, on March 27 and 28, 2004, prior to the GC/GMEF, having the participation of 206 civil society representatives from 40 countries. The success attained was due to a process of preparation of the regional civil society that was strengthened in each region.
- 4.** Based upon the experiences of previous meetings between civil society and the UNEP, and considering that this is the time to strengthen the objectives of sustainable development that promote policies and mechanisms that support the work of UNEP and its member governments.
- 5.** The premise upon which the discussion was based and from where other discussions emanated, in search of complementary actions and the building of consensus among governments and civil society in the harmonization between development and the environment.
- 6.** Recognizing the importance of these processes, the Civil Society representatives gathered on November 22 and 23, 2004 in Panama City, Panama, at the Regional Forum of Latin America and the Caribbean, hereby declare:

### **I. Participation of the Civil Society in Intergovernmental Meetings**

- 1.** The civil society requires direct (formal) participation with proposal- and decision-making capacity at intergovernmental meetings and in relation to UNEP, and consequently we propose:
  - a) Representation of the civil society with decision-making capacity within the UNEP Governing Council.
  - b) Mechanisms for discussion and consensus prior to decision time spaces, in order to ensure the work with representation.
  - c) Direct participation of civil society in the decisions, the submission of proposals, and the preparation of UNEP documents and its Governing Council.
  - d) Participation of the civil society must take place within an ethical framework and in accordance with the principles of the Earth Charter, in which prominence is given to transparency, the rendering of accounts, and access to information;
  - e) Recognition by the governments of the civil society's role as an interlocutor and a warranty that participation from the citizens will be included;

- f) Formal validation of the opinions from the civil society at the same level as those of the governments, and that any conclusions will take the two positions into account, recognizing civil society's right to be heard and to vote.
- g) Promotion of the processes of public participation at a national level on five main aspects: Institutional Processes and Structures; Legal Frameworks; Education, Communication and Information for Public Participation; Financing and Spaces for Deliberation by the Citizens.
- h) Strengthening the incidence of civil society groups in government decisions at a national level, with fundamental support from the countries in which civil society is heard so that these intergovernmental bodies are reached.
- i) Including of the civil society vision on the world agenda from the technical point of view, based on a policy of sustainable development.

**2.** As activities that are needed to achieve these objectives, we propose:

- a) The creation of a permanent articulation body of the civil society for discussions with UNEP and its Governing Council and at international meetings on environment and sustainability.
- b) Advance preparatory regional and sub-regional meetings for the discussion of documents, proposals, plans, and programmes.
- c) Dissemination of official documents for sub-regional review, which will allow the drafting and analysis of proposals prior to the meetings between UNEP and the civil society.
- d) An effective communications strategy between UNEP and the articulation body created by the civil society, to facilitate the dissemination of information and direct participation in the drafting of proposals and the making of decisions.

## **II. Preliminary contributions to UNEP for the document "Review of the UNEP's preliminary Work Programme 2006-2007, from the perspective of the Civil Society" UNEP / LAC-CS-GC / 5.**

**1.** In general terms, the civil society organizations gathered here recognize that the alliance between UNEP and the civil society is both strategic and necessary in order to advance toward the fulfilment of our goals and common goals on the issue of sustainability. In the same way, the civil society recognizes that UNEP constitutes a space for coordination and articulation that helps to strengthen the role of civil society at the decision-making bodies at local, national, and regional levels.

**2.** The participation, cooperation, and exchange between UNEP and the civil society is possible and necessary, taking into account the following elements:

- a) Direct participation in key decision-making institutions (such as the Governing Council) with the authority to make resolutions, not only for consultations.
- b) Adequate dissemination to the civil society regarding UNEP information, documents, proposals, and projects so as to make room for responsible, informed, and timely participation.
- c) Mechanisms to facilitate the contribution of civil society by means of information and proposals of UNEP official documents, agreements, programmes, and projects.



- d) Dissemination to Civil Society Organizations of UNEP work plans for the short, medium, and long terms.
  - e) Direct participation of the civil society on the diagnosis, design, implementation, and evaluation of UNEP programmes and projects.
- 3.** Within this framework, civil society will be willing to support the initiatives of UNEP, assuming the commitment of disseminating and collaborating with initiatives, programmes, and projects that are drafted in a participative manner.
- 4.** It is necessary to formalize the participation of the civil society in the UNEP with a reference framework that establishes clear game rules.
- 5.** The individuals that civil society chooses to represent it before the UNEP and international organizations must be rotated and elected in a democratic manner in order to guarantee continuity and transition.

### **III. Proposal for a Civil Society organization for Latin America and the Caribbean for its relationship with UNEP/ROLAC, and the UNEP Governing Council**

- 1.** The civil society organization formed for interlocution with the UNEP at the various spaces for discussion was organized by means of an independent and permanent coordination mechanism that will be known as the "Latin American and Caribbean Civil Society Coordinating Group for the Environment" (COSCE), and it will constitute a valid interlocutor before international organizations and official coordinators of government representatives; it will facilitate representation of civil society at international meetings on the environment and sustainability and will strengthen the role of the Civil Society Organizations (CSO's) before governments, the United Nations, and other international organizations of the area.
- 2.** From the time it was created, this Coordinating Group undertook the task of establishing the required mechanisms of internal organization so that the network will be representative, operational, transparent, and democratic.
- 3.** The structure of civil society must come from and be strengthened by local, national, regional, and global levels (pyramid structure). Each level (local, national, regional and global) will have a coordinating core group that should respond to each country's reality and the specificities of the various organizations, and which could involve recovery of the idea of councils for sustainable development. The networks constitute a link between the governments and the concrete reality of the populations.
- 4.** In a provisional manner, the Coordinating Group will be made up of two sub-regional representatives elected for two-year periods, which will make up an eight-member group and guarantee adequate representation of the main groups. Two alternate representatives also were elected at the sub-regional level who will be able to replace the incumbents if the need arises.
- 5.** During the first period of organization the Coordinating Group has requested UNEP support (liaison) to facilitate the tasks of dissemination, communication, and administrative management.
- 6.** The objectives of the Coordinating Group will include, among others:
- a) Interaction with UNEP and the bodies in charge of diagnosing, drafting proposals, and implementing, following-up and evaluating UNEP plans, programs, projects, and documents.

- b) Follow-up and monitoring of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC), Millennium Goals, and Agenda 21.
- c) Communication and information towards and from civil society of issues related to coordination between the UNEP and the Coordinating Group regarding environmental and sustainability topics.
- d) Follow-up, monitoring, and evaluation of the agreements stemming from the meetings promoted by the UNEP and the Coordinating Group.
- e) Strengthening of the Civil Society Organizations that belong to the Coordinating group by means of the exchange of experiences and opinions.
- f) Encouraging the people to get involved on the environmental issues by means of information, dissemination, and awareness programs.
- g) Consensus-building within civil society, as well as synthesizing and unifying interests to enable the Coordinating Group to approach inter-governmental organizations as a constituted unit with legitimate positions.

**7.** After a period of one year, the Coordinating group must have accomplished the following tasks:

- a) Mechanisms for internal functioning and operation.
- b) Instruments for dissemination and communication - an electronic forum and four virtual meetings.
- c) Creation of sub-regional teams and selection of representatives.
- d) Indicators for monitoring of ILAC, the Millennium Goals, and Agenda 21, identifying thematic priorities.
- e) Establishment of a strategy to participate in environmental conventions up to date.

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