

DECISIONS

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

Buenos Aires, Argentina, 9-12 October 2018

**Decision 1:
Chemicals, Marine Litter and Waste Management**

The Ministers and Heads of Delegation participating at the XXI Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Regional Cooperation on Chemicals and Waste

Recalling Decision 8 of the XX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment, through which the Intergovernmental Network of Chemicals and Waste for Latin America and the Caribbean was established, with the main objective of strengthening the environmentally sound management of chemical and waste, through regional cooperation and the exchange of information and experiences;

Also recalling Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goal 12 which specifies, *inter alia*, the global target that by 2020, countries 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;

Reiterating the urgent need for concerted action by all countries in the region to effectively address the health and environmental risks arising from the unsound management of chemicals and all wastes;

Acknowledging the importance of having regional coordination mechanisms in collaboration with international organizations and other relevant stakeholders, as well as with the necessary financial support for the implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste;

Decide

1. **To adopt** the *Action Plan for regional cooperation on chemicals and waste management 2019-2020¹* within the framework of the Intergovernmental Network, which addresses the priority issues for the region.
2. **To encourage** the countries of the region to support the implementation of the activities included in the Action Plan, by fostering the exchange of experiences and information,

¹ UNEP/LAC-IG.XXI/4/Ad.1

and promoting the actions included in the Resource Mobilization Strategy 2019-2020² to enable the effective implementation of the Action Plan.

3. **To undertake** the necessary efforts for the strengthening of the Intergovernmental Network, with the support of the Secretariat and other relevant organizations.
4. **To highlight** the leadership and work developed during this first period by the member countries of the Steering Committee³ and the focal points of the Network and **encourage** the members of the Network to express their interest in being part of the next Committee for the period 2019-2020.

Marine Litter

Recognizing the urgent need for coordinated action in the region to effectively address the risks posed to the environment as well as to the human health associated with the growing flow and accumulation of marine litter and microplastics, increasing the level of pollution in the aquatic ecosystems;

Recalling Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals 12, 13 and 14 on responsible consumption and production, climate action and life below water.

Also recalling the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) resolutions 1/6, 2/11 and 3/7 on marine litter and microplastics and considering the recommendations in them.

Recognizing the several existing global and regional frameworks addressing the issue, including the Regional Seas Programme, the Open-Ended Expert Group on marine litter established by UNEA, the Global Partnership for Marine Litter (GPML), the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and, in particular, the outcomes of the 11th meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group, and encouraging active participation in these forums.

Recognizing the progress made by the countries in the development of local solutions to prevent marine litter, as well as in the adoption and implementation of the Clean Seas Campaign, and encouraging other countries of the region to join the Campaign;

Also **Recognizing** the need to better utilize and, where possible, strengthen the existing regional coordination mechanisms to enforce and accelerate the cooperation in tackling the issues of marine litter and microplastics.

² UNEP/LAC-IG.XXI/4/Ad.2

³ The member countries of the Steering Committee during this period were: Jamaica and Dominican Republic (Caribbean); Costa Rica and Mexico (Mesoamerica); Colombia and Peru (Andes); Brazil and Uruguay (Southern Cone).

Decide

1. **To increase** the efforts of the countries to develop and implement national and regional plans to reduce marine litter, by developing necessary policies, strategies and programmes, such as the research and development of more sustainable alternatives to the use of plastic and microplastics, the restriction and reduction of single-use plastics, the implementation of extended producer responsibility schemes, the sound management of waste, and the monitoring and surveillance of water quality, including in coastal zones, watersheds, ecosystems and wetlands..
2. **To strengthen** the existing regional coordination mechanisms such as the Regional Seas Programme, the Global Partnership for Marine Litter and its Regional nodes, and the Basel and Stockholm Convention Regional centers, for their suitability to serve as a regional coordinating platform to strengthen the cooperation on reducing marine litter and microplastics, including through sharing of information, knowledge and best practices, capacity building, special events and other similar activities.
3. **To invite** United Nations Environment Programme, in coordination with other relevant organizations, to continue to support and promote all actions taken by countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region in reducing the marine litter and microplastics and to further strengthen regional collaboration and coordination, including through providing advice and facilitating the participation of experts in relevant events and capacity building opportunities in the region.

Waste management

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 the waste generated;

Acknowledging the efforts of the countries to advance towards the sound management of waste;

Recalling the request to the Secretariat, in Los Cabos Declaration, to develop a regional outlook on the main challenges and trends in the integrated management of waste;

Acknowledging the development of the Waste Management Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean, as a reference document for the design and implementation of policies and programmes for integrated waste management in the countries of the region, and highlighting the importance that the United Nations Environment Programme updates the document on a regular basis, through the strengthening of the capacity of the countries to provide data and information.

Decide

1. **To stress** the need to foster sustainable consumption and production, promoting the prevention, minimization and recovery of waste over its final disposal, and including awareness raising and education actions;
2. **To agree** that the countries of the region will make the necessary efforts to strengthen the integrated solid waste management, developing policies and strategies necessary to phase-out the unsound waste management practices, including dumpsites and open burning;
3. **To invite** the Secretariat to promote the establishment of a working group or voluntary coalition between governments and other relevant organizations, in coordination with other initiatives, to develop a roadmap for the progressive closure of dumpsites and the effective transition towards the integrated waste management in Latin America and the Caribbean, including the development of technical and financial guidelines, taking into account the different realities in the region, and promoting the sharing of best practices and experiences.
4. **To invite** also donors and partners to support governments of the region in the development and implementation of regional and national plans to achieve integrated management of waste.

**Decision 2:
Climate change**

The Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recognizing the ongoing work of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as the main instrument to implement global climate action, as well as the Paris Agreement as an important instrument that facilitates the urgent and significant actions needed to address the growing challenges associated with climate.

Noting with concern the increasing impact of climate-related disasters in the region, such as hurricanes, floods and droughts; observing the evidence that their severity is increasing due to changes caused by greenhouse gas emissions; and considering the impact they have on human lives, livelihoods and the environment, and the resulting humanitarian challenges, including the management of waste generated by a disaster.

Considering that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change are the fundamental instruments of regional cooperation to address climate change.

Recognizing the results of the "Global Warming 1.5°C" Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC); mainly the fact that current commitments place us in a 3°C temperature scenario, where damage to the environment and production systems would be irreversible.

Noting with grave concern the IPCC Special Report on 1,5 degrees Celsius and the need for urgent and ambitious action to avoid catastrophic climate change, in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Committed to the balance that is required between mitigation and adaptation actions to face climate change, and the special attention required by the oceans and biodiversity approach in climate measures.

Convinced of the urgency of the prompt and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement, and the need to achieve progress on the Work Program in the forthcoming 24th Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24).

Long-term strategies and NDCs

Noting that long-term low GHG emission development strategies and **NDCs** can help to institutionalize action on climate change and assess the sensitivity of the economy to climate change, highlighting opportunities and limitations.

Considering that, in order to make the required change towards low-emission, resilient and equitable economies, there is a need for a medium and long-term point of view that is integrated with national development planning processes and strategies, that integrates gender issues, and has a participatory and transparent approach.

Returning to the need to adopt and implement an integrated approach in the development policies of the cities established by the SDGs, it is essential to establish close links with the Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN Habitat- ECLAC, 2018).

Innovation and clean technologies

XXI Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean
October 9-12, 2018, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Considering the need to achieve the goal of GHG emission reduction on a large scale and the role of innovation and clean technologies to achieve this, including, in the transport sector, among others;

Considering that regional collaboration would help to strengthen capacities and would give a signal to private actors and the financial sector to make available clean technologies and therefore lower their total costs; in accordance to national characteristics and conditions.

Considering that there is the opportunity to **introduce and** improve transport systems and urban mobility, which are vital for the region, since more than 80% of the population of the region lives in urban centers, one of the highest rates of urbanization on the planet.

Planning and monitoring adaptation

Recalling paragraph 1 of Article 7 of the Paris Agreement, which establishes the “global goal on adaptation of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change, with a view to contributing to sustainable development”.

Considering that the majority of the countries have initiated the development and execution of their National Adaptation Plans and that this is a continuous, progressive and iterative process of dialogue between different institutional and non-institutional structures, stakeholders and different sectors and levels of government that follows a country-driven, gender-sensitive, participatory and transparent approach; whose implementation should be based on priorities established in relevant national documents, plans and strategies, and should be coordinated with different national objectives, plans, policies and sustainable development programs.

Considering that, in some cases, it is more efficient to undertake a part of the formulation and execution process of the National Adaptation Plans, such as climate modeling, vulnerability and risk assessment, and knowledge management, at the regional and sub-regional level.

Regional Platform on Climate Change

Bearing in mind that, at the XX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, held in March 2016 in Cartagena, Colombia, the Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean agreed in Decision 7 upon the establishment of the Regional Platform for Cooperation on Climate Change, with voluntary participation, led by the countries.

Considering that, the main objective of this Platform is the reinforcement of capacities, through work in three key priority areas: (1) Dialogue and exchange of experiences on public climate policies and their interrelations with other policies; (2) Climate action in adaptation and mitigation as well as in losses and damages; (3) Financing and other means of implementation, including the transfer of technologies, and climate science and capacity building.

Bearing in mind that at the last High Level Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, a consensus **was reached** to take advantage of the opportunity represented by the existence of regional and **multilateral** platforms in the field of climate change that already have funding and a work trajectory on climate change in the implementation of the work plan of this Platform.

Recognizing the need to increase and align climate finance for the effective implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), strengthening technology transfer and capacity building.

Decide

Long-term strategies and NDCs

Strengthen regional and South-South cooperation in relation to development of capacities and exchange of information and experiences in the implementation of NDCs and development of long-term low GHG emission development strategies.

Promote regional mechanisms that facilitate new flows of international climate financing directed to national governments for the implementation of their NDCs and the development of their long-term low GHG emission development strategies.

Innovation and clean technologies

Promote development, regional collaboration and the exchange of information on national or regional strategies, as well as the formulation of public policy instruments on innovation, clean technology, and sustainable urban mobility and transport.

Planning and monitoring adaptation

Promote the exchange of experiences and South-South cooperation for the identification, the development and implementation of adaptation measures and plans, based on data and climate change scenarios, using as basis, among others risk maps and other innovative tools.

Support capacity building and exchange of experiences in the integration of adaptation indicators at the national level to contribute to building resilience across the Latin American and Caribbean region, recognizing the unique biophysical characteristics and considering the different approaches and visions our countries have.

Regional Platform on Climate Change

Strengthen regional cooperation in the framework of the Regional Platform for Cooperation on Climate Change, through capacity building and cooperation among the countries of the region, as an essential pillar for taking actions to manage climate change, taking into consideration the particular needs of the countries of the region.

Request donor countries, funds, agencies and cooperation programmes, such as the GEF, Euroclima + and Regatta, to increase their support to facilitate the regional implementation of the decisions of the Forum of Ministers on climate change, including activities within the framework of the Platform, seeking equitable access to all countries, so that the proposed objectives are achieved.

Appoint the Chair of the Forum of Ministers of Environment as Chair of the Platform, with the support of the Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers, and in consultation with the countries of the region to develop, update and supervise the implementation of the work plan of the Platform, during their presidency period.

Ensure that, in the execution of the activities of the Regional Platform, efficiency and coordination are priorities and duplication of efforts is avoided.

**Decision 3:
Sustainable Consumption and Production: decoupling economic growth from resource use
and environmental impact**

The Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling the commitments adopted in the framework of Agenda 21 at the Earth Summit of Rio de Janeiro in 1992; as well as in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation during the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002; and in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012, which reaffirms that changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production is one of the three overarching objectives and essential requirements for sustainable development;

Considering the Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly 70/1 of September 2015, *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and affirming the commitment of the region to achieve their objectives and goals, also recognizing that of the objective of moving toward sustainable patterns of consumption and production is a crosscutting element of the 2030 Agenda, which not only contributes to achieving SDG 12 and its associated targets but also to advancing other related commitments;

Recognizing the Ministerial Declaration of the 2018 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, which expresses its concern that decoupling economic growth from resource use continues to be challenging; and acknowledges the midterm review of and progress achieved in the implementation of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (A/CONF.216/5), including the development of the One Planet network, which is an important implementation mechanism for Sustainable Development Goal 12; and agrees to further accelerate action on the 10-Year Framework of Programmes.

Taking into account the San Pedro Declaration of Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean (SIDS), during the Regional Preparatory Meeting (August 2018), which reaffirms that SIDS remain a special case for sustainable development, given their unique vulnerabilities and their constraints in achieving all three dimensions of sustainable development; underscores its support for the principles of sustainable consumption and production as means of addressing issues related to waste, chemicals, food, energy, sustainable lifestyles and land management in an integrated manner; and calls on the United Nations Environment Programme and other regional organizations to support the establishment of a framework initiative to address the sustainable consumption and production priorities of Caribbean SIDS in the SAMOA Pathway.

Recalling what was established in the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 69/313 of July 2015, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development about “continuing the support of developing countries to strengthen their scientific, technological and innovative capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of

consumption and production, in particular through the implementation of the 10YFP";

Considering the Fourth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA4), to be held in March 2019, with the theme of "Innovative Solutions for Environmental problems and Sustainable Consumption and Production";

Recognizing the progress made in the implementation of: i) the Regional Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production and its Action Plan (2015-2016); ii) Decision 6 on Sustainable Consumption and Production from the XX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean; and iii) the proposals for action for the Secretariat and Global Board of the Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP).

Decide to

- 1) **Reaffirm** the commitment of the Latin America and the Caribbean region in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 12 and targets related to sustainable consumption and production; as well as the commitment of Caribbean SIDS to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, in particular the paragraph 69 related to sustainable consumption and production.
- 2) **Redouble** the efforts of the countries of the region in the implementation of the Latin American and the Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development, and the Regional Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production; and the regional implementation of the Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP) and its strategy "One Plan for One Planet". For this purpose, countries are invited to take action on the following points:
 - a. **Request** the Regional Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production and the United Nations Environment Programme, as Secretariat of the Forum, to update the Action Plan based on the results of the Forum, and the Fourth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.
 - b. **Engage** in a dialogue between the countries of the region and the European Union, to explore the creation of regional cooperation programs on sustainable consumption and production for Latin America and the Caribbean, taking into account the important progress on SCP in our region, and considering the best practices and cooperation mechanisms of the European Union in other regions, such as the "SWITCH Asia Pacific", "SWITCH Africa" and "SWITCH Mediterranean" programs.
 - c. **Request** the technical support of United Nations Environment Programme's Latin America and the Caribbean Office to facilitate dialogue between the European

Community and the Region – Regional Forum of Ministers of Environment, CARIFORUM and EULAC (European Union - CELAC), and to support the development of the regional proposals on sustainable consumption and production.

- 3) **Strengthen** decision-making processes and the design of policies that favor the transition towards sustainable consumption and production patterns based on the scientific knowledge and tools on the efficient use of natural resources. To this end, countries are invited to take action on the following points, according to their national priorities:
 - a. Request the support of the International Resource Panel to:
 - i.) **Make** available to countries of the region the summaries of the reports translated into Spanish and Portuguese, given their importance for the development of national and regional policies and initiatives, based on scientific information.
 - ii.) **Develop** regional studies, based on global reports when possible and resources allow, contextualizing the benefits and opportunities to promote the efficient use of resources in each region.
 - iii.) **Provide** support for the organization of regional roundtables with multiple stakeholders (private sector, academia, civil society, youth, etc.) on resource efficiency and decoupling, to enhance knowledge and skills, and disseminate studies of the International Resource Panel.
 - iv.) **Support** capacity building on global material flows and methodologies for analysis of material flows to enable national statistical offices in Latin America and the Caribbean, according to their priorities and capacities, to report material flow and resource productivity indicators. Such indicators are needed for monitoring and implementation of a number of SDG targets, including SDG 8.4, SDG 12.1 and 12.5.
 - b. **Invite** the countries of the region to strengthen the representation of the region in the International Resource Panel by increasing the number of representatives of governments and independent scientists in the Panel.
 - c. **Strengthen** alliances on innovative solutions for resource efficiency and SCP with global and regional initiatives, according to the national and regional priorities, and as appropriate.
- 4) **Call for action** to focus cooperation and promote combined actions on priority issues of the Regional Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production, where several countries in the region are already developing innovative solutions to promote sustainable consumption and production, which may be scalable and replicable; in particular in the following areas:

4.1. Sustainable, Efficient, Resilient and Inclusive Cities. It is essential to advance in the development and implementation of integrated urban and land-use planning approaches, as well as the adoption of tools for the efficient use of natural resources to promote efficient and resilient cities; responding to the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, especially the SDGs 11, 12 and 13. For which countries are invited to participate in the following actions:

- a) **Establish** a dialogue and strengthen the cooperation between Ministries of Environment and other national authorities related to urban and spatial planning (including environment, transport, energy, territorial development, and urban planning, etc.) for the development of sustainable urban and multi-sector planning policies.
- b) **Invite** countries of the region, according to their national priorities and capacities, to join The Global Alliance for Building and Construction (GABC) and consider the development of a roadmap for the region about low-carbon construction and buildings that are resilient and efficient in the use of natural resources, based on the guidelines of this initiative and incorporating sustainability criteria in social housing plans.
- c) **Request** the GABC provide guidance on the development of sustainable building codes and certification of sustainable buildings, according to national context and priorities and where appropriate, and to provide information on the cost of these measures and their mitigation potential; and to continue to provide a regional platform to exchange experiences through an annual regional roundtable and to support alliances between ministries, other national authorities, and private sector stakeholders throughout the supply chain.
- d) **Invite** all countries to strengthen their efforts to contextualize and operationalize SDGs goals and indicators at the city level, and promote innovative approaches in cities, which help to achieve greater resource efficiency and better sustainable urban and land-use planning.

4.2. Innovative and sustainable businesses: acknowledging that in the region, Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and the productive sector are important sources for economic growth and employment, and have an important role to increase the efficient use of resources, innovation and support for sustainable lifestyles, further action is requested to:

- a) **Support** Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in the incorporation of tools that encourage changes towards sustainable consumption and production patterns, for example through eco-design, innovation, community-based economy, circular economy-in the context of sustainable consumption and production, and other sustainable solutions.

- b) **Support** Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises that are implementing sustainable consumption and production practices to get involved in value chains and new opportunities for market access.
- c) **Encourage** entrepreneurs working on innovative solutions to face social, environmental and economic development challenges through new approaches to increase productivity, sustainability and innovation.

4.3. Sustainable Public Procurement, Eco-labeling and other social-labeling to accelerate the efficiency and sustainable use of natural resources. Considering the progress of the region in the development of national strategies for sustainable public procurement, as well as work and results of the Sustainable Public Procurement and Eco-labeling Programme (SPPEL) implemented in seven countries, with the technical and financial support of United Nations Environment Programme and European Union, it is requested to:

- a) **Support** the development of a second phase of a regional project on sustainable public procurement and eco-labelling (SPPEL) to strengthen and scale up good practices and the implementation or development of national plans for sustainable public procurement, with technical support of the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant UN Agencies and cooperation organizations.
- b) **Expand** the use of sustainable public procurement to accelerate the efficiency in the use of resources and the adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns, including the attainment of global and national priorities such as the elimination of single-use plastics.
- c) **Recognise** the initiative for the development of a regional eco-label (Environmental Seal America), promoted by Colombia, Costa Rica, and Mexico, and invite other countries who wish to join this initiative.

4.4. Generate and encourage enabling conditions for citizens to adopt more sustainable lifestyles.

- a) **Strengthen** the participation of the region in the 10YFP Program/One Planet on Sustainable Lifestyles, to work alongside governments, the private sector, civil society, women, afro-descendants, indigenous peoples and local communities, and communication media in the development of enabling conditions that allow citizens to understand the lifecycle of products, and change their habits, adopting healthier and more sustainable lifestyles.
- b) **Take into account** different approaches, visions, models, and instruments to achieve sustainable development and good living, living good, and other

approaches, respecting the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities.

- c) **Generate** and support research, education and innovation platforms to promote solutions for sustainable lifestyles.
 - d) **Coordinate** environmental education and training processes in the development of policies and technical-operational tools to generate more sustainable consumption and production patterns, with the allocation of adequate financial resources and evaluation and monitoring instruments.
- 5) **Work** together in efforts to integrate conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity in productive sectors, as well as in the decarbonization and detoxifying of cities, especially in clean transport, air quality, and integrated waste management, and sustainable urban lifestyles, which is essential in the fight against climate change, in increasing resource efficiency and for environmental protection.

Decision 4
Innovative solutions to enhance the benefits of biodiversity and ecosystems

The Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recognizing that the Convention on Biological Diversity is the most important global instrument to promote and ensure the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services provided to society, and the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable distribution of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources;

Highlighting the important role of the Government of Mexico in the organization of the successful 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 the Benefits Derived from its Utilization, whose motto was: "Integrating biodiversity for well-being";

Recalling the scope of the thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which adopted decisions that favour the implementation of policies and measures aimed at the integration of holistic and integrated approaches for the mainstreaming of conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity in all sectors, particularly those that depend on biodiversity;

Bearing in mind that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes objectives and goals that are aimed at promoting the sustainable use of ecosystems, combating desertification, halting and reversing land degradation and curbing the loss of biological diversity, for the sustainable and integral development, and ending poverty in all its forms by applying integrated approaches;

Recalling that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets has a achievement date in 2020, for which it will be necessary to enhance efforts and think strategically about the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

Recognizing the progress of the region in the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and in particular compliance with Target 11 on protected areas, both marine and terrestrial;

Recalling Decision 10 of the XX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment, which emphasized that biodiversity, the conservation and sustainable use of its components, and the protection and restoration of ecosystems, offer the opportunity to contribute to the application of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of several of the Sustainable Development Goals, in an effective way, even including economic benefits;

Emphasizing that Decision 10 establishes the need to arrange a Regional Cooperation Program on Biodiversity to support national capacity building, as a strategic opportunity looking towards the implementation of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean;

Recalling Decision 10 of the XX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment, which considers the decision-making that takes into account financing to implement programs of ecological restoration of degraded ecosystems, that generate connectivity with protected areas, and re-establish ecosystems to provide environmental functions and basic ecosystem services;

Bearing in mind the Regional Assessment of the Americas on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), which indicates that it is expected for the trends of the main drivers of biodiversity and nature's contributions to people to increase in the future, with the consequent increase in the need to improve the effectiveness of governance and policies if biodiversity conservation and nature's contributions to people are to be maintained;

Emphasizing that addressing the restoration of degraded ecosystems presents a transformative opportunity to focus in an integrated manner on the relationship between ecosystem degradation, desertification and combating climate change, and move towards compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, recognizing the interdependence of ecosystems, biodiversity and livelihoods, as well as the relationship of the sectors that depend on biodiversity with these ecosystems that provide essential services through a landscape vision;

Recognizing the initiative of the Government of El Salvador to promote the 2021-2031 Ecosystems Restoration Decade, which guides actions to fulfil the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, synergistically with the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

Recalling the Caribbean Trialogue on Pollinators, Food Security and Climate Resilience held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic from September 4 to 6, 2018, and taking into account the numerous contributions of pollinators to the well-being of people in food and agricultural crops.

Recognizing that according to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), invasive alien species are the third cause of loss of native and endemic biological diversity of countries, and that goal 9 of Aichi seeks to reduce this risk.

Decide

1. **Promote** regional coordination and strengthen efforts to achieve the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
2. **Specify** actions to strengthen regional capacities for the progress of work towards post-2020 global biodiversity framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity.
3. **Agree** on the development of a Regional Cooperation Program for Biodiversity, whose Terms of Reference are annexed to this Decision, promoting coordination and the exchange of information to develop specific strategies and plans within the framework of actions which can be carried out and aimed at towards the mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem services in all economic sectors, especially those that depend on biodiversity and are relevant to natural life systems of indigenous peoples and local communities.
4. **To invite** the Secretariat of the Forum to support the establishment of a working group with the objective of preparing a roadmap to form the Regional Cooperation Program for Biodiversity mentioned in the previous paragraph and present its results in the next session of the XXII Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

5. **To Include** in the roadmap, the mechanisms of joint actions for the development of knowledge, experiences and their application to agrobiodiversity, in agroecological systems and best practices in sustainable agricultural.
6. **Support** the proposal of the Government of El Salvador and the countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA), calling on the General Assembly of the United Nations in its 73rd session to designate the decade of 2021-2030 as "The United Nations Decade for the Ecosystems Restoration".
7. **To encourage** the establishment of cooperation actions and joint action among the countries, in the fight against the illegal trafficking of Wildlife, and request support from the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora Wildlife (CITES) and The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to establish a framework for joint action against wildlife trafficking.
8. **To invite** the countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region to take concrete actions for the restoration of ecosystems at the national and regional level during this decade, integrating them into policies and plans to address the current development challenges following established guidelines in the decision of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD/COP/DEC/XIII/5) on the Short-term Action Plan for Ecosystem Restoration.
9. **To invite** the countries of the region to strengthen regional wetland management initiatives and the implementation of the conceptual frameworks included in the Ramsar Convention.
10. **Encourage** commitments and partnerships among countries, the international community, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, as well as among sources of financing, to address the restoration of degraded ecosystems through efficient production systems, in particular agroecological approaches, conservation agriculture, agroforest and cattle ranching systems, among other sustainable agriculture practices.
11. **To invite** the countries of the Latin America and the Caribbean region, having reached Aichi target 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) with respect to the percentage of 17% in terrestrial environments declared as protected area and 10% in the marine area, to reinforce efforts for the effective management of these protected areas, to ensure their ecological integrity and, consequently, the provision of environmental services in favour of the people.
12. **To encourage** commitments and alliances among countries to prevent the introduction of invasive alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats and other species.

13. **Encourage** commitments and alliances involving indigenous peoples and local communities, protected by the countries' biological diversity and traditional knowledge, to promote the effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) of the United Nations.
14. **Invite** the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to develop efforts aimed at improving technical capacities, raising baseline information and mobilizing resources to address the threats that threaten pollinators in the region, given the multiple benefits they bring to people and the functioning of ecosystems.
15. **To agree** to take all the steps that are feasible to promote the mobilization of resources for the region to address the issues addressed in this ministerial decision.

ANNEX

Terms of Reference of the Regional Program of Cooperation on Biodiversity for Latin America and the Caribbean

Background and context

As a whole, Latin America and the Caribbean constitutes one of the largest and most important in situ repositories of biodiversity on the planet. Together with the different cultures that inhabit these regions, its international relevance multiplies. In a context of growing human pressures on biodiversity and the effects of climate change on ecosystems, the need to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and its components is becoming increasingly urgent. Different international instruments and declarations have drawn attention to this situation and the urgency of adopting measures that reverse and curb levels of biodiversity loss, and promote its conservation and sustainable use. These instruments include, for example, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the Cancun Declaration on the Integration of Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Wellbeing (COP 13, Cancún, Mexico), the Americas Assessment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, among other instruments.

In this context, and as a result of the XX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Cartagena, Colombia between March 28-31, 2016, the representatives of the countries adopted Decision 10 (Integration of Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in Harmony with the Environment). Paragraph 4 of this Decision establishes the need to "Establish a Regional Cooperation Program on Biodiversity to support the creation of national capacities, in order to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and promote the integration of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the agricultural, forestry, mining, hydrocarbon exploitation, energy, fisheries and tourism sectors,⁴ that will contribute, among others, to ending poverty, zero hunger, sustainable and integrated development, improvement in living conditions and the enjoyment of a healthy environment".

This is related to paragraph 7 of this same Decision, which raises the need to "Promote within the framework of this Forum [of Ministers], the strengthening of legal and institutional frameworks for the integration of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the

4

It is important to note that, while these are priority sectors, countries could also incorporate other sectors that, in the light of their own interests and national prioritization, they consider deserve attention such as productive natural ecosystems, economy and finance, transport and communications, among others

different sectors, and the identification and exchange of good practices for the integration of biodiversity and sustainable and integrated development ".

As a result of these mandates, the United Nations Environment Program, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, takes the initiative to promote the development of a Regional Cooperation Program on Biodiversity with the countries of the region. A result that is expected to be presented at the XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Main objectives of the programme

- Strengthen institutional capacities of the authorities and sectoral officials and of the biodiversity focal points in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, through coordination, communication and information exchange.
- Develop concrete strategies and plans and carry out actions aimed at mainstreaming the component "biological diversity" in all sectors, particularly those that depend on biodiversity, and those relevant for indigenous peoples and local communities' natural life systems, in the framework of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant international agreements.
- Contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, facilitating the achievement of the objectives and goals related to biodiversity and ecosystems in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).
- Collaborate strongly in the development and prioritization of post-2020 actions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in accordance with the results on the progress of the Aichi Targets.
- Support the transformational process promoted by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to adjust the agreement to the challenges of the post-2020 decades.
- Make recommendations at the policy and program level and support the implementation of international agreements on biodiversity and ecosystems in the countries of the region.
- Strengthen the cooperation, exchange and coordination of the sectoral authorities and officials and the biodiversity focal points of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the development of national legislation on access to genetic resources, including the genetic information available digitally, and the distribution of the benefits derived from its use.
- Strengthen regional cooperation and facilitate the exchange of information and good practices on integrated and sustainable management of ecosystems.

Specific objectives

- Support the development and implementation of a Regional Program of Cooperation on Biodiversity in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, in coordination with other relevant initiatives and stakeholders;

- Identify and disseminate funding opportunities among the countries of the region and support the mobilization of resources to carry out activities related to the area of biodiversity and ecosystems;
- Facilitate the strengthening of capacities in, inter alia the sustainable use of biodiversity and integrated management of ecosystems (for example protected areas) access to genetic resources and benefit sharing, the integration of biodiversity in all sectors, the relation between biodiversity and climate change, among countries in the region and with other regions, including South-South cooperation actions and involving to the different actors and with the support of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- Promote the generation of knowledge and the development of research activities in the abovementioned areas;
- Develop a mechanism for information, experiences, policies, projects and activities, among others, related to biodiversity and ecosystem issues, between the countries of the region and with other regions;
- Identify priorities, challenges and opportunities, and give recommendations for consideration by the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and other relevant forums;
- Contribute to other objectives on biodiversity and ecosystems as defined by the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Structure and operation:

Members:

The Regional Program of Cooperation on Biodiversity will be composed by the set of focal points nominated by the governments of the region. Other related stakeholders will also be invited to designate their respective focal points, international organisations, and relevant stakeholders including indigenous peoples and local communities in order to encourage their participation and promote an integrated vision of the actions to be addressed at the regional level.

Steering Committee:

The Regional Program of Cooperation on Biodiversity will have a Steering Committee formed by two members from each of the sub-regions of Latin America and the Caribbean (Mesoamerica, Caribbean, Andes and Southern Cone). The members of the Steering Committee will be appointed for a period of two years on a rotating basis among the countries of the sub-region.

Secretariat:

The Regional Program of Cooperation on Biodiversity will be supported by the Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, which falls to the

XXI Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean
October 9-12, 2018, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Program for the Environment.

Operation:

Members of the Regional Biodiversity Cooperation Program will meet at least once every two years (depending on available resources) and will hold regular teleconferences. Its Steering Committee will meet at least once a year and must prepare the program's operating regulations at its first meeting, establishing the consultation procedures, and consider, if necessary, the extent of its objectives with the government focal points and the participation modalities of official delegates of other governments, international organisations and relevant stakeholders including indigenous peoples and local communities.

Regional action plan:

The Regional Program of Cooperation of Biodiversity must develop a bi-annual regional strategy or action plan, which will be submitted for approval by the Forum of Ministers. The first regional action plan will be prepared by a working group made up of the members of the Steering Committee and experts from other relevant organizations (including indigenous peoples and local communities), with the support of the set of focal points. The Plan should reflect the priorities of regional cooperation on biodiversity and ecosystems, as well as the possible actions and resources needed to carry them out.