

# Progress report 2019-2020

## Voluntary Coalition of governments and relevant organizations for the progressive closure of dumpsites in Latin America and the Caribbean

Report prepared by the support of the Secretariat of the Coalition  
UN Environment Programme - Latin America and the Caribbean Office

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## Introduction and background

Within the framework of the XX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (Buenos Aires, October 2018), **the Voluntary Coalition of governments and relevant organizations for the progressive closure of dumpsites in Latin America and the Caribbean** was established, in accordance with **Decision 1 on Chemicals, Marine Litter and Waste Management**<sup>1</sup>.

All governments of the region and other related organizations were invited by the Secretariat (UNEP Latin America and the Caribbean Office) to express interest to be part of the Coalition and to designate focal points, who were convened to a constitutive meeting that took place on 10-11<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. During the meeting, the objectives, Framework, and organizational structure of the Coalition were agreed, as well as the main elements and actions of a Work Plan. A Steering Committee<sup>2</sup> of the Coalition was established as the body in charge to coordinate, guide, support, and follow-up on the activities of the Coalition, as well as to facilitate resource mobilization.

The objectives of the Coalition are:

- ▶ Develop a **Roadmap for the progressive closure of dumpsites** and the effective transition to integrated waste management in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- ▶ Promote the development, adaptation, and dissemination of **guidelines**, including technical, social, environmental, and economic aspects, considering existing work and in coordination with other initiatives.
- ▶ To facilitate the strengthening of **capacities and the exchange of information**, experiences and good practices about policies, instruments, related projects, and funding opportunities.
- ▶ Promote **awareness raising** of the importance of the sound management of waste at all stages of their life cycle, and the consequences of their inadequate management.

A Work Plan 2019-2020<sup>3</sup> was developed, based on the objectives agreed by the Coalition, which was acknowledged during the Intersessional Meeting of the Forum of Ministries (Barbados, 5-6 November 2019). During this session, countries and organizations were encouraged to participate in this initiative, and to support the implementation of the 2019-2020 Work Plan, which includes the development of a roadmap to be presented at the **XXII Forum of Ministries of Environment**.

Within this framework, the members of the Coalition, with the support of the Secretariat, have contributed to the development of different activities and documents, that are related and contribute to the implementation of the Work Plan of the Coalition. The present report intends to provide an overview of the **activities conducted during the period 2019-2020**.

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<sup>1</sup> Decision 1 on Chemicals, Marine Litter and Waste Management [\[Link to access\]](#)

<sup>2</sup> The Steering Committee is comprised by (8) members, with a majority of national focal points: Argentina, El Salvador, Guatemala, Suriname, Uruguay, the Ibero-American Union of Municipalists (UIM), the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) and the Asociación para el Estudio de Residuos Sólidos (ARS).

<sup>3</sup> Work Plan 2019-2020 [\[Link to access\]](#)

## Activities developed during 2019-2020

### 1. Develop a Roadmap for the progressive closure of dumpsites in Latin America and the Caribbean

1. **Development of the Baseline.** Within the Work Plan 2019-2020, the elaboration of a baseline study was included. The baseline collects and analyzes available information on the current situation of dumpsites in the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region, in order to contextualize the proposed Roadmap for the closure of dumpsites, as well as the different activities and documents that shall be developed by the Coalition. The baseline provides an overview of the current situation of dumpsites in the Latin American and Caribbean region, based on the compilation of available information and responses of countries to a questionnaire which was sent to focal points of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment, with copy to the focal points of the Coalition, by July 2020<sup>4</sup>, who provided feedback on the following issues:

- ▶ Situation of final waste disposal in the LAC region;
- ▶ Related political and regulatory framework;
- ▶ Practical experiences on the closure of dumpsites.

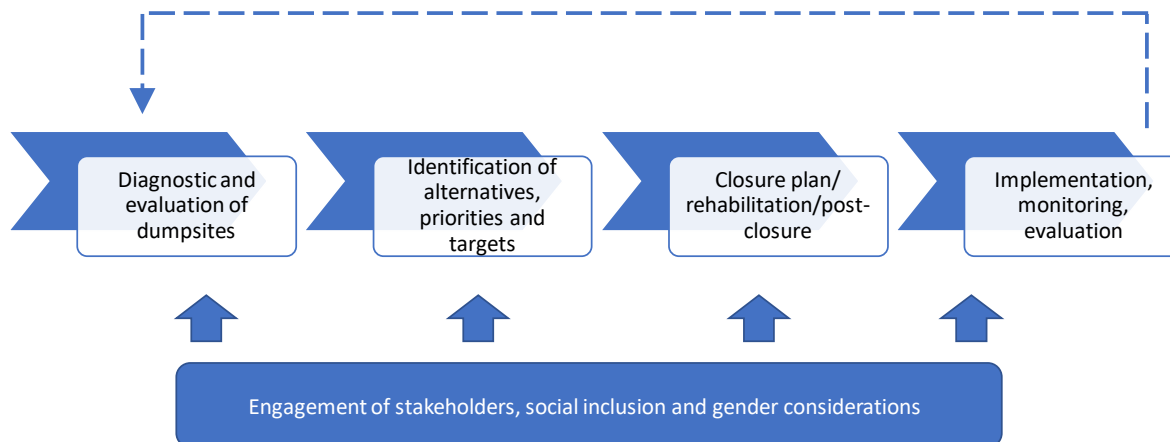


2. **Development of the Roadmap for the progressive closure of dumpsites in LAC.** The Roadmap was prepared taking into account the information collected during the baseline, and with the technical support of the members of the Coalition. The Roadmap intends to serve as a guidance on the considerations and steps to be followed for the progressive closure of dumpsites in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and is addressed to national and sub-national governments in the region, who shall adapt and implement the Roadmap according to their specific baseline situation, conditions and circumstances. The document includes as the main sections:

- ▶ Status of waste management and closure of dumpsites in the LAC region;
- ▶ Considerations for closing dumpsites;
- ▶ Roadmap for the closure of dumpsites;
- ▶ Technical guidelines and information resources.

Both documents were submitted for regional consultation during September-November 2020.

<sup>4</sup> Seventeen (17) countries of the region have responded to the survey, providing a valuable database for the identification of trends and challenges in the countries: Argentina, Barbados, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, St. Lucia, Suriname, and Uruguay



## 2. Promote the development, adaptation, and dissemination of guidelines.

The Roadmap provides a general guidance on the considerations and steps and process recommended to address the closure of dumpsites in the region. However, it is expected that the authorities and specific teams that will be responsible to design and implement the closure plans, shall require access to more detailed technical guidelines, and information on experiences and approaches in the region.

To this end, and in accordance with the objectives and work plan of the Voluntary Coalition for the closure of dumpsite, a preliminary compilation of relevant technical guidelines and information resources was conducted. The list is not comprehensive and includes about a dozen of references and the links to access them. For ease of use and consultation, a preliminary systematization and characterization of these information resources can be observed, according to whether it contains technical, environmental, social/health, and/or economic elements, the type of document (Roadmap, Technical guideline, Case Study,...), and a brief description of its content.

The compilation will be periodically updated with the support of the members of the Coalition, in order to provide further information resources to all countries in the region.

**ANNEXES**

List of technical guidelines and information resources.

Type of Document	Scope	Title	Author	Year	Description of the content	Access to documents
1 Roadmap	Dumpsites	"A Roadmap for closing Waste"	International Solid Waste Association (ISWA)	2016	Orientation and considerations for the process and procedures required to close dumpsites and to develop a sound waste management alternative.	<a href="#">English</a>
2 Technical Guideline	Dumpsites	"Guía Técnica para la clausura y conversión de botaderos de residuos sólidos"	Ministerio de Salud / CONAM por el Desarrollo Sostenible Lima, Perú	2004	A guide addressed especially to local officials and technicians, as well as to specialists working on solid waste management programmes and projects for dumpsites closure and conversion.	<a href="#">Español</a>
3 Technical Guideline	Dumpsites	"Guía para el cierre Técnico de Botaderos"	Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Agua, Bolivia.	2012	Tools and information for the technical closure of dumpsites and their rehabilitation.	<a href="#">Español</a>
4 Study cases/Environmental	Dumpsites	"Climate benefits due to dumpsite closure: three case studies"	International Solid Waste Association (ISWA)	2019	A series of case studies highlighting the impacts of dumpsites on the planet.	<a href="#">English</a>
5 Technical Guideline	Dumpsites	"Saneamiento y cierre de botaderos a cielo abierto"	Ministerio del Medio Ambiente, Colombia.	2002	Contribution to the mitigation of the negative environmental effects that inadequate waste disposal generates on natural resources and the health of the population located in the area of influence.	<a href="#">Español</a>
6 Technical Guideline/Regulatory	Dumpsites	"Hacia una Política Nacional de Clausura de Botaderos"	Programa APGEP-SENREM, Perú.	2002	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Characterization of the current status of the inadequate final disposition. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Establishment of regulation proposals addressed to support the required policy guidelines.	<a href="#">Español</a>
7 Study case	Final disposal	"Investigación del sitio de disposición final de residuos sólidos de la ciudad de San Cristóbal de las Casas, Chiapas"	Revista AIDIS de Ingeniería y Ciencias Ambientales	2012	Description of the characteristics of the disposal site for special management urban solid waste through field visits and interviews.	<a href="#">Español</a>
8 Technical Guideline	Landfills	"Diseño de un relleno sanitario"	CEAMSE, Argentina	2012	Development of all the phases of the implementation of landfill technique.	<a href="#">Español</a>
9 Technical Guideline	Landfills	"Guía para el Diseño, Construcción, Operación y Cierre de Rellenos Sanitarios"	Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Agua, Bolivia.	2012	Focused on landfills and capacity building of human resources.	<a href="#">Español</a>
10 Technical Guideline	Landfills	"Landfill Operational Guidelines, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition"	International Solid Waste Association (ISWA)	2019	It details the operating elements of a landfill.	<a href="#">English</a>

### 3. Facilitate capacity building and exchange of information, experiences and good practices.

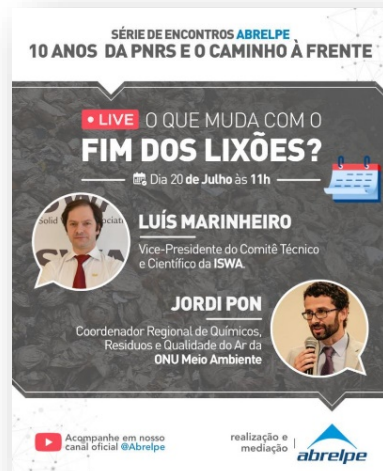
1. On 11 September 2019, in the framework of the **Constitutive Meeting of the Voluntary Coalition of Governments and Relevant Organizations for the Progressive Closure of Dumpsites in Latin America and the Caribbean**, a field trip took place in Buenos Aires to the CEAMSE-3 facilities, which included sanitary landfill, mechanical biological treatment, composting, leachates and biogas treatment. It was organized by UNEP and ISWA-ARS Argentina. About **15 participants from 7 countries** of Latin America and the Caribbean joined this activity (Argentina, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, Dominican Republic, Suriname, and Uruguay).



2. Cycle of webinars held on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020: **“Towards safe and environmentally sound waste disposal”** facilitated by The Chamber of Waste Management Companies of Uruguay (CEGRU), the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Within this framework, ARS-Argentina performed a presentation of the Coalition, its goals, activities and state of situation.



3. Transmission of the webinar **“What changes with the end of dumpsites?”** facilitated by the Brazilian Association of Public Cleaning and Special Waste Companies (ABRELPE) on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020. UNEP presented the waste regional situation and the Voluntary Coalition, and the existence of dumpsites in the region, the urgency of closing it, among other topics.



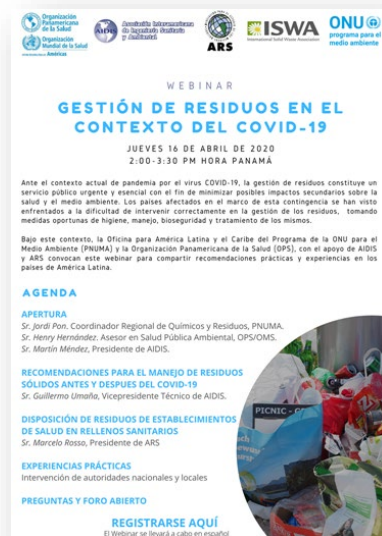
4. On July 23, 2020, a webinar on "Extended Producer Responsibility and the Circular Economy" it was organized in coordination with the ISWA Regional Chapter, in which **390 people** participated. Experiences and regulatory aspects of the Latin American and Caribbean region were exchanged, with emphasis on countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico



5. Webinar on "Waste Management in LAC during health emergencies: measures taken, and lessons learned" held on 7 May 2020, in order to increase awareness and provide guidance on the issue of waste management during the COVID-19 crisis. **593 people** participated and it was facilitated thanks to the support of the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA), the Inter American Association of Sanitary and Environmental Engineering (AIDIS), and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).



6. Webinar on "Waste management in the context of COVID-19" focused on the health global situation due the impacts of the COVID-19 and the appropriate management of waste, in order to mitigate impacts on health and the environment. It was facilitated by UNEP and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), with the support of AIDIS and ARS. **768 people** participated.



7. A **municipal survey** is being developed jointly with the Ibero-American Union of Municipalities (UIM,) within the framework of the Voluntary Coalition, with the main purpose of assessing needs associated with strengthening of capacity building in waste management and final disposal, as well as identifying trends on waste management at the municipal level. *Activity under development.*



#### 4. Promote awareness raising on the sound management of waste

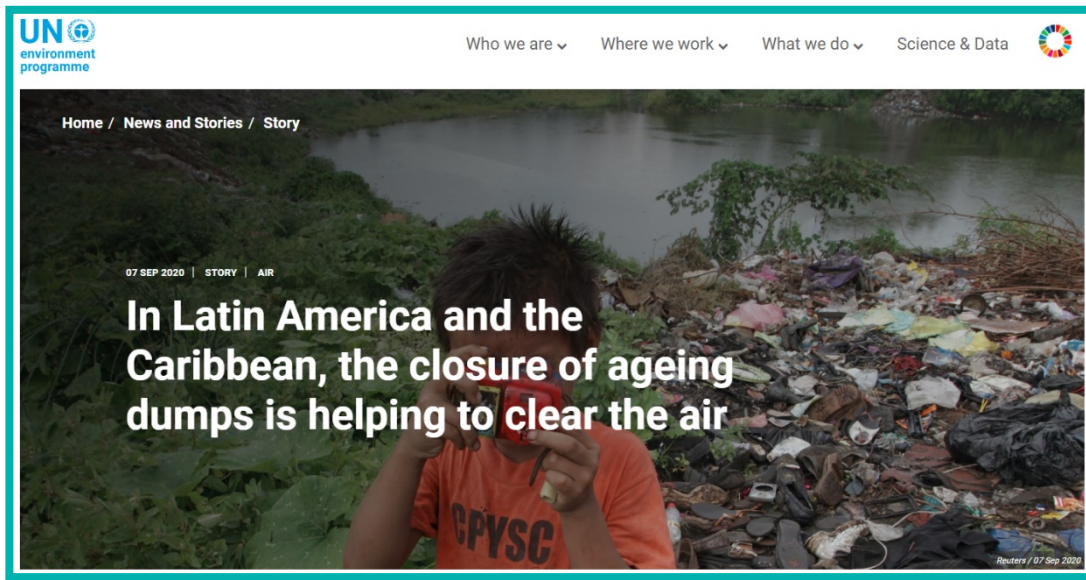
1. Dissemination of [Factsheets related with COVID-19 waste management](#), which provide practical guidance in addressing immediate challenges from the health emergency, such as strengthening of medical waste management systems. The Factsheets include links to international guidelines from WHO, UNEP, Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, amongst others.

2. Dissemination of the [Policy Brief: Waste Management as an essential service in Latin America and the Caribbean](#), which is part of a series of policy notes that UNEP is providing to countries of the region, aimed at contextualizing elements of the environmental agenda for the post-COVID19 recovery phase, and included key messages on the need to close dumpsites in the region.

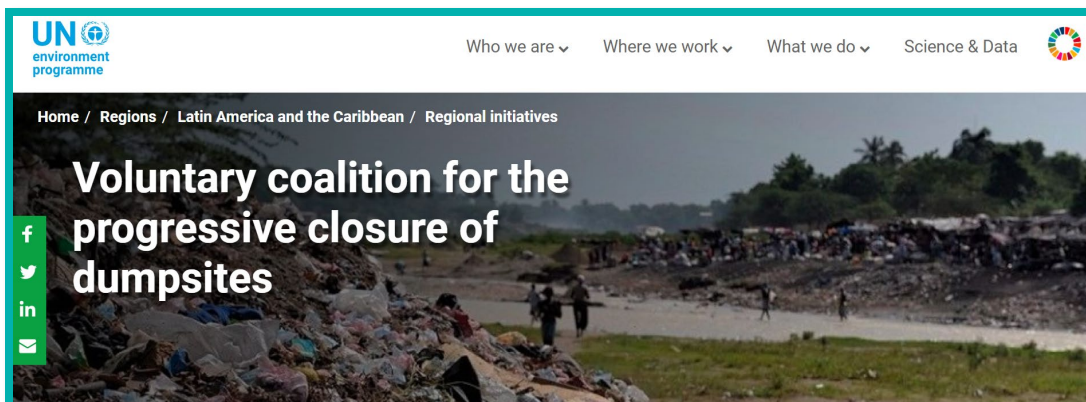


3. Regional story and video [“Closing dumpsites for clean air in Latin America and the Caribbean”](#), published within the framework of the first International Day of Clean Air for blue skies, observed on September 7 as established by the United Nations General Assembly, and disseminated to the members of the Coalition. The theme was the closure of dumpsites to achieve [“Clean Air for All”](#), and moving towards sustainable waste management systems.





4. The work of the Coalition in Latin America and the Caribbean was presented in the UNEP Website in September 2020, where its objectives and milestones, as well as documents relating to the Coalition, are detailed. [Here](#) you can access to the site.



# Annex

## Annex 1. Members of the Coalition

[November 2020]

Countries with nominated Focal Points (17)	Other Stakeholders
Argentina	Asociación para el Estudio de los Residuos Sólidos (ARS)
Chile	
Costa Rica	Brazilian Association of Cleaning Companies Public and Special Waste – ABRELPE / International Solid Waste Association - ISWA
Cuba	
Dominican Republic	Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)
Ecuador	Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)
El Salvador	Fundación Avina
Guatemala	Ibero-American Union of Municipalists (UIM)
Honduras	Interamerican Sanitary and Environmental Engineering Association (AIDIS)
Panama	Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)
Paraguay	
Peru	University Consortium for sustainable waste management in Latin America and the Caribbean
Suriname	
Saint Lucia	
Trinidad and Tobago	
Uruguay	
Venezuela	