



**XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers
of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean**
Bridgetown, Barbados

1-2 February 2021

Distribution:
Limited

UNEP/LAC-IG.XXII/2

15 January 2021
Original: English

**Provisional Annotated Agenda
Ministerial Segment**

Background

At the XXI Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), held in Buenos Aires, Argentina 9-12 October 2018, it was decided to hold the XXII Meeting of the Forum in advance of UNEA 5. The Bureau of the XXII Meeting was elected as follows: Barbados (President), Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras and Peru (Rapporteur).

An Inter-sessional Meeting of the Forum was held in Bridgetown, Barbados, on 5-6 November 2019. The Meeting provided direction on the implementation of Decisions adopted in Buenos Aires and updated on preparations for the XXII Meeting of the Forum.

In the advent of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, which is having a devastating global and regional impact and caused the cancellation of travel and in-person meetings, the Bureau of the Forum took the decision that all meetings, including the actual XXII Meeting of the Forum would be conducted virtually in advance of UNEA 5, with the overall theme of "the Environmental Dimensions of COVID-19 Sustainable Recovery for Latin America and the Caribbean".

The Meeting of the Bureau on 2nd October 2020 also took a decision that the Meeting of High-Level Officials would assume the role of a Negotiating Committee, charged with the responsibility of preparing and negotiating the Decisions and the Declaration. This method replaced the regular Meeting of High-Level Officers which, under normal circumstances, would take place on the two days preceding the Meeting of Ministers. The Negotiating Committee conducted seven online meetings and concluded its work on 19th January 2021.

Objectives of the Meeting

The Meeting will consist of High-Level Panels and Ministerial Dialogues and will adopt the outcome documents of the XII Meeting of the Forum.

Ministers will also have the opportunity to share their views and national positions on priority topics of the region and dialogue on the main theme of the Forum, and to agree on opportunities to increase regional and international cooperation.

In addition, the Forum of Ministers will discuss preparations for the Fifth United Nations Environment Assembly (Nairobi, Kenya, February 2021 and early 2022) with the main theme "Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals".

It will present the outcomes of the Civil Society Consultations, which include key topics on the environmental agendas in the context of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. It will update information on Civil Society preparation for UNEA 5.

Agenda Item I: Opening of the meeting

The Meeting will begin with an Opening Ceremony on Monday 1st February 2021 at 9:00 a.m. (EST) with Welcome Remarks by the President of the XXII Forum of Minister of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Honorable Adrian Forde, Minister of

Environment and National Beautification of Barbados, in his capacity as President of the XXII Meeting of the Forum, and the Regional Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, as the Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Agenda Item II: Organization of work

2.1. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure

It is proposed that Ministers adopt the Rules of Procedure of the United Nations Environment Assembly, *mutatis mutandis*, to govern the proceedings of the Meeting. The practice is that the outcomes of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean are adopted by consensus.

2.2. Approval of the program and calendar of sessions of the Meeting

Under this point, Ministers will discuss the Provisional Agenda, Annotated Provisional Agenda and Calendar of Sessions and adopt them after incorporating the modifications considered necessary.

Agenda Item III: High- Level Session: Dialogue on the Environmental Dimension of COVID-19 Sustainable Development Recovery

Ministers and special guests will discuss the central theme of the XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, including the main challenges and opportunities for countries in the region to implement Post Covid-19 Sustainable Recovery Plans. This Session will be chaired by the Prime Minister of Barbados, the Honorable Mia Amor Mottley, and will have the participation of UNEP's Executive Director, Ms. Inger Andersen.

To address this issue, the Ministers will have document UNEP/LAC-IG.XXII/3 that presents the context, and guiding questions to trigger the discussion on this central topic of the Meeting.

Agenda Item IV: UNEA 5 Preparations

The President of the Fifth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5) has been invited to introduce this Agenda Item.

Also, under this Agenda Item, there will be a statement by the Regional Facilitator of the Major Groups and Stakeholders, who will transmit the message prepared through the regional consultative process.

The documents available for UNEA-5 may be accessed here:

<https://environmentassembly.unenvironment.org/pre-session-documents-unea-5>

Agenda item V: High Level Dialogue on Implementation of the Forum's outcomes

This Session is conceived to guide the discussion on strengthening of the Forum, and the promotion of cooperation and partnerships to advance the decisions of the Forum of Ministers of Environment for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Relevant partners and members of the Interagency Technical Committee of the Forum will be invited to participate in this Session. The second part of the Session will be devoted to the interventions of Ministers and a Dialogue on how to advance strengthening of the Forum during the inter-sessional period.

Agenda item VI: Approval of the Forum decisions

Under this agenda item, the Decisions of the Forum will be presented for formal adoption. The Negotiating Committee/High Level Officers have held 7 meetings to organize, discuss and negotiate the outcome documents of the XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment.

The outcome documents, including the Bridgetown Declaration will articulate priorities of the region in the midst of the current global situation of the COVID-19 pandemic and the road to recovery in its environmental dimension. The intent is to adopt eight decisions namely: Pollution; Sustainable Consumption and Production and Circular Economy – Key Drivers for Post COVID-19 Sustainable Recovery; Climate Change; Preventing future pandemics and accelerating sustainable recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean through the adoption of regional strategies for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems; Environmental Information Integrated System; The Environmental Dimension of Emergencies and Crises - A Critical Issue to Address to Facilitate Sustainable Development; Promotion of Gender Equality in Environmental Management; and on the Environmental Dimension of the Sustainable Development of SIDS.

The Minister of Environment of Peru, in his capacity of Rapporteur of the XXII Meeting of the Forum, will brief the meeting on the work of the Negotiation Committee and will transmit the Decisions for their formal adoption. The adoption of Decisions will be followed by statements and interventions from Ministers who may wish to refer to specific topics of these Decisions.

Closing of Day 1 and Presentation of regional reports:

The Chair will invite Ms. Lorna Inniss, Coordinator of the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat, the UNEP administered Regional Seas Programme for the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR), to introduce a short presentation to officially launch two recent landmark reports – State of Convention Area Report on Marine Pollution and State of Marine Habitat Report for the WCR.

The first of its kind for the region, these two assessments combine the analyses of coastal water quality data sets with global data sets, mathematical models, and published information to produce an assessment of the state of coastal and marine biodiversity, land-based pollution and the social and economic impacts of pollution and marine habitat degradation for on countries of the WCR. These reports were used to develop a regional nutrient reduction strategy and action plan, a regional marine habitat strategy and action plan and an investment plan for the region. These tools will collectively assist Governments in meeting relevant sustainable development goals and targets.

Agenda item VII: High-Level Ministerial Panels

Under this Agenda Item, Ministers and special guests will discuss the main challenges and opportunities for countries in the region to implement innovative solutions in three High Level Ministerial Panels on the urgency of Climate Action in Latin America and the Caribbean in the Midst of the COVID-19 Emergency; Circularity, Sustainable Economy and Pollution Prevention; and the The Role of Nature and Ecosystems Restoration in Building a Sustainable Recovery

The aim of the Ministerial Panels is to provide elements of analysis, discuss initiatives and share lessons learned, to support informed decision- making. These will assist in the development of effective public policies in the region, enhancing the opportunities for regional cooperation offered by the Forum related to the central theme of this Meeting of the Forum, which is “The Environmental Dimension of a Sustainable Development COVID-19 Recovery”.

Furthermore, the Ministerial Dialogues will contribute to and to consolidate a shared vision from the Latin American and Caribbean region in relation to the international environmental agenda.

The Ministers and Heads of Delegation will share their opinions and points of view on the central themes of the Dialogues that could be incorporated in the Ministerial Declaration.

Each Dialogue is framed in a Concept Note UNEP/LAC-IG.XXII/4, UNEP/LAC-IG.XXII/5, and UNEP/LAC-IG.XXII/6, that summarizes the main concept and ideas to motivate the discussions in each segment.

Agenda item VIII: Adoption of the Bridgetown Declaration and Communique

The President of the Forum will present for formal adoption the Bridgetown Declaration of the XXII meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and Communique on the Environmental Dimension of Covid-19 Sustainable Development Recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Agenda Item IX: Other matters

Issues that may have been included under this Agenda Item will be discussed.

Agenda Item X: Election of the Bureau

Under this Agenda Item, the Bureau of the XXIII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean will be elected.

The elected President of the XXIII Meeting will be invited to address the Forum with initial remarks.

Agenda Item XI: Closure of the XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean

The Meeting will end on Tuesday, 2 February 2021 at 4:00 p.m. ¶¶¶¶¶¶¶¶¶¶

