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Regional Preparatory Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean
for the World Summit on Sustainable Development
(Johannesburg, South Africa, 2002)

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 23 and 24 October 2001

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

- A. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE
- B. ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

A. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

The Regional Preparatory Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean for the World Summit on Sustainable Development is being held in order to give the Governments of the Latin American and Caribbean countries an opportunity to undertake a 10-year review of the progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the agreements signed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992). In addition, the Governments will be able to recommend strategies for the effective implementation of a regional platform of action for the future which can then serve as a contribution to the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 2 to 11 September 2002.

This regional preparatory process is being conducted in accordance with paragraph (f) of decision 8/1 as adopted by the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighth session (24 April–5 May 2000) and ratified by the United Nations General Assembly during its fifty-fifth session in resolution A/RES/55/199 of 20 December 2000, in which the Commission “*invites the United Nations Secretariat, working in close cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, the regional commissions, and the secretariats of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development-related conventions as well as other relevant organizations, agencies and programmes within and outside the United Nations system, including international and regional financial institutions, to support preparatory activities, in particular at the national and regional levels, in a coordinated and mutually reinforcing way.*”

On this basis, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in agreement with the Governments of the region and with the support of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), are implementing the Latin American and Caribbean regional preparatory process for the Summit to be held in Johannesburg. The corresponding preparatory activities have complemented the national preparatory processes for which support has been provided by UNEP, UNDP and the Earth Council and have included four subregional preparatory meetings: one in the Southern Cone (Santiago, Chile, 14-15 June 2001), one in the Caribbean (Havana, 28-29 June 2001), another in the Andean area (Quito, 2-3 July 2001) and one in Meso-America (San Salvador, 16-17 July 2001). These subregional meetings, which were held for the first time as part of a regional preparatory process, have proved to be an important element in regional dynamics.

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Commission on Sustainable Development that use be made of existing intergovernmental forums, while respecting their specific characteristics and those of the preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, bearing in mind decision 17 as adopted at the twelfth meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, and accepting with gratitude the offer made by the Government of Brazil to host the meeting, the Regional Preparatory Conference will be convened immediately following the thirteenth meeting of the Forum in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 23 and 24 October 2001.

B. ANNOTATIONS TO THE AGENDA

1. Election of officers

During the meeting of Heads of Delegation, which will be the first event to take place during the Conference on 23 October 2001, a chairperson, two deputy chairpersons and a rapporteur will be elected to preside over the deliberations.

2. Adoption of the agenda

It is proposed that at this time the Heads of Delegation consider the following provisional agenda for approval:

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Regional assessment of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 and consideration of a platform of action for the future
 - 3.a High-level panel of economic authorities of the region on financing for sustainable development
 - 3.b Submission and discussion of the document entitled, "The sustainability of development in Latin America and the Caribbean: challenges and opportunities"
 - 3.c Latin America and the Caribbean on the road to Johannesburg (statements by countries, United Nations bodies and representatives of main groups)
4. Consideration and adoption of agreements

3. Regional assessment of progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 and consideration of a platform of action for the future

The central objective of the Regional Conference is to carry out a 10-year review of the progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the agreements concluded at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development with a view to the effective implementation of a regional platform of action for the future. This platform of action will then serve as the Latin American and Caribbean region's contribution to the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

This agenda item has been divided into three sections so that the attending delegations may address different aspects of the progress made in implementing Agenda 21 at the regional level as well as pending challenges with respect to sustainable development.

3.a High-level panel of economic authorities of the region on financing for sustainable development

This panel, which has been organized jointly by ECLAC, UNDP and UNEP, will examine trends and characteristics of financing for sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The region has made some major strides in this area and now has an opportunity to set itself new challenges.

The presentations to be made by panel members and the ensuing debate will focus on two main lines of action: the mobilization of national resources and the mobilization of external resources. The panel will examine and assess the specific types of financing available at the regional level and in selected countries, with emphasis on public and private investment and expenditure and on existing international and national sources of financing for sustainable development. It is hoped that economic policy-makers will express their ideas as to how to ensure that sustainable development and environmental policies contribute to the achievement of economic and social development objectives.

Working document

- Financing for sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Reference documents

- Crecer con estabilidad. El financiamiento del desarrollo en el nuevo contexto internacional (LC/G.2117(CONF.89/3)/E)
- Seven case studies

3.b Submission and discussion of the document entitled, “The sustainability of development in Latin America and the Caribbean: challenges and opportunities”

In an effort to contribute to the intergovernmental discussions regarding the progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the agreements signed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, ECLAC and UNEP have drawn upon contributions from various agencies and bodies within the United Nations system to prepare a background paper entitled “The sustainability of development in Latin America and the Caribbean: challenges and opportunities”, which will be submitted to the delegates at the Regional Conference for their consideration and analysis.

Working document

- The sustainability of development in Latin America and the Caribbean: challenges and opportunities

Reference documents

- *Una década de luces y sombras. América Latina y el Caribe en los años noventa*
- *Equity, Development and Citizenship. Abridged Edition (LC/G.2133-P)*
- *Global Environmental Outlook. GEO 2000 (UNEP)*
- GEO América Latina y el Caribe - Perspectivas del medio ambiente 2000 (UNEP)

3.c Latin America and the Caribbean on the road to Johannesburg (statements by countries, United Nations bodies and representatives of main groups)

During the consideration of this agenda item, the representatives of Latin American and Caribbean countries will have the opportunity to discuss the main advances made in the implementation of their national sustainable development strategies and to share their views on the challenges which this process poses for the region as a whole.

Agencies and bodies of the United Nations system will also have an opportunity to report on the progress that has been made. Their reports will be supplemented by statements from representatives of major groups concerning the conclusions reached in the course of the preparatory processes carried out in the region.

In view of the fact that the preparatory process has included four subregional meetings, all of which have provided inputs for the development of a Latin American and Caribbean position on the sustainable development challenges that have yet to be met, the possibility exists that, as a means of following up on those meetings, an informal drafting group might be created which would be open to the countries of those subregions. This group would need to begin its work well enough in advance so that it could submit a proposed platform of action reflecting the views of the Latin American and Caribbean Governments during the consideration of agenda item 3.c.

Working documents

- Report of the Subregional Preparatory Meeting of the Southern Cone for the World Summit on Sustainable Development
- Report of the Subregional Preparatory Meeting of the Caribbean for the World Summit on Sustainable Development
- Report of the Subregional Preparatory Meeting of the Andean Area for the World Summit on Sustainable Development
- Report of the Subregional Preparatory Meeting of Meso-America for the World Summit on Sustainable Development
- National reports (**provided by the countries for reproduction**)

Reference documents

- The SIDS Programme of Action, Agenda 21. The Road to Johannesburg 2002 (ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean)
- Addendum
- Report of the 2002 World Summit for Social Development Regional Roundtable for Latin America and the Caribbean (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs)

4. Consideration and adoption of agreements

Upon the conclusion of the Conference, the participating delegations will approve a regional platform of action reflecting the views of the Governments of the region as to what approaches should be taken in order to meet pending challenges and explore new forms of cooperation that will expedite the transition towards sustainable development. This platform of action will serve as an input for the work of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.