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Regional Implementation Forum on Sustainable Development

Santiago, Chile, 28 and 29 November 2007

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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I. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

At its eleventh session, the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) of the United Nations decided that beginning in 2003, its multi-year programme of work would be organized on the basis of seven two-year cycles, each of which would be dedicated to selected thematic clusters.

Each implementation cycle is divided into two one-year sessions: a review session and a policy session. During the review session, the Commission undertakes an evaluation of progress in achieving sustainable development goals and identifies constraints and obstacles.

Accordingly, the ECLAC member countries agreed, by Resolution 602 (XXX), to include in its activities a regional forum for the implementation of the decisions adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and that the convening of this forum should take into consideration the two-year action-oriented implementation cycles of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

The Commission subsequently invited the regional commissions to organize regional implementation forums in order to provide regional inputs to the work of the Commission, preferably before the review sessions. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is organizing the second Regional Implementation Forum on Sustainable Development, to be held on 28-29 November 2007, to prepare its contribution to the sixteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

During its third two-year implementation cycle (2008-2009), the Commission on Sustainable Development will focus on the themes of agriculture, rural development, land, drought and desertification.¹ At its sixteenth session, to be held during the period from 5 to 16 May 2008, it will review progress achieved in the consideration of those issues.

ECLAC has prepared a document on the selected themes, to serve as the basis for discussions of changes in land use, the most notable phenomena in the area of agriculture, soil degradation and its potential economic impact. It is hoped that governments will be able to make contributions to a regional picture of existing institutional barriers and obstacles to the implementation of instruments designed to improve sustainability in all the areas under consideration.

The subject of alliances and agreements for the achievement of sustainable development goals will be dealt with during the review session. This Regional Implementation Forum will consider the issue of possible alliances and their potential contribution to all the components of the programme of work.

¹ See "Multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development," the annex to document E/CN.17/2003/6.

II. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of the Presiding Officers
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Agriculture
4. Rural development
5. Land
6. Drought
7. Desertification
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of agreements

III. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Opening meeting

The inauguration of the Forum is scheduled for 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday 28 November 2007. The speakers will be José Luis Machinea, Executive Secretary of ECLAC; Zvetolyub Basmajiev, representing the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations; Ricardo Sánchez, Director of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Ana Lya Uriarte, Minister, Chairperson of the National Environment Commission (CONAMA) of Chile; and Juan Mario Dary, Representative of Latin America and Caribbean on the Bureau of the sixteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Guatemala.

Election of Presiding Officers and adoption of the agenda

As usual in intergovernmental meetings, the delegations of participating countries will elect the Presiding Officers for the Forum: one Chair, two Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur, who will remain in office until their successors are elected.

It is recommended that the election of the Presiding Officers and the adoption of the agenda should be discussed at the meeting of heads of delegation, to be held in the Raúl Prebisch Conference Room at 9 a.m. on Wednesday 28 November 2007.

Delegations will have before them for their consideration and approval the provisional agenda (LC/L.2810), prepared by ECLAC secretariat in accordance with the mandates of the Commission. The delegations of member States may formulate observations and suggest such modifications as they may consider appropriate.

Working document:

- *Agriculture, rural development, land, drought and desertification: outcomes, trends and challenges for the sustainable development of Latin America and the Caribbean.* (LC/L.2831)

The ECLAC secretariat has prepared the working document entitled *Agriculture, rural development, land, drought and desertification: outcomes, trends and challenges for the sustainable development of Latin America and the Caribbean*, which reviews the principal events in the region in recent years concerning the implementation of international agreements on sustainable development, particularly those relating to the subjects to be discussed during the Forum.

The working document will be presented by the Director of the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC, on the morning of 28 November 2007, following the opening meeting of the Forum.

Agriculture

In accordance with United Nations practice applicable to intergovernmental meetings organized by ECLAC, the Chair will invite participants to comment on the working document before them. Their comments are expected to emphasize the institutional and policy constraints and obstacles facing the countries of the region.

To facilitate discussions on this subject, participants are invited to consult the working document *Agriculture, rural development, land, drought and desertification: outcomes, trends and challenges for the sustainable development of Latin America and the Caribbean*.

Rural development

In accordance with United Nations practice applicable to intergovernmental meetings organized by ECLAC, the Chair will invite participants to comment on the working document before them. Their comments are expected to emphasize the institutional and policy constraints and obstacles facing the countries of the region.

To facilitate discussions on this subject, participants are invited to consult the working document *Agriculture, rural development, land, drought and desertification: outcomes, trends and challenges for the sustainable development of Latin America and the Caribbean*.

Land

In accordance with United Nations practice applicable to intergovernmental meetings organized by ECLAC, the Chair will invite participants to comment on the working document before them. Their comments are expected to emphasize the institutional and policy constraints and obstacles facing the countries of the region.

To facilitate discussions on this subject, participants are invited to consult the working document *Agriculture, rural development, land, drought and desertification: outcomes, trends and challenges for the sustainable development of Latin America and the Caribbean*.

Drought

The first meeting on the second day of the Forum will be on the subject of drought. As before, in accordance with United Nations practice applicable to intergovernmental meetings organized by ECLAC, the Chair will invite participants to comment on the working document before them. Their comments are expected to emphasize the institutional and policy constraints and obstacles facing the countries of the region.

To facilitate discussions on this subject, participants are invited to consult the working document *Agriculture, rural development, land, drought and desertification: outcomes, trends and challenges for the sustainable development of Latin America and the Caribbean*.

Desertification

This subject will be discussed at the end of the second meeting on the final day of the Forum. The Chair will invite participants to comment on the working document before them. Their comments are expected to emphasize the institutional and policy constraints and obstacles facing the countries of the region.

To facilitate discussions on this subject, participants are invited to consult the working document *Agriculture, rural development, land, drought and desertification: outcomes, trends and challenges for the sustainable development of Latin America and the Caribbean*.

Draft report of the Presiding Officers and closure of the Forum

It is expected that, with the help of the secretariat, the Presiding Officers will prepare a draft report of the session, reflecting the principal agreements reached during the discussions.

