**Annotated Provisional Agenda  
of the Ministerial Segment**

**Background**

1. In recent years, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have made significant efforts to reverse the trends of environmental degradation, raise the living conditions of their populations and stimulate economic growth of their economies in the framework of sustainability, through the promotion of mainstreaming the environment in national policies concerning their countries development. However, there are still significant challenges to achieve the full and effective integration of the three pillars of sustainable development: environmental, economic and social.

**Objectives of the Meeting**

2. The Twentieth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers has been convened in order to fulfil the following objectives:

a) Promote a political dialogue at the highest level on priority environmental issues, including intersectoral, for the region and to establish a regional cooperation agenda to support countries to face these challenges, promoting South-South cooperation.

b) Ensure a renewed regional agenda centred on sustainable development, considering the recently approved 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the agreement on climate change adopted in the 21st Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

c) Prepare the regional contributions/position to the Second Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of UNEP to be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 23rd to 27th May 2016.

3. The purpose of the following comments on the items of the provisional agenda for the meeting aim to facilitate consideration of the various issues to be addressed at the Twentieth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers.

**Item I of the Agenda: Opening of the meeting**

4. The meeting will begin with an opening ceremony on Tuesday 29th March 2016 at 8:30 p.m., with a message the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources of the Government of Mexico, as Outgoing President of the Forum and from a representative of UNEP, which acts as the Secretariat of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.

**I.1. Adoption of the rules of procedure**

5. It is proposed that the Ministers adopt, *mutatis mutandis,* the rules of procedure of the UNEP United Nations Environment Assembly to govern the procedures of the meeting.

**I.2. Election of the Bureau**

6. A proposal is made to the Ministers that, in accordance with the practice established in previous meetings, the Bureau shall be comprised by one Chairperson, seven Vice-Chairs, and one Rapporteur, as per the criteria of geographic representativeness and rotation established by the ministerial meetings.

**I.3. Adoption of the agenda and programme of sessions of the Meeting**

7. Under this item, the Ministers will consider the Provisional Agenda and Annotated Provisional Agenda and the Calendar of Sessions proposed by the Secretariat and will adopt them after incorporating the changes deemed necessary.

**Item II of the Agenda: Results of the meeting of the High-Level Experts of the Twentieth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean**

8. Under this item of the agenda, the Ministers will examine the recommendations of the High-Level Experts, including the elements for the region’s position with regards to the issues to be addressed during the UNEA-2, with a view to adopting them.

9. Under this item of the agenda, the recommendations emanating from the deliberations of the Preparatory Meeting of High-Level Experts, to be held ahead of the Ministerial Segment, are submitted for the consideration of the Forum of Ministers, including contributions towards the Second Session of the UNEA. The Ministers and Heads of Delegation will discuss the content of the draft decisions and will proceed with their adoption. They may also propose the adoption of decisions relative to other items of the agenda.

**Item III of the Agenda: Ministerial Dialogues**

10. Regarding Sustainable Development, the Ministers of Environment of the of Latin America and the Caribbean countries and their representatives will have a dialogue on how to better promote an effective integration of the environmental sustainability dimension when implementing the recently adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Ministers will also have the opportunity to share their national experiences regarding the different pathways adopted towards sustainable development and will discuss ways to accelerate the transformation change that its implementation should generate. The dialogue will also result in the agreement on regional elements to contribute to the dialogue on “Delivering on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda” that will take place during the Second Session of the UNEA.

11. The Dialogue on climate change will seek a regional, high-level dialogue in order to identify the main challenges and opportunities for the countries of the region in order to implement the recently adopted agreements under the UNFCCC. Ministers will also discuss and agree on the main elements of the regional cooperation programme on climate change, including a regional cooperation platform.

12. The Ministerial Dialogue on Biodiversity in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aims providing elements of analysis and share lessons learned, to support informed decision making and enable the development of effective public policies in the region to ensure the conservation, sustainable use of biodiversity and the benefits it provides to human well-being.

13. The Ministers will also have the opportunity to share their views on the main objectives and expected outcomes, as well as the preparatory process, of the 13th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biodiversity, to be held in Cancún, Mexico, in December 2016.

14. The dialogue on Health and Environment will seek to identify the synergies between these two issues and promote the implementation of an integrated approach, in particular but not limited to the chemicals and waste and air quality agendas; as well as identified opportunities to improve regional cooperation on chemicals and waste management, among others. The Ministers and heads of delegation will also have the opportunity to agree on common elements to contribute to the Ministerial dialogue on “Healthy Environment, Healthy People” that will take place during the Second Session of the UNEA.

15. The Ministers and heads of delegation will share their opinions and views on the issues raised by the panellists, in order to draw conclusions that could be incorporated into the ministerial declaration.

**Item IV of the Agenda: Other matters**

16. Matters that have been included under this item upon the adoption of the agenda will be discussed.

**Item V of the Agenda: Review of the Draft Final Report of the Twentieth Meeting and adoption of the Ministerial Declaration**

17. Under this agenda item, the delegations will review the draft Final Report to be submitted by the Rapporteur, including the set of decisions and the draft Ministerial Declaration of the meeting, and will adopt it after incorporating the changes deemed necessary.

**Item VI of the Agenda: Closing of the Twentieth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean**

18. The meeting will end on Thursday 31st March 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

**Annex**

**Calendar of Sessions of the Ministerial Segment**

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| **MINISTERIAL SESSIONS**  **30 March 2016** | |
| 08:00 – 08:30  (30min) | **“PRESS CONFERENCE”** |
| 08:30 – 08:45 | 1. **OPENING OF THE MEETING** |
| (15 min) | * Opening words from Mr. Gabriel Vallejo, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development[[1]](#footnote-1). |
|  | * Words from the Chair of the XIX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers, Rafael Pacchiano, Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico. |
|  | * Words from the UNEP Executive Director, Mr. Achim Steiner |
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| 08:45 - 09:00 | 1. **ORGANIZATION OF WORK** |
| (15 min) | * 1. *Adoption of rules of the meeting.* |
|  | * 1. *Election of the Bureau.* |
|  | * 1. *Adoption of the agenda and programme of sessions of the meeting.* |
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| 09:00 – 10:00  (1 h) | 1. **FOLLOW UP OF THE XIX MEETING OF THE FORUM (MEXICO, 2014) AND REVIEW OF THE DECISIONS OF THE XX MEETING OF THE FORUM OF MINISTERS** |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | *Recess* |
| (30 min)  10:30 – 11:30  (1 h) | **3. FOLLOW UP OF THE XIX MEETING OF THE FORUM (MEXICO, 2014) AND REVIEW OF THE DECISIONS OF THE XX MEETING OF THE FORUM OF MINISTERS (Continuation).** |
| **11:30** | **BEGINNING OF MINISTERIAL DIALOGUES** |
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| 11:35 – 13:30  (2 h) | **SESSION 1: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT** |
| 13:30 – 14:30  (1 h) | ***Lunch*** |
| 14:30 – 15:30  (1 h) | **Side Event “Towards CBD COP-13 –** Organized by the Government of Mexico |
| 15:45 – 17:30  (1 h 45min) | **SESSION 2: BIODIVERSITY IN THE 2030 AGENDA** |
| 17:30 17:45  (15 min) | **Coffee Break** |
| 18:00 – 19:30  (1 h 30min) | **Video: “COLOMBIA MAGIA SALVAJE” (COLOMBIA WILD MAGIC)** |
| 19:45 – 22:00  (2 h 15min) | **Dinner – Marea Restaurant** *(Offered by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development to the Ministers and special guests).* |
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| **MINISTERIAL SESSIONS**  **Thursday 31 March 2016** | | | | |
| 09:00 – 11:30  (2 h 30min) | **SESSION 3: CLIMATE CHANGE**  . | | | |
| 11:30 – 11:45  (15min) | *Recess* | | | |
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| 11:45 – 13:45  (2h) | **SESSION 4: HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT** | | | |
| 13:45 – 14:45  (1h) | *Lunch\** |  | |  |
| 15:00 – 17:30  (2 h 30min) | 1. **REVIEW OF THE DRAFT FINAL REPORT OF THE MEETING AND MINISTERIAL DECLARATION** | |  | |
| 17:30 – 18:00 | ***Coffee Break*** | | | |
| 18:15 – 18:30  (15min) | 1. **OTHER MATTERS.** | | | |
| 18:30 – 18:45  (15min) | 1. **ADOPTION OF THE FINAL REPORT OF THE MEETING AND MINISTERIAL DECLARATION.** | | | |
| 19:30 – 21:00  (3h) | 1. **CLOSURE OF THE MEETING.**   Closing of the event offered at the Terrace of the Convention Centre | | | |
| 18:45 – 19:00 | **\*\*Press\*\*** | | | |

**NOTE: \*Visit to the Colombia National Aviary** (Ministers and special guests)

1. Pending to be confirmed: Participation of the President of the Republic of Colombia, Mr. Juan Manuel Santos. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)