**XX Meeting of the Forum of the Ministries of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean**

28-31 March 2016; Cartagena, Colombia

**Decision 5. Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration**

**Access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters**

**The Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean,**

**Taking into account** paragraph 99 of the document The Future We Want, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and approved by the United Nations General Assembly in its Res 66/288 of 27 July2012, that encourages action at regional, national, subnational and local level, to promote access to information, public participation in decision making and access to justice in environmental matters, as appropriate;

**Recalling** that the UNEP Governing Council adopted in February 2010, the Voluntary Guidelines for the development of national legislation on access to information, public participation in decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Bali Guidelines);

**Recalling** also Resolution 1/13 of the United Nations Environment Assembly, which encourages countries to continue their efforts to strengthen international dialogue and cooperation, technical assistance and capacity-building in support of the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, taking into account relevant advances, instruments, experiences and practices since its adoption and to work for the strengthening of environmental rule of law at the international, regional and national levels;

**Considering** the document *“Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”*, adopted by the Summit of Heads of States and Government on 25 September 2015;

**Also considering** the Declaration on the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted by several countries in the region during the Rio +20 Conference, which launched a regional process that records significant progress and has a growing number of signatory countries;

 **Taking note** of the work done by ECLAC as the Technical Secretariat of the regional Declaration process and the valuable support and active involvement of UNEP, UNITAR and other institutions with presence in our region;

**Noting** the progress being made at the national level to strengthen the rights recognized by Principle 10, and the challenges for its implementation as well as the particular conditions of each country;

**Emphasizing** that broad public participation and access to information and judicial and administrative procedures based on national legislation are essential to promote sustainable development;

**Taking note** of the process of the Declaration for the application of Principle 10 of Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular the establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee with ECLAC as technical Secretary;

**Decide**

1. **To reaffirm** the commitment to work towards achieving full implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

2. **To continue** efforts to strengthen regional dialogue and cooperation, technical assistance and capacity building in support of the construction and implementation of its own regional agenda on the rights of access, considering the advances, tools, experiences and practices in place since the adoption of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including the ongoing intergovernmental negotiation process in which participate the countries of the region that have joined the Declaration A/CONF.216/13 on application of Principle 10.