**XX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean** 28-31 March 2016, Cartagena, Colombia

**Decision 7. Regional Platform on Climate Change**

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

**Recognizing** that Latin America and the Caribbean is a region highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and its population is considerably dependent on the various ecosystems affected by climate change and the basic services and functions these provide.

**Aware** that climate change is a central issue for sustainable development, and that effective responses to this global challenge must be based on a holistic view of the environmental, economic and social dimensions.

**Reaffirming** the importance of sharing information, experiences and best practices on effective action against climate change, and that the region already has a great deal of good practices and experiences that are global examples of climate action and innovation.

**Bearing in mind** that, although several countries in the region have already made significant progress in the implementation of actions for regional and South-South cooperation, there are significant opportunities to delve deeper into the implementation of regional cooperation schemes to fill existing capacity gaps.

**Recalling** the decision of the XIX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Los Cabos, Mexico, which decided to advance in the development of a Regional Cooperation Programme on Climate Change, as a framework for South- South and triangular cooperation.

**Recognizing** the recommendation of the intersessional meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment, Mexico City, November 2015, to revise the Regional Cooperation Programme on Climate Change, in light of the results of the COP-21 and considering the Nationally Determined Contributions, only applicable to those countries that submit them, towards the establishment of a Regional Platform on Climate Change, of voluntary participation.

**Highlighting** the importance of the First Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Ministers of Environment or other national high-level authorities related to climate change of the CELAC member countries and the regional submission of the Common Elements document of the CELAC member countries at COP-21.

**Keeping in mind** the decision of Heads of State at the Second CELAC Summit, to continue working towards the establishment of an environmental agenda based upon the results and regional ongoing actions, while avoiding duplication of efforts and existing structures, in particular the Forum of Environment Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Bearing in mind** the decision of the Heads of State at the Fourth Summit of CELAC, to convene the Second Meeting of Ministers of Environment or other national high-level authorities related to climate change, based on the agreements and commitments reached at the COP 21, in order to progress on the goals set by the region on this matter. The Republic of Nicaragua is not part of the Paris Agreement.

**Decide to**

1. **Establish** a Regional Cooperation Platform on Climate Change for Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be led by the countries of the region participating voluntarily, and will comprise three key priority areas: (1) dialogue and exchange of experiences on climate public policy; (2) climate action, on adaptation, mitigation, and loss and damage; and, (3) financing and other means of implementation, including transfer of climate technologies and capacity building that will promote regional cooperation on climate change.
2. **Resolve** that the key objective of the Regional Platform shall be to strengthen capacities and cooperation in countries of the region, as an essential pillar for taking action to tackle climate change, while taking into consideration particular needs of countries in the region.
3. **Request** the Chair of the Forum, jointly with the Board of the Forum, to develop a draft plan to operationalize the Platform. This draft will be sent to all countries in the region for consideration and eventual approval. To achieve this, the Secretariat and other member agencies of the Interagency Technical Committee are requested to facilitate support. Synergies with other ongoing cooperation initiatives will need to be considered.
4. **Request** the agencies of the Interagency Technical Committee and other relevant institutions, to contribute actively to facilitate the dynamic operation of the Regional Platform, and promote action in the different areas of the Platform in the framework of the priorities defined by the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean.
5. **Ensure** that the implementation of the Regional Platform prioritizes efficiency, coordination and avoids duplication of efforts.
6. **Work** towards mobilizing resources, both national and from international cooperation and other sources, for the implementation of activities within the framework of the Platform promoting equitative access to all countries, so that the proposed objectives are achieved.