

Conclusions of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting Preparatory to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

1. The ministers and representatives of the Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Santiago from 7 to 9 September 2011, salute the organization of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting Preparatory to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

2. *Welcome* the organization of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

3. *Recall* that, pursuant to resolution 64/236 of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the objective of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) is to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assessing progress to date and the remaining gaps in implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and addressing the new and emerging challenges.

4. *Reaffirm* the commitment of the countries of the region to continue to contribute constructively to a successful outcome of Rio+20.

5. *Reaffirm also* the relevance of, as well as their commitment to, the principles and objectives set forth in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Strategy and the World Charter for Nature.

6. *Recognize* the progress made thus far and the gaps still remaining as regards achievement of the goals of sustainable development, which are more pressing in the case of the small island States of the Caribbean.

7. *Note* that some of the barriers to the achievement of sustainable development are the scientific and technological gap, the lack of sufficient financing and the fragmentation in implementation.

8. *Affirm* that to the existing issues for the achievement of sustainable development have been added new and emerging challenges. The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean commit to address these challenges and to adopt decisions at the Rio+20 Conference.

9. *Reiterate* that the objective to be achieved is sustainable development, which should ensure the balance between these three interconnected pillars: social, economic and environmental, while maintaining the fundamental principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and equity.

10. *Affirm* the need for commitments to achieve:

- i. the eradication of extreme poverty,
- ii. a change in patterns of production and consumption, in which the developed countries should play a leading global role,

- iii. effective access to and transfer of safe and appropriate technologies, without conditionalities and on preferential terms for developing countries,
- iv. the promotion of a global intellectual property rights regime that facilitates the transfer of such technologies, in keeping with the commitments undertaken by each country,
- v. full implementation of the right to access to environmental information, participation and justice enshrined in Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration,
- vi. a global institutional framework for sustainable development which is efficient and flexible and ensures the effective integration of its three pillars,
- vii. new, additional, stable and predictable financing for supporting implementation activities in developing countries,
- viii. the fulfilment of mitigation and adaptation commitments in relation to climate change and the building of resilience to its impacts,
- ix. greater South-South cooperation and exchange of successful experiences,
- x. the restoration of harmony with nature,
- xi. better ways of measuring countries' wealth that adequately reflect the three pillars of sustainable development.

11. Reaffirm respect for multiculturalism and for the knowledge and traditional values of the region's indigenous peoples and local and traditional communities.

12. Recognize the importance of the participation and the contribution of civil society to sustainable development, in particular, women, indigenous peoples and local and traditional communities, and encourage all stakeholders to engage more fully with the actions of Governments.

13. Express their firm determination to continue to work towards sustainable development, with the primordial purpose of eradicating poverty and achieving equality in our societies, bearing in mind the particular characteristics of each of the States of the region.

14. Take note of and express our thanks for the proposals presented by Bolivia "Rights of nature"; Colombia and Guatemala "Sustainable development goals" and Cuba "Institutional framework for sustainable development" and submit them for examination and consideration as contributions to the Conference.

15. Thank the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for convening the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting Preparatory to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and for its constant efforts and the support it extends to the countries of the region.