

Decision XXX - XXIII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean

Sustainable Consumption and Production and circular economy

Transforming the finance and economy-wide drivers of unsustainable consumption and production.

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

Reaffirming subparagraph 8) of the UNGA Res/A/75/1, whereby Member States declare that amongst other things “we need to immediately curb greenhouse gas emissions and achieve sustainable consumption and production patterns in line with applicable State commitments to the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This cannot wait”, with developed countries in the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries.

Recalling the commitments adopted in the framework of Agenda 21 at the Earth Summit of Rio de Janeiro in 1992; as well as in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation during the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002; and in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012, which reaffirms that changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production is one of the three overarching objectives and essential requirements for sustainable development, including the Agenda 2030;

Stressing the importance of promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns, in particular, but not exclusively, through the circular economy and other sustainable economic models, and the implementation of the Ten-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns;

Recognizing the range of policies that countries are implementing to move towards sustainable consumption and production patterns, such as resource efficiency, circular economy, sustainable materials and waste management;

Taking into consideration the Fifth United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 11 (UNEP/EA.5/Res.11) on enhancing circular economy as a contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production, which invites Member States to (i) integrate circular economy approaches into national and regional strategies and action plans, including those related to relevant multilateral environmental agreements, taking into account national circumstances

and capacities; (ii) take measures, in cooperation with the private sector, to enhance the design of products, taking into account life-cycle assessments, to favor product lifetime extension, repair, re-use and easier recycling in the context of a circular economy, to contribute to resource efficiency; and (iii) further invites Member States, relevant organizations and networks to cooperate in sharing and discussing best practices regarding relevant product information along value chains in the context of the circular economy, in line with domestic and international law”;

Recognizing the Fifth United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 14 (UNEP/EA.5/Res.14) on End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument which “calls upon all Member States to continue and step up activities, and adopt voluntary measures, to combat plastic pollution, including measures related to sustainable consumption and production, which may include circular economy approaches, and to develop and implement national action plans, while fostering international action and initiatives under national regulatory frameworks, and, on a voluntary basis, to provide statistical information on the environmentally sound management of plastic waste, as appropriate, taking into account national circumstances”;

Stressing the Fifth United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 19 (UNEP/EA.5/Res.5) on Sustainable and resilient infrastructure which “encourages Member States to promote investment in infrastructure that is environmentally, socially and economically sustainable, climate resilient, resource efficient, that prevents ecosystem fragmentation and contributes to sustainable production and consumption patterns, thus contributing to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the objectives of relevant multilateral environmental agreements”;

Recalling the Fifth United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 12 (UNEP/EA.5/Res.12) on Environmental aspects of minerals and metals management which “Encourages Member States, and invites relevant stakeholders along the full life cycle of minerals and metals, from both the public and private sectors, to align their mining practices and their investments in mining with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and with their obligations and decisions under multilateral environmental agreements, as appropriate”;

Recalling the Fifth United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 10 (UNEP/EA.5/Res.10) on The environmental dimension of a sustainable, resilient and inclusive post-COVID-19 recovery which “encourages Member states to strengthen measures to achieve a sustainable, resilient and inclusive global recovery, including, but not limited to, continuing to enhance actions to combat climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and implementing the 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development, taking into account national circumstances with special capacity building in developing countries";

Recalling what was established in the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 31 (A/RES/69/313) of July 2015, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development about "continuing the support of developing countries to strengthen their scientific, technological and innovative capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production, in particular through the implementation of the 10YFP"; and the UNGA Res/A.75.1 that which "calls to ensure sustainable financing and to further enhance transparency, accountability and efficient use of resources";

Acknowledging the progress made on the Decision 2: Sustainable Consumption and Production and circular economy – key drivers for post COVID-19 sustainable recovery of the XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean;

Welcoming the extension by the General Assembly, in its resolution 76/202 of 17 December 2021, of the mandate of the 10-year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns until 2030 and taking note of the new Global Strategy on Sustainable Consumption and Production 2023-2030 that reflects an ambitious and inclusive pathway for systemic and circular approaches to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, in particular SDG 12, and for multilateral and multi-stakeholder cooperation;

Acknowledging that Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) has faced the worst health and economic consequences of the COVID-19 crisis, 32% of the total human losses recorded in the world; despite representing only approximately 8% of the world population (ECLAC, 2021); major GDP contraction (-7%) (IMF, 2021) and loss of 10.6 million jobs (IDB, 2021), emphasis should be placed on the unique opportunity to rethink our economies and to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns;

Acknowledging that unsustainable patterns of consumption and production are a cause of the environmental planetary crises, and that UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy 2022-2025 focuses on responding to these planetary crises, and the fact that addressing these challenges to achieve climate stability, living in harmony with nature and moving towards a pollution-free-planet will require a realignment of our economies and societies towards more sustainable and equitable models.

Decide to

[DR new paragraph: **Ratify and take action** regarding the commitments made at the UN 23 Water Conference, in March of this year 2023, considering that one of the direct impacts of Climate Change is the worsening of droughts and floods, and that the challenge of the water crisis merits an action plan with immediate and measurable measures, ranging from awareness of water saving at all levels: domestic, agri-food, industrial, increased investments for the construction and/or improvement of infrastructure, both for extraction, distribution, sanitation and final disposal, ensuring an increase in the percentage of use of treated water, and measures for the use and conservation of watersheds and aquifers. Therefore, we request the development of an immediate work plan for 2024-2025, which includes all the aspects described above and the inclusion of the budget origin of the funds and compliance indicators that allow us to measure the progress of our region in terms of sustainable water management.]

1. Reaffirm the commitment of the Latin America and the Caribbean region to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with special emphasis on SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth and SDG 12 Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), through the promotion of innovation, sustainable infrastructure, an inclusive and sustainable economy and sustainable consumption and production patterns.

2. Accelerate the regional policies and initiatives addressing the unsustainable consumption and production patterns, which have additional adverse impacts on the environmental crises we face today – climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss and desertification – and affect our well-being.

3. Strengthen the current work of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, building on the lessons learnt, experience, tools and partnerships of the 10YFP and its One Planet Network; and reinforce an approach that prioritizes and offers more emphasis and support to regional, subregional and national priorities and initiatives (as stated in the 10YFP document adopted by the UNGA -A/CONF.216/5), taking into account their respective mandates and legal autonomy, as well as the special needs of developing countries. This can be achieved by implementing the 4 pillars of the new Global Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production 2023–2030,

strengthening the cooperation and synergies with relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), as well as other global and regional initiatives.

4. Acknowledge the high-impact systems, sectors and value chains prioritized by the 10YFP in its global strategy: 1) Food systems and Sustainable Construction and Built environment; 2) Tourism; 3) New high-impact sectors related to products and services, such as electronics and critical minerals, textiles and mobility/transport and plastics, **recognizing** them as relevant to the LAC context as well.

5. Reaffirm the request to UNEP to engage in a dialogue between the countries of the region and financial support actors such as Cooperation Agencies, Regional, and Government Associations as well as to private financial institutions to further develop and enhance cooperation programs on sustainable consumption and production for Latin America and the Caribbean, taking into account, amongst others, the Multi-Annual Financing Framework 2021-2027 of the European Union, as well as the region's priorities and its progress on SCP and circular economy.

6. Encourage countries to mainstream sustainable consumption and production patterns with life cycle approaches and embrace eco-design, innovation, and promote value retention processes which enable to reduce starting at design, reuse, refill, as well as product repair and re-manufacture, and recycle materials within the value chains. These approaches should contribute to the transition towards more sustainable consumption and production patterns, which would result in the minimization of pollution, increase economic resilience and improve people's well-being.

7. Recognize the progress made by the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Coalition on Circular Economy, building a regional vision on circular economy, as well as advancing the discussion on financing for circularity. **Recognize** the role of UNEP as coordinator of the Coalition and its support to resource mobilization for the operationalization of the Regional Coalition on Circular Economy and the implementation of projects in the region. **Welcome** the Coalition's focus work on the following areas and activities to:

- a) Continue strengthening an understanding of the circular economy, focusing on upstream solutions, and its link to sustainable consumption and production.
- b) Support capacity building and the exchange of best practices, advocacy and leadership dialogue.
- c) Promote research, innovation and knowledge development on the opportunities and co-benefits of a circular economy approach, including its potential to create new jobs,

promote innovation in resource efficiency practices and accelerate the adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns.

- d) Support countries and all regional stakeholders, including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), to develop and implement frameworks to advance circular economy, focusing on the six prioritized thematic areas: plastics, electronics, food and agriculture, cities and construction, industrial symbiosis and tourism.
- e) Support the development of tools and indicators to promote and measure the circular economy on a national, regional, and/or sectoral level.
- f) Increase enabling conditions to mobilize and access finance and investment for Circular Economy by governments and the private sector and the financial system, with special emphasis on enterprises and its value chain, including with special emphasis on MSMEs.
- g) Promote recycling systems for recoverable waste within the countries, in such a way as to produce national value, improve the conditions of the recyclers, the processing company, and generate national employment, giving priority to the productive system of MSMEs.
- h) [CR: NEW **Promote** actions aimed at strengthening **and monitoring and monitoring** the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) in order to have a better traceability of products and **waste** entering the national markets]. (pending approval)

8. Applaud the collaborative efforts that led to the launch of the Green Jobs for Youth Pact, a UN initiative between ILO, UNEP and UNICEF, and recognize its role in promoting green [AR ~~green~~ decent]] job growth and sustainable development, in alignment with the 2030 Agenda and the UN Youth Strategy. **Encourage** the expansion of efforts towards policy coherence among relevant actors, aiming to foster a better understanding of the interplay between environmental policies, employment, and education. In this regard, call upon all stakeholders to actively participate in the Green Jobs for Youth Pact, a move that promotes inclusive growth, and advances the youth employment and climate goals of the 2030 Agenda. Place special emphasis on the role of green [AR ~~green~~] jobs development in enhancing social inclusion, gender equality, and the active participation of various groups, including, but not limited to, young women, children, youth, and Indigenous Peoples. (pending approval)

9. Encourage and empower young people's engagement in promoting sustainable consumption and production practices by creating a conducive environment that supports and

enables their involvement to take action. Support the implementation of policies, infrastructure, and initiatives that foster sustainable behaviors among young people. Recognize the diverse perspectives and knowledge held by indigenous peoples, local communities, and youth themselves, and embrace inclusive approaches, models, and instruments that facilitate youth participation.

10. Invite increased efforts and support in developing comprehensive product policy frameworks for consumer information and sustainable public procurement in the region, in direct alignment with SDGs 12.7 and 12.8, as well as targets outlined in the Post-2020 Global Framework on Biodiversity and the Climate Action Pathway on Industry (Consumer Goods), and the results of the ongoing negotiations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. These frameworks should aim to provide transparent and reliable information, preventing greenwashing and empowering all consumers– from individual consumers and industries to governments – to make informed decisions, and guide them towards products and services that align more closely with the principles of circular economy. In order to create a regional sustainable market and to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, further position regional initiatives such as the Environmental Alliance of America - a collaborative effort by Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico and Paraguay, with an open invitation to other countries - to develop a regional eco-label and encourage the harmonization of ecolabelling standards among different nations.

11. Request to the International Resource Panel (IRP) to provide science-based knowledge to inform on the environmental, economic and social co-benefits of resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production as well as circular economy as an important contribution to climate change mitigation, pollution reduction, the sustainable use of biodiversity and the achievement of Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. **Reinforce** the need for promotion and support to greater participation of LAC experts into IRP processes. **Further request** the IRP to make available, including through report to this Forum, regionally relevant science-based knowledge and options which contributes to the science-policy interface and informs the public and private decision-making processes to enable the transition towards sustainable consumption and production patterns, including but not limited to circularity, and inclusive and sustainable growth. **Look forward** to the forthcoming report of the IRP *The Global Resources Outlook 2024*, to be presented at UNEA-6 (and in line with UNEA Resolution 4/1 and 5/11).

12. Call to expand the implementation of sustainable public procurement practices as an important policy to accelerate transition towards more sustainable promote sustainable consumption and production patterns and a circular economy. Recognizing it as an effective means to strengthen eco-labeling initiatives, shape local economies, creating jobs and wellbeing, that generate the lowest possible environmental impacts, being imperative that governments leverage their purchasing power in a strategic manner – in accordance with respective capacities and their national circumstances – consistent with the commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement, as well as the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

13. Recognize the pivotal role of integrating environmental and development considerations in public and private finance design and implementation in transforming the finance and economy-wide drivers of unsustainable consumption and production. **Call for** tools and instruments that can help track, understand and enhance the alignment of budgets with national development, environmental goals and sustainable trade objectives. These tools should help develop comprehensive roadmaps for repurposing environmentally harmful subsidies and assess the optimal mix of economic and financial incentives and taxation to facilitate a sustainable, inclusive and resilient transition. They should also foster an enabling environment to mobilize and scale-up private finance in support of SDGs. Such measures can effectively incentivize economic actors to adopt more sustainable behaviors, and drive the systemic changes needed to transition towards sustainable consumption and production, circular economy and sustainable trade. To that end, the role of international cooperation and initiatives, like the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), must be underscored, as they support these efforts and facilitate knowledge sharing and capacity building in the LAC region.

14. Emphasize the necessity of establishing robust and coherent frameworks for sustainable finance in the region, recognizing that sustainable finance is a key driver for sustainable consumption and production and circular economy. **Call upon** governments, financial regulators and supervisors, central banks, private sector, and financial institutions to work together to incentivize and facilitate investments as well as support public and/or private initiatives that align with the principles of sustainability. **Also call upon** UNEP Finance Initiative – UNEP-FI, international development organizations, multilateral development banks and other relevant bodies to provide technical assistance and capacity building to the region's financial sector, and to promote the exchange of best practices and experiences in sustainable finance at the national, regional and global levels.

15. Recognize the work developed by the LAC Taxonomies Working Group as part of the ITC “The Common Framework of Sustainable Finance Taxonomies for LAC”, a guidance document

that can serve as a voluntary reference to orient LAC member states in developing sustainable finance taxonomies that interoperable across LAC jurisdictions and internationally, and **call to** mainstream its implementation across national authorities that are in the process of or intend to develop sustainable finance taxonomies.

16. Recognize the importance of advancing gender equality at all levels of action, participation, policy formulation and decision making related to sustainable consumption and production practices by strengthening the participation of women and girls.

17. Strengthen the work of the Environmental Training Network to articulate environmental education and training processes into the development of policies and technical-operational tools to generate more responsible citizens and shift towards sustainable development. In addition, to foster synergies and collaboration between the Ministries of Education and Environment, and with other education networks.

18. Request the Secretariat of the Environmental Training Network to develop a Work Plan 2024-2025 to articulate environmental education and training processes in the region, with a focus on strong and coherent environmental education public policies, capacity development in the governments, including local governments, to develop skills for optimal environmental management practices, environmental education indicators, and south-south cooperation as well as to build more partnerships with schools, universities, and other educational institutions. In this sense, the Work Plan must integrate actions to:

- a) Strengthen a common understanding of environmental education and its transformative potential to combat climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss, focusing on support to environmental education units in the region.
- b) Supporting capacity building and the exchange of experiences, knowledge, and dialogue between education focal points and other related networks.
- c) To support countries and environmental education technical staff in the development and implementation of policy frameworks and strategies.
- d) Promote research, and knowledge development on the opportunities and co-benefits of integrating environmental education programs including their potential to improve human-nature relationship, and enhance innovation and solutions toward more sustainable communities.

e) Support the development of environmental education tools and indicators to promote and measure impact at the national, regional, and/or sectoral levels.

f) Increase the conditions for mobilizing and accessing funding and investment in environmental education by governments, and implementation funds, among others.

g) Strengthen dialogue between government, industry and education institutions to promote scientific development and research.

h) Expand the Network to all LAC sub-regions.

19. Request that Secretariat of the Forum and the Regional Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production to develop a Regional Action Plan that promotes the implementation of this Decision, taking into consideration relevant aspects of the Global Strategy for Sustainable Consumption and Production 2023–2030. **Request** the Secretariat of the Forum to promote bi-annual in-person meetings of the Regional Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

20. Call upon cooperation of the Inter-agency Technical Committee (ITC) and other regional and international intergovernmental organizations to support the implementation of this Decision, and further direct engagement with the Regional Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

21. Ratify the members of the Executive Committee of the Regional Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Consumption and Production, for the 2023 – 2025 period, as indicated below:

- Caribbean Subregion: **Barbados and Trinidad & Tobago**
- Mesoamerican Subregion: **Costa Rica**
- Andean Subregion: **Colombia and Peru**
- Southern Cone Subregion: **Brazil and Argentina**

22. Ratify the members of the Steering Committee of the LAC Regional Coalition of Circular Economy for a period of two years (Oct 2023 – Oct 2025) as indicated below:

- **Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Peru, Ecuador and Brazil.**
- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as coordinator.
- And the eight strategic partners: The Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN), the Ellen MacArthur Foundation (EMF), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS), the Platform for Accelerating the Circular Economy

Coalition (PACE), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Economic Forum (WEF) as well as the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

23. Approve the appointment of the President and the Vice-president of the Environmental Training Network, constituted on a voluntary and rotating basis by the host countries of the last and the upcoming Annual Meeting. In this sense,,

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