

Document for the XV Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Second International Meeting of the 10- year framework of Programs on Sustainable Production and Consumption

The drafting committee was integrated by Marlon Pérez (Nicaragua), Victoria Beláustegui (Argentina), Dora Cortijo (Peru), Elena Porras (Mexico), Luciano Ramírez (Panama), Camilla Roopnarine (CEHI) and Diego Masera (UNEP/ROLAC, Secretariat) . The Document was analyzed, read in detail and discussed in a plenary session. This process allowed for a wide analysis and exchange of ideas in a positive and highly participative atmosphere.

The final document is presented below:

Report of the Third Meeting of Government Experts on Sustainable Production and Consumption in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Managua, Nicaragua
August 3-5 2005

Whereas:

The World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg established as one key area of its Plan of Implementation the need to promote a 10- year framework of programs in support of national and regional initiatives to accelerate change towards Sustainable Production and Consumption.

The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean expressed the need to incorporate cleaner production and sustainable consumption practices in the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development presented in Johannesburg in 2002, .

In response to trade liberalization and economic integration trends it has become more relevant the need to work towards addressing the priorities related to trade, environment and market access established in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Summit of the Americas Process.

As a sign of will and engagement, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have held two *Meetings of Government Experts on Sustainable Production and Consumption* in Buenos Aires, Argentina and Managua, Nicaragua respectively. The principal results of these meetings were the creation of the *Regional Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Production and Consumption* and the design of a *Regional Strategy on Sustainable Production and Consumption*, which were presented and approved during the XIV Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. They were also recognized as model actions in the XI Meeting of the Commission for Sustainable Development held in New York, in May 2003 and in the International Meeting of the 10-year framework of Programs on Sustainable Production and Consumption held in Marrakech, in June 2003.

For the continuity of this important process, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of Nicaragua (MARENA), the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP-ROLAC) and the Office for Sustainable Development and

Environment of the Organization of American States (OAS) in collaboration with UNEP-DTIE and UNDESA, organized ***The Third Meeting of Government Experts on Sustainable Production and Consumption in Latin America and the Caribbean***. This meeting took place in the city of Managua, Nicaragua from August 3rd to 5th, 2005.

THE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT EXPERTS ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION, CONVENED IN MANAGUA, NICARAGUA, **RECOMMENDS** TO THE XV FORUM OF MINISTERS OF ENVIRONMENT OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AND TO THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF THE 10 -YEAR FRAMEWORK OF PROGRAMS ON SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

1.- Developing policies, national strategies and action plans for sustainable consumption and production in every country of the region.

2.- Including sustainable consumption and production in the national and regional policies for sustainable development and poverty reduction.

3.- Creating National Consultative Councils on sustainable consumption and production integrated by representatives the private sector, the government, universities, consumer associations and other civil society organizations; as a contribution to participatory development of policies, strategies and plans of action.

4.- Integrating sustainable consumption and production policies, given their cross cutting nature into the policies and agendas of other ministries, in order to reduce environmental impacts, increase competitiveness, reduce poverty, eliminate negative health impacts and achieve sustainable development.

5.- Capitalizing on the experience of countries that have developed and implemented cleaner production (CP) policies in the region, in order to elaborate integrated policies for sustainable consumption and production.

6.- Including in the syllabus for all levels of education (elementary, secondary and higher education) the concepts of sustainable consumption and production in order to achieve a better understanding of these cross cutting concepts and create awareness regarding their importance.

7.- Reinforcing collaboration with sub-regional organizations, such as the Central American Commission of Environment and Development (CCAD), the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) among others, to support and facilitate the adoption of sustainable consumption and production practices among their members.

8.- Designing and implementing a cooperative program among the countries of the region, focused on capacity building, training and technical assistance on sustainable consumption and production building upon the experience and existing knowledge in the region.

9.- Establishing a specific area responsible for sustainable consumption and production within each Ministry of Environment in the region, given that this area integrates several aspects of environmental concern.

10.- Studying, developing and/or adapting the tools and methodologies for sustainable consumption and production to the social, economic and environmental conditions of the region, , such as: eco-design, life cycle analysis and sustainable procurement, among others, in order to guarantee their usefulness and successful implementation.

11.- Including sustainable consumption and production indicators in national statistics.

12.- Involving the private sector, the government, universities, consumer associations and other civil society organizations, in the generation, gathering and exchange of information on sustainable consumption and production.

13.- Reinforcing the capacity of the Ministries of Environment to promote and follow up on the voluntary agreements with private companies, as well as on other tools to promote and improve the environmental management of companies.

14.- Reinforcing the information sources and systems of the Ministries of Environment to include sustainable consumption and production information, and/or establishing specialized information centers on the subject.

15.- Establishing economic incentives and other financial mechanisms to facilitate the implementation and adoption of sustainable consumption and production methodologies, tools and technologies for the productive sector.

16.- Developing and adapting methodologies and instruments for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), in order to improve their competitiveness and environmental performance.

17.- Implementing programs focused on MSMEs based on a sectoral and/or cluster approach to reduce costs and increase the efficiency and scope of sustainable consumption and production initiatives.

18.- Executing pilot projects to develop and evaluate sustainable consumption and production methodologies in the region.

19.- Implementing a recognition system to facilitate access to credit and/or social recognition of the businesses that advance in the implementation of sustainable consumption and production practices.

20.- Developing a regional education and capacity building program on sustainable consumption directed to the youth.

21.- Implementing in the Ministries of Environment of each country of the region, sustainable procurement and environmental public administration programs.

22.- Conducting every six months' working sessions of the Regional Council of Experts for the monitoring and revision of the Regional Strategy, using teleconferences and other communication systems.

23.- Organizing thematic meetings and workshops at the regional and sub-regional level on relevant aspects of sustainable consumption and production.

24.- Modifying the structure of the Council of Experts in order for its Steering Committee to be integrated by a general coordinator selected by the Forum of Ministers, and four sub-regional coordinators, elected annually by the Council members.

25.- Recognizing the technical and financial support of UNEP's Regional Office through its Technology, Industry, and Economics Program in the creation of the Council, the elaboration of the Regional Strategy and monitoring of national actions; and the need to strengthening the technical-financial capacities of the Secretariat of the Council for adequate monitoring and support in the execution of the Regional Strategy and of the national and sub-regional initiatives in the future.

26.- Requesting the Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources of Nicaragua, Minister Carlos Arturo Harding Lacayo, to present to the XV Forum of Ministers of Environment of the Region, the results and the recommendations of the Third Meeting of Government Experts on Sustainable Production and Consumption, for consideration and approval.

27.- Congratulating the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua, through its Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, for the leadership in the theme of sustainable production and consumption and for his support in the conduction of the Third Meeting of the Council of Government Experts on Sustainable Production and Consumption.