



**United Nations Environment Programme  
Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean**

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT

**The Inter-Governmental Network on Air  
Pollution in LAC**

**Panama, Panama City  
25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

**UNEP/LAC-IGNAP/Ref.1  
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**Decision 7 of XVI Forum of Ministers of the Environment of  
Latin America and the Caribbean**

**ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION**

**Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic  
27<sup>th</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> February 2008**

**Recognizing** that the Region has undergone increasing atmospheric pollution of primarily urban origin, affecting public health, productivity and the inhabitants' quality of life;

**Reaffirming** the importance of having reliable information as the basis for accurate appraisal of such impacts and the associated costs;

**Noting** that there is a clear diagnosis of the key factors in the region's urban pollution, namely extensive urban development with serious problems in regulating land use, increasing levels of automobile traffic, population growth, and economic development accompanied by higher energy consumption and erosion of the biogenic factors;

**Recognizing** also the efforts in the Region to control air pollution and establish information systems that contribute to comprehensive management of air quality as a public policy;

**Reaffirming** the importance of pollutant emissions from transport in relation to the total atmospheric emissions, and of making progress in reducing the sulphur content in vehicle fuels, with the aim of cutting the emission of pollutants into the atmosphere and taking advantage of the latest automobile and associated technologies;

**Taking account of** UNEP's participation in the Global Atmospheric Pollution Forum;

**DECIDE:**

**1. To establish** a regional network of authorities tasked with addressing atmospheric pollution, to effect technical exchanges and promote the development of capacities during the period 2008-2009, and evaluate options to reduce the atmospheric pollution, including the articulation of actions relating to the Iberoamerican Network on Atmospheric Pollution, and at the same time, undertakes the coordination of actions together with other regional and subregional initiatives that enable the formulation of joint programmes that are complementary of said actions.

**2. To review** the operation of the network just mentioned at the 17th meeting of the Forum of Environment Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean in 2009, and define the subsequent actions.

**3. To express** its willingness to enhance the public-private dialogue and the roles of all the various sectors involved; to promote commitments and action to promote the reduction of atmospheric pollution, within a regional, sub-regional and national planning framework.

**4. To continue** participating, through the Global Forum on Air Pollution in the activities on exchange of information, the capacity building and to evaluate the appropriate measures to reduce the contamination of the air.