



**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**

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**Decision 8 of XVI Forum of Ministers of the Environment of  
Latin America and the Caribbean**

**BETTER FUELS FOR BETTER AIR QUALITY**

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

**Recalling** the recommendation of representatives of governments and experts at the South American Conference on Sulfur Fuels held in Quito on February 13-14, 2007;

**Considering** that the introduction of cleaner fuels along with policies and programs for more efficient cars harmonized at the regional level is one of the most efficient ways to deal with the problems of urban air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

**Recognizing** that the high content of sulphur in gasoline and diesel increases emissions of pollutants from vehicles, including particulate matter, and affects the proper operation of emission treatment systems, such as, for example, catalytic converters;

**Mindful** that political and technological solutions exist and have proven their effectiveness in many places around the world; however, it is necessary to enhanced financial resources and strengthened technology support to developing countries;

**Noting** the positive experiences in the introduction of clean fuels and vehicles in some cities and countries of the region;

**Recalling** the work to date on clean fuels and vehicles to improve air quality by the UNEP-based Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV), the Pan American Health Organization, the Latin American Initiative for Clean Air (now Clean Air Institute), the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CICAD), the Center for Inter-American Commission for Environment and Development (CICAD) and other regional organizations, their partners and collaborators.

**DECIDE:**

**1. To advocate** improving fuel quality in order to enhance the protection of people's health through cleaner fuels and vehicles with lower-emission technologies, in line with the global goals of the UNEP-based Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV).

**2. To highlight** the successful phase-out of leaded gasoline from the Latin American and Caribbean market and that the application of lessons learned can significantly help reduce the levels of sulfur in fuel.

**3. To recognize and support** the commitments to reduce sulfur content already programmed in several countries in the Region.

**4. To promote** the reduction of Sulfur content in fuels, targeting a goal of 50 parts per million of sulfur with an emphasis on countries with air quality problems in their metropolitan areas.

**5. To stress** that in order to comply with the target of improving the fuels quality and the living conditions it is necessary to take into account the national conditions and to promote access to financial resources and technology transfer.

**6. To include** enhanced fuels and vehicles in the priorities of the Forum of Ministers on matters of Health and Environment.

**7. To enhance** public /private dialogue in order to promote commitments and actions on clean fuels and vehicles and to ensure proper implementation and participation by all the sectors involved.

**8. To request** technical, financial and capability support from the above organizations, their partners and collaborators, especially at country level in Latin America and the Caribbean, to achieve the above desulphurization goals and promote more efficient regulations and improvement of cleaner fuels and cars.