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Regional programme for Latin America and the Caribbean

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Report by the Director-General

Reports on action taken to implement General Conference
resolution GC.11/Res.1.

1. Resolution GC.11/Res.1, adopted by the General Conference at its eleventh session, requested the Director-General to take, in consultation with the Member States of the region, the necessary measures to establish a regional programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) before the thirty-first session of the Board, with a view to its implementation in the biennium 2006-2007. In compliance with that resolution and in close cooperation with the Group of Latin American and Caribbean countries (GRULAC), the Secretariat is developing an operational mechanism for periodical consultations with LAC countries, main stakeholders and partners, which will allow the identification, formulation and updating of regional programmes for the Latin American and Caribbean region.

2. The UNIDO programming strategy for the LAC region is to establish a consensual, sustainable and comprehensive mechanism for identification, formulation, implementation and follow-up of regional technical cooperation activities, including resource mobilization.

3. A joint approach will facilitate the formulation of tailor-made regional programmes and projects in priority areas, in line with the three areas of focus defined in the medium-term programme framework 2006-2009: poverty alleviation through productive activities, trade capacity-building, and environment and energy. In the design of such activities, due attention shall be given to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. The aforementioned consultative mechanism

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foresees yearly expert group meetings, the first of which is scheduled to take place in June/July 2006. Moreover, contacts at the working level between the Secretariat, its field offices and the Permanent Missions of the Member States will be maintained throughout the year.

4. The regional activities will feature partnership and strategic alliances and apply the concept of results-based management. The core competences and resources available in the region provide a solid platform for the establishment of a regional consultative mechanism and for fostering continuous communication leading to improved cooperation between UNIDO and national counterparts in programme monitoring and follow-up. In addition, the intention is to promote and facilitate South-South cooperation in the region through UNIDO, and to take advantage of the Organization's global networks in facilitating the interaction of LAC countries with countries from other regions. In support of the regional programme, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 6 April 2006 between UNIDO and the General Secretariat of the Ibero-American Summit (SEGIB), which represents Latin American countries, Portugal and Spain.

5. Within this context and as a first step towards the implementation of regional technical cooperation activities for the LAC countries, preparations are under way, in close cooperation with SEGIB, for a regional ministerial meeting on renewable energy to be held in Montevideo, Uruguay, in September 2006. This high-level meeting, which will feature a series of round tables and other side events dedicated to the various forms of renewable energy, is expected to spawn concrete national and regional technical cooperation projects designed to support the development of the industrial sector in the region. Furthermore, the implementation of such global forum activities is expected to facilitate the political support required for the identification of necessary financial resources.

Action required of the Board

6. The Board may wish to take note of the information provided in the present document.