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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

Letter dated 24 March 1989 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, with the request that they be distributed as documents of the General Assembly under item 83 of the preliminary list, the letter addressed to you by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, Mr. Diego Cordovez (see annex), and the appendices to that letter concerning the Third Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Parties to the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation, held at Quito on 6-7 March 1989.

(Signed) Juan SALAZAR-SANCISI
Minister
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/44/50/Rev.1.

ANNEX

Letter dated 20 March 1989 from the Minister for Foreign
Affairs of Ecuador addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Chairman of the Third Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Parties to the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation, held at Quito on 6-7 March 1989, and pursuant to a decision taken at the Meeting, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the official texts of the "Declaration of San Francisco de Quito" (appendix I), the Final Act of the Meeting and the resolutions adopted at it (appendices II and III), with the request that they be distributed as documents of the General Assembly under item 83 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Diego CORDOVEZ

APPENDIX I

Declaration of San Francisco de Quito

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela, Bolivia, Brazil and Colombia,

MEETING at Quito on 6-8 March 1989 as the Third Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Parties to the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation,

DESIRING to pursue joint action to expand, strengthen and extend Amazonian co-operation, and realizing that, to achieve the goals of the Treaty, the firm political will of Contracting Parties and international co-operation are essential,

AWARE of the special importance of the Amazonian ecosystems both because of their biodiversity, indigenous character and fragility and because they are one of our countries' most important natural heritages, and convinced of the need to conserve and develop the maintenance of ecosystems and their ecological processes,

BELIEVING that, to achieve the overall development of the Amazonian territories and the well-being of their populations, States parties must maintain a balance between economic growth and environmental conservation, both of which are responsibilities inherent in the sovereignty of States parties to the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation,

CONVINCED that co-operation for the harmonious development of Amazonia will help resolve the profound economic crisis confronting States parties,

AWARE that States parties must establish joint environmental protection policies which involve the rational use of resources and prevent pollution and other environmental damage with a view to preserving soil, flora, fauna, water resources, climatic conditions and, in general, all natural resources,

CONVINCED of the need to maintain close co-operation in scientific and technological research in order to create conditions for the conservation and sustainable development of Amazonia;

BASING themselves on the principles, purposes and provisions of the Treaty and on the spirit of the Declarations of Belem and Santiago de Cali, and recognizing the essential contribution of the corresponding seminars, technical meetings and special commissions,

AGREE to adopt the following:

DECLARATION

I. Evaluation of the progress of Amazonian co-operation

The Ministers:

REAFFIRM the political determination of their respective Governments to lend renewed, effective impetus to the process of Amazonian co-operation;

DECIDE to take action to strengthen the institutional structure of the Treaty by instructing the Secretariat pro tempore to convene an ad hoc working group of States parties to the Treaty which, together with the Secretariat, would be responsible for drafting and presenting the following to the next meeting of the Amazonian Co-operation Council:

1. Draft rules governing the functions of the Secretariat, including its management and project promotion functions;
2. Measures for the institutional strengthening of the Secretariat;
3. Mechanisms for obtaining external resources from international co-operation agencies;
4. A study on the appropriateness of setting up a permanent Secretariat of the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation;
5. A study on the appropriateness of setting up an Amazonia Financing Fund or similar body;

CONGRATULATE the Secretariat pro tempore, the functions of which are currently being performed by the Republic of Colombia, and acknowledge the efficient work done thus far;

REQUEST the Government of Ecuador to ensure that the project evaluation seminar scheduled for mid-1989 pursuant to Decision 12 of the Third Meeting of the Amazonian Co-operation Council includes in its work the definition of priorities and the identification of sources of funding for multilateral projects under the Treaty, in order to comply with decision 11 of that Meeting; the aforesaid seminar must culminate with the submission of a definite proposal to the Amazonian Co-operation Council;

WELCOME with satisfaction the readiness of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as expressed by its Director for Latin America, to provide technical co-operation in support of priority Amazonian programmes and projects, and urge UNDP to step up its action to provide technical and financial support to the Amazonian co-operation projects being implemented under the Treaty;

EXPRESS their satisfaction at the offer by the Inter-American Development Bank to provide technical and financial co-operation for the execution of projects under the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation, and urge other international agencies to lend their support for the same purpose;

EMPHASIZE the vital importance of existing bilateral Amazonian co-operation agreements and mechanisms between States parties, which reflect Governments' political determination to promote Amazonian development in a dynamic and effective manner; in that connection recognize the significant progress made in such processes, which reinforce the implementation of the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation, and point to the appropriateness of encouraging and helping strengthen these mechanisms by providing solidarity and support to efforts to obtain financial resources and technical assistance for the execution of programmes and projects approved under such bilateral arrangements.

AGREE that the Amazonian Co-operation Council should undertake a review aimed at proposing guidelines for a preferential system for investments which, while giving due consideration to existing treaties, national priorities and the need for environmental conservation and the protection of native populations, would provide a stable, promotional framework for channelling investment flows to projects located in the Amazon region.

II. Environmental policy

The Ministers:

RECOGNIZE that States parties are increasingly concerned about environmental conservation in Amazonia, realizing that the development of the region must be conducted in such a way that the environment in general and natural resources in particular are used in a rational, sustainable manner that helps to raise the standard of living of present populations while respecting the right of future generations to enjoy those assets;

REITERATE their responsibility and permanent political readiness to promote the proper use and protection of the natural and cultural heritage of each country's Amazonian territory, respecting the rights of the populations living there;

REITERATE the declaration made in article IV of the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation and therefore reject any outside interference in the policies and actions undertaken in Amazonia by States parties to the Treaty;

CONFIRM the importance of genetic and biotic conservation, the maintenance of ecosystems and their biodiversity, the rational sustainable use of natural resources, and the promotion and development of the socio-economic organization of the populations of the Amazon while respecting their cultural identity, all of the above in accordance with the policies established by each Amazonian country;

DRAW ATTENTION to the need to expand and promote co-operation in co-ordinating the implementation of environmental policies for the benefit of present and future generations;

EMPHASIZE the importance of undertaking joint action to obtain equitable, mutually beneficial results within a context of environmental protection and the conservation and rational use of the resources of Amazonia;

POINT OUT that the phenomenon of the cultivation, processing and trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances is impeding the socio-economic development of the Amazonian countries and jeopardizing the environment and the ecological balance, and decide to step up joint action to evaluate the impact of that phenomenon, ecological control measures and environmental contingency plans in order to co-operate in solving the problems created by this scourge;

DECIDE to set up an Amazonia Special Environmental Commission to ensure that, in the exercise of each State's inherent right to sovereignty over its Amazonian areas, the following, inter alia, are achieved: promotion of environmental research to determine present and potential natural risks in the region; prevention of the deterioration of Amazonian natural resources, particularly deforestation and soil degradation; study of common methodologies for evaluating environmental impact; preparation of programmes and projects; examination of offers of co-operation in areas relating to the environment; and analysis of possible harmonization of environmental laws;

AGREE to emphasize the need to promote, through the Environmental Commission, preparation of an inventory of natural resources and analysis of the structure, function and dynamic of ecosystems in order to help ensure the sustainable development of the Amazonian Basin in accordance with the recommendations of the technical meetings held within the framework of the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation.

III. Co-operation concerning indigenous affairs in Amazonia

The Ministers:

ADOPT the conclusions and recommendations of the first seminar on Amazonia indigenous affairs, held from 25 to 28 October 1988 at Bogota;

SET UP the Amazonia Special Commission on Indigenous Affairs to promote general co-operation on indigenous issues among the Amazonian countries; promote reinforcement of the ethnic identity and conservation of the cultural and historical heritage of Amazonia's indigenous populations; encourage exchanges of information to ensure greater familiarity with and among the region's indigenous populations; ensure effective participation by each country's Amazonian indigenous populations in all phases of the characterization of indigenous affairs and in any kind of project affecting or including them; promote development programmes which respond to the real aspirations and needs of Amazonia's indigenous populations; develop joint research programmes in areas connected with the indigenous populations of the Amazonian region; co-ordinate with the other special commissions set up under the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation in dealing with aspects related to indigenous populations; and ensure that the knowledge of which indigenous populations are the repositories incorporated into regional development programmes. In performing its tasks, the Commission will show strict respect for the sovereign rights and interests of each State.

IV. Health

The Ministers:

WELCOME the establishment of the Amazonia Special Health Commission (CESAM) and the conclusions and recommendations of its first meeting held at Bogota from 8 to 10 November 1988;

AGREE to promote bilateral programmes, with international co-operation, in the priority areas agreed to at the first meeting of the Amazonia Special Health Commission (CESAM);

AGREE on the following priority areas: maternal and child health, environmental health, endemic diseases, basic medicines, critical inputs and traditional medicine, development and organisation of health services, and natural disasters with emphasis on man-made floods and ecological disasters;

NOTE with satisfaction the agreement to hold a seminar at the city of Manaus in July 1989 on the following:

1. Experience of the Brazil-Colombia bilateral agreement so that other States parties to the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation can benefit from that experience and so that it can be used for preparing actual projects;

2. Analysis of the health sector in each State party to the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation in order to comply with the work plan and timetable of meetings of the Amazonia Special Health Commission (CESAM) adopted at Bogota;

3. Mechanisms for exchanging epidemiological data and procedures for exchanging health information, with emphasis on priority areas;

4. Operational viability of local health systems (SILOS) in border areas;

INSTRUCT the Secretariat pro tempore to take all necessary steps, in association with the executive secretariat of CESAM, for the holding of the above seminar.

V. Science and technology

The Ministers:

WELCOME the establishment of the Special Commission on Science and Technology (CECTA) and the action taken by it;

AGREE to support the resolutions adopted at the first meeting of the Amazonia Special Commission on Science and Technology, held at Bogota from 20 to 23 February 1989;

REITERATE their support for the Amazon botanical project, in accordance with the guidelines set forth at the Third Meeting of the Amazonian Co-operation

Council, and urge the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to give the project the priority and financial resources it needs to carry out all its activities and to help mobilize additional resources;

AGREE to instruct the Special Commission on Science and Technology (CECTA) to promote the "basic geographical map" and "domestication of promising Amazonian crops" projects in accordance with production systems in the region;

AGREE to promote the creation or strengthening of Amazon research agencies in States parties and to help them co-ordinate their activities;

AGREE to instruct the Special Commission on Science and Technology to establish the operational mechanisms of a system for the exchange of scientific and technological information for the Amazonian region, and urge States parties to report, through the executive secretariat of CECTA, on their scientific and technological development programmes for Amazonia;

ENDORSE the conclusions and recommendations of the first meeting on the water balance of the Amazonian region, held at Manaus in August 1988;

AGREE to instruct the Special Commission on Science and Technology (CECTA) and the Amazonia Special Health Commission (CESAM) to study and determine the feasibility of setting up an Amazonian research and technological development programme on oil palms and related diseases, especially Spearrot's syndrome, given the economic and public health importance of the issue.

VI. Agencies for the development of the Amazonian region

The Ministers:

EMPHASIZE the importance of the conclusions and recommendations of the first international meeting of Amazonian development agencies, held at Trinidad, Bolivia, from 19 to 21 February 1986;

RECOGNIZE the broad opportunities that exist for co-operation in strengthening the management of national Amazonian development agencies, especially for exchanges of information and improved use of skilled human and technical resources, and instruct the Amazonian Co-operation Council, through the Secretariat pro tempore, to promote participation by the above agencies and to prepare a second meeting.

VII. Trade and transport

The Ministers:

AGREE to co-ordinate the activities of the competent agencies of States parties with a view to promoting the development of trade throughout the Amazonian region, identifying the technical and legal requirements for facilitating trade in goods and services and promoting the development of transport infrastructures in the region by using multimodal systems;

DECIDE to seek the co-operation of international agencies, in particular the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA), in carrying out the necessary studies, and to instruct the Secretariat pro tempore to take the corresponding steps to that end;

EMPHASIZE the fundamental importance of river navigation as a factor for regional integration and development, taking into account the vast distances involved in the Amazonian region, and likewise emphasize the need for joint efforts to develop other forms of transport with a view to facilitating integration of the Amazonian areas into their national economies and integration among States parties;

EMPHASIZE the importance of the technical meeting to be held in May 1989 at Bogota to review the draft multilateral rules governing free commercial navigation on international Amazonian rivers, taking into account article III of the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation and the possibilities for multilateral co-operation in road and multimodal transport in the Amazonian territories; in this connection, thank the Brazilian delegation for offering to host a meeting of ministers responsible for that area;

REITERATE the support expressed by the Second Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Parties to the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation for the projected union of the Orinoco, Amazon and River Plate basins, and strongly urge the continuation of studies, including environmental feasibility studies, and consultations among Governments with a view to implementing this important continental integration project.

VIII. Telecommunications

The Ministers:

REITERATE the need to increase multilateral technical co-operation for the standardization and improvement of telecommunications systems among Amazonian countries;

WELCOME the recommendations of the seminar on technological alternatives for telecommunications in the Amazon region, held at Brasilia, São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro from 28 September to 2 October 1987.

IX. Tourism

The Ministers:

AGREE to set up, with the assistance of the competent national agencies of States parties, appropriate co-operation mechanisms for the planning and development of the infrastructure needed to promote tourism in the region, given the great tourist potential offered by Amazonia's tremendous natural wealth, which must be managed very carefully;

RECOMMEND that tourism plans and projects should respect the interests of local populations and the value of the cultural heritage of traditional communities

and the environment, by encouraging selective tourism in areas where the ecosystem is especially fragile.

X. Multinational project for Amazonian co-operation and inventory of natural resources

The Ministers:

COMMEND the obvious efforts of the Organization of American States which through its Department of Regional Development and the multinational project for Amazonian co-operation, since 1984 has been providing support in the form of effective technical and financial assistance to many activities deriving from the purposes and objectives of the Treaty;

RECOMMEND to States parties that they instruct their delegations to the Organization of American States to support the activities of the multinational project for Amazonian co-operation and the action to be taken by the Amazonian Co-operation Council and the Secretariat pro tempore to ensure that the Organization channels the resources needed to participate in States parties' efforts to make an inventory of natural resources and harmonize their research methodologies; to exchange and disseminate the results of their research on natural resources and socio-economic aspects; to establish and co-ordinate a system for monitoring the process of land occupancy and use and the management of natural forests; to continue the analysis of the surface water balance of the Amazonian region in successive stages which take into account available information and the operational capacity of competent national institutions, seeking to attain a level and degree of accuracy on which to base decisions for the sustainable development of the region; to adopt criteria and policies for the environmental management of the Amazon region; and to co-ordinate and support a mechanism for horizontal co-operation;

DECIDE to request agencies of the United Nations system, in particular UNDP and UNEP, and other regional and subregional agencies to set up multinational projects for Amazonian co-operation, similar to those of the Organization of American States, to support whatever action States parties to the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation consider beneficial to the objectives of the Treaty.

XI. Co-operation among the universities of the Amazonian countries

The Ministers:

RECOGNIZE the importance of the Association of Amazonian Universities (UNAMAZ), which has made it possible to increase contacts among the region's higher education centres with a view to promoting scientific research, technological development and human resources training to help find solutions to the economic, social, ecological, educational and cultural problems of Amazonia;

AFFIRM the need to promote greater integration of the programmes and activities of the Association of Amazonian Universities (UNAMAZ) in the context of the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation and in conformity with its purposes and principles;

AGREE to encourage, within the framework of the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation, the implementation of the Inter-university Programme for Amazonian Co-operation (PROGRAMAZ) and to ensure, through the Secretariat pro tempore, that both national and international financial resources are obtained;

SUGGEST that the programmes of the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation should consider the appropriateness of obtaining technical assistance and possible project execution from the Association of Amazonian Universities (UNAMAZ);

URGE States parties to the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation to participate actively in seminars organized by the Association of Amazonian Universities (UNAMAZ);

WELCOME with satisfaction the offer made by the Government of Bolivia to host the Fourth Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Parties to the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation at the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, and accept that offer unanimously.

DONE at the city of Quito on 7 March 1989, in copies in the Spanish, English and Portuguese languages.

For the Government of Ecuador:
(Signed) Diego Cordovez
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Guyana:
(Signed) Rashleigh Esmond Jackson
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Peru:
(Signed) Guillermo Larco Cox
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Suriname:
(Signed) Edwin Johan Sedoc
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Venezuela:
(Signed) Enrique Tejera París
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Bolivia:
(Signed) Carlos González Weise
Under-Secretary for Integration,
Latin American and Caribbean
Affairs

For the Government of Brazil:
(Signed) Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Colombia:
(Signed) Julio Londoño Paredes
Minister for Foreign Affairs

APPENDIX II

RESOLUTION

OF THE THIRD MEETING OF MINISTERS FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE STATES
PARTIES TO THE TREATY FOR AMAZONIAN CO-OPERATION SETTING UP A
SPECIAL COMMISSION ON INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

The Third Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of States Parties to the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation,

CONSIDERING the need to achieve the economic and social development of the human resources of Amazonia in accordance with article XI of the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation,

HAVING REGARD to the fact that the States parties to the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation have seen fit to pay particular attention to indigenous populations, and having regard to article XIV of the Treaty and paragraph 3 of the Declaration of Belem of 1980,

CONSIDERING that on the occasion of the first seminar on Amazonia indigenous affairs, held at the initiative of Colombia on 25-27 October 1988, it was recommended that the Third Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States Parties to the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation should consider creating a mechanism for dealing with the region's indigenous affairs,

WHEREAS article XXIV of the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation allows the Contracting Parties to set up special commissions to study specific problems or matters,

HEREBY RESOLVES:

To set up the Amazonia Special Commission on Indigenous Affairs, which shall be entrusted with the following tasks:

(a) Promoting general co-operation on indigenous issues among the Amazonian countries;

(b) Promoting reinforcement of the ethnic identity and preservation of the historical and cultural heritage of Amazonia's indigenous populations;

(c) Encouraging exchanges of information among the various agencies, institutes and/or institutions in each Amazonian country entrusted with formulating and implementing national indigenous policies, to ensure greater familiarity with and among the region's indigenous populations, and experiences with and the implementation of welfare programmes aimed at those populations, while ensuring absolute respect for national sovereignty;

(d) Ensuring effective participation by each Amazonian country's indigenous populations in all phases of the characterization of indigenous affairs, the planning of action for their normal development and the execution of any kind of programme affecting or including them;

(e) Promoting development programmes which respond to the real aspirations and needs of Amazonia's indigenous populations and encouraging policies which guarantee the direct participation of indigenous groups in the orientation of such programmes;

(f) Studying and suggesting topics of joint regional and subregional interest to increase co-operation among the Amazonian countries in indigenous matters;

(g) Seeking co-ordination mechanisms to promote and execute joint plans and programmes in such fields as environmental conservation, revival and development of indigenous technologies, health, education, community development, etc.;

(h) Promoting programmes of technical co-operation between the different countries and specialized international agencies, to permit more effective development of indigenous policies;

(i) Developing joint ethnographic, anthropological, linguistic and other research programmes connected with the indigenous populations of the Amazonian region;

(j) Co-ordinating with the other special commissions set up under the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation in dealing with aspects related to indigenous populations;

(k) Proposing to States parties to the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation the identification of mechanisms that will make it possible to legitimize the historical means of communication and cultural and commercial exchanges maintained by Amazonian indigenous populations;

(l) Creating a data base on indigenous systems of natural resources management to back up the efforts being made in this area by States parties to the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation;

(m) Promoting incorporation of the knowledge of which indigenous populations are the repositories into regional development programmes;

(n) Instructing the Secretariat pro tempore to consider alternatives for obtaining financial resources and technical co-operation for projects undertaken by States parties to the Treaty, and for performing the tasks entrusted to it;

(o) Drafting rules for the Commission and submitting them to the next meeting of the Amazonian Co-operation Council for approval.

To achieve the objectives set forth in this resolution, the States parties to the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation shall ensure that sectors directly involved in conducting the respective indigenous programmes of the various Amazonian countries participate in the Commission.

DONE at the city of Quito on 7 March 1989, in copies in the Spanish, English and Portuguese languages.

For the Government of Ecuador:
(Signed) Diego Cordovez
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Guyana:
(Signed) Rashleigh Esmond Jackson
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Peru:
(Signed) Guillermo Larco Cox
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Suriname:
(Signed) Edwin Johan Seooc
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Venezuela:
(Signed) Enrique Tejera París
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Bolivia:
(Signed) Carlos González Weise
Under-Secretary for Integration,
Latin American and Caribbean
Affairs

For the Government of Brazil:
(Signed) Paulo Tarso Flecha de Lima
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Colombia:
(Signed) Julio Londoño Paredes
Minister for Foreign Affairs

APPENDIX III

RESOLUTION

OF THE THIRD MEETING OF MINISTERS FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE
STATES PARTIES TO THE TREATY FOR AMAZONIAN CO-OPERATION
SETTING UP A SPECIAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

WHEREAS the Declaration of Belem of 1980:

- Reiterates the fundamental concern for environmental problems which gave rise to the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation;
- Reiterates that, in order to achieve the overall development of the Amazonian territories and the well-being of their populations, States parties must maintain a balance between economic growth and environmental conservation, both of which are responsibilities inherent in the sovereignty of the States parties to the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation;
- Therefore reaffirms the need to ensure continuity of the joint efforts being made under the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation in the area of environmental conservation in Amazonia;
- Reiterates the need to use the regions flora and fauna in a rational, planned manner in order to maintain an ecological balance and preserve species;
- States that development of economic potential and protection of the environment are complementary objectives which indivisibly promote and reinforce one another; and
- Emphasizes that scientific research will provide safe guidelines for the drafting of economic and social development and environmental conservation policies;

RECOGNIZING:

That States parties are increasingly concerned about environmental protection in Amazonia, realizing that the actual development of the region must be conducted in such a way that natural resources are used in a rational, sustainable manner that helps to raise the standard of living of present populations while respecting the right of future generations to enjoy these assets;

REITERATES:

The need to expand and promote co-operation in co-ordinating the implementation of environmental policies and to show, by means of joint action, their political readiness to reaffirm the responsibility of States parties to the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation to make proper use of and protect this important natural and cultural heritage;

RESOLVES:

To set up, in conformity with article XXIV of the Treaty, the Amazonia Special Environmental Commission as a permanent mechanism for promoting environmental conservation in the region and entrusted with, inter alia, the following tasks:

- (a) Studying and proposing, in the light of the principles of the Treaty for Amazonian Co-operation, joint environmental management actions and measures conducive to the implementation of projects for the sustainable development of resources in Amazonia;
- (b) Defining and promoting studies and research consistent with its goals and with the priorities set by the Council;
- (c) Considering the standardization and/or co-ordination of methodologies for evaluating environmental impact;
- (d) Considering the possibility of drawing up joint programmes in this area;
- (e) Instructing the Secretariat pro tempore to consider alternatives for obtaining financial resources and technical co-operation for joint projects undertaken by States parties to the Treaty, and for performing the tasks entrusted to it;
- (f) Analysing the possible harmonization of environmental laws in the region; and
- (g) Exchanging information on national programmes for environmental protection in the Amazonian region.

DONE at the city of Quito on 7 March 1989, in copies in the Spanish, English and Portuguese languages.

For the Government of Ecuador:
(Signed) Diego Cordovez
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Guyana:
(Signed) Rashleigh Esmond Jackson
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Peru:
(Signed) Guillermo Larco Cox
Minister for Foreign Affairs

For the Government of Suriname:
(Signed) Edwin Johan Sedoc
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