

2025 CEC Ministerial Statement

Thirty-second Regular Council Session of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation

North American Environment Ministers Reaffirm Commitment to Strengthen Environmental Cooperation

Mexico City, Mexico, 25 July 2025—Within the framework of the trade agreement between the United Mexican States, the United States of America, and Canada (USMCA) and the Environmental Cooperation Agreement (ECA), we, Secretary Alicia Bárcena of Mexico's Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources (Semarnat), Michael Bonser, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada and the United States Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin, as members of the Council of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), met in Mexico City on the occasion of the 2025 annual Regular Session, under the theme "Nexus Between Circular Economy and Nature-based Solutions in North America."

- **Recognizing** that over the past three decades, the CEC has become the trilateral platform for cooperation, collaboration and exchange between governments and their communities, individuals, civil society organizations and the private sector on environmental issues;
- **Also recognizing** that the region's natural resources must be responsibly conserved and effectively managed to achieve environmental protection and economic development;
- **Taking into account** that sound environmental policies that encourage responsible, conservation efforts are essential for achieving higher levels of well-being and development for our countries;
- **And further recognizing** that a healthy environment is integral to prosperous economies.

The members of the CEC Council agreed to:

1. **Promote** approaches to conservation and recycling in the region through the trilateral project "WaterWISE: Integrated Water/Wastewater Solutions for Effectiveness," aimed at developing strategies for the decentralized wastewater treatment, in order to treat water based on quality standards.

2. **Launch** the eighth cycle of the North American Partnership for Environmental Community Action (NAPECA), under the theme “Community-based Circular Economy Strategies to Improve Local Well-being and the Environment,” to promote conservation and recycling.
3. **Initiate** the five-year review of the Environmental Cooperation Agreement with the goals of improving the effectiveness of the CEC.
4. **Ensure** the Submission of Enforcement Matters (SEM) process continues to promote transparency, efficiency and accountability among the Parties and upholds the principles of objectivity, neutrality and impartiality.
5. **Develop** a 2026–2030 Strategic Plan to modernize and enhance the effectiveness of our regional cooperation initiatives, ensuring a greater, measurable positive impact for our communities.
6. **Continue strengthening** environmental information systems, as well as joint monitoring systems and the generation of open, reliable and comparable data on the state of the environment in North America.
7. **Facilitate** the participation of Indigenous Peoples, civil society, academia, youth, the private sector and communities of North America in CEC activities.
8. **Promote** greater awareness of shared environmental challenges and identify collaborative solutions.
9. **Continue fostering** collaborative work to support institutional and community capacity-building across North America.

APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL:

Michael Bonser

Government of Canada

Alicia Isabel Adriana Bárcena Ibarra

Government of the United Mexican States

Lee Zeldin

Government of the United States of America