

**General Assembly**

Distr.: General
12 February 2003
English
Original: Spanish

Fifty-seventh session

Agenda item 87 (b)

**Environment and sustainable development: International
Strategy for Disaster Reduction****Letter dated 5 February 2003 from the Permanent
Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to refer to item 87 (b) of the agenda of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

In this connection, I am pleased to inform you that a meeting of the sponsors of and participants in the International Research Center on El Niño was held on 9 and 10 January 2003 in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

The meeting was chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization and the Secretary of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and was attended by representatives of 28 States and 18 international and regional organizations.

The Constitution of the International Research Center on El Niño (see annex) was signed at the meeting.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as documents of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Luis **Gallegos Chiriboga**
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 5 February 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Constitution of the International Research Center on El Niño

[Original: English and Spanish]
