

(UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION)

**MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF
ECUADOR AND THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION (WMO)**

Creation of Special Trust Agreement Funds Within the WMO Accounts, for
"Creation, Operation and Development of the International Research Center for
the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Phenomenon - IRCEN'

RECALLING THAT the United Nations General Assembly by resolutions 52/200, as of December 18, 1997; 53/185, as of December, 15 1998; and 54/220, as of December 22, 1999; and the Economic and Social Council resolutions 1998/46, as of July 28, 1998; 1999/63, as of July 30, 1999, and 2000/33, as of July 28, 2000, recommended to carry on actions to facilitate the establishment of the International Research Center for the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Phenomenon – IRCEN;

CONSIDERING THAT the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Government of the Republic of Ecuador, through the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology, have maintained a beneficial relationship of Institutional Cooperation in the areas of atmospheric weather, climate, water and environmental resources, by means of various technical cooperation activities;

CONSIDERING THAT the WMO is a United Nations agency specialized in Meteorology, Operational Hydrology and related Sciences, the main purposes of which are (i) to coordinate the activities of their Members in the generation and exchange of information on weather, water and climate, according to international research standards at national, international and world-wide level; and in the training of professionals according to internationally recognized standards, and (ii) to facilitate the development of services in order to improve the well-being and security of communities, nations and humanity as a whole;

CONSIDERING THAT the Government of Ecuador has offered to host the creation of the International Research Center for the El Niño Southern Oscillation Phenomenon, establishing as its headquarters the City of Guayaquil, with the initial participation of the following national entities: National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology, Oceanographic Institute of the Navy, National Institute of Fishery, University of Guayaquil, Higher School of Polytechnics of the Coast, and the Catholic University of Santiago de Guayaquil;

CONSIDERING THAT the WMO has recognized the urgent necessity of carrying out a feasibility study, organizing a mission from January 28 to February 7, 1999 to execute that task. That Feasibility Study describes the scientific and organizational context, scope and functions of the Center, its possible headquarters, necessary staff and equipment, as well as the probable costs arising for both the host country and the international community;

CONSIDERING THAT the interest of both the international and national scientific communities, as well as the Government of Ecuador, in facilitating the realization of activities that allow to carry out studies to issue early warnings before the Events of El Niño/Southern Oscillation and La Niña make themselves manifest, in order to reduce their future impacts;