

Second meeting of the Conference of the Parties  
to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information,  
Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters  
in Latin America and the Caribbean

Extraordinary meeting

Buenos Aires, 19–21 April 2023

## BUENOS AIRES DECLARATION

*We, the Parties, gathered in Buenos Aires from 19 to 21 April 2023 on the occasion of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement), held as an extraordinary meeting,*

1. *Underscore* once again the contribution of the rights of access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters to promoting human rights and sustainable development;
2. *Recognize* the critical role played by the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance in promoting implementation of the Escazú Agreement and supporting Parties in that regard;
3. *Thank* those who participated in the process to elect members of the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance, particularly those that presented applications, and congratulate those elected;
4. *Express appreciation* for the efficient process of electing the first members of the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance, and for the productive outcome of the process, and look forward to the members taking office as soon as possible;
5. *Note* that the Committee promptly starting its work will be a vital step towards effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement and will enable Parties to receive specific support in that regard, in accordance with their needs and circumstances;

6. *Acknowledge* that it is a major challenge to form and inaugurate the Committee with creative and balanced working methods that enable it to fulfil its purposes as stipulated in the Agreement, with significant participation by the public and the Parties, as appropriate, on the basis of an open, transparent and constructive process, in accordance with the rules relating to the structure and functions of the Committee;

7. *Reiterate* the need for adequate support for implementation of the Agreement, including for the work of the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance, and applaud the launch of the Voluntary Fund with contributions from Mexico, the announcement of a contribution from Chile and other future contributions;

8. *Commend* and express gratitude for the efforts of Parties that have begun to implement the Escazú Agreement, welcome the implementation guide of the Agreement prepared by the Secretariat<sup>1</sup> and call for continued strengthening of technical and financial international cooperation, both bilateral and multilateral, to build national capacities to that end;

9. *Celebrate* the convening of the First Annual Forum on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean in Quito, Ecuador, on 22 and 23 November 2022, welcome the offer of Panama to host the Second Annual Forum in September 2023 and encourage the ad hoc working group to continue making progress in the drafting of the action plan to be presented at the next Conference of the Parties;

10. *Pledge* to continue working to make progress on the topics to be addressed at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held as an ordinary meeting at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, Chile, from 22 to 24 April 2024;

11. *Thank* the Presiding Officers who have steered the process of electing members to the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance and the process leading to the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for its support in its capacity as Secretariat of the Escazú Agreement, and all the delegations for their dedication and commitment;

12. *Also thank* the public and representatives recently elected through the regional public mechanism, for their significant participation and contributions;

13. *Further thank* the experts and regional and international organizations and other important stakeholders that participated in this extraordinary meeting;

14. *Congratulate* Belize, Chile and Grenada for depositing their instruments of ratification or accession, as applicable, with the Secretary-General of the United Nations and encourage all signatory countries and non-signatory countries to become Parties to the Escazú Agreement as soon as possible;

15. *Express gratitude* to the Government and people of Argentina for organizing the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

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<sup>1</sup> LC/TS.2021/221/Rev.2.