

**Parliamentarians for Global Action**  
**COP2 to the Escazú Agreement Side Event**  
**19<sup>th</sup> April (9am-11:30am, Buenos Aires local time)**  
**Post-event Summary**

**Event title:** Empowering Parliamentarians as Champions for the Escazú Agreement

**Date:** Wednesday, 19 April 2023 | 9am – 11:30am (Buenos Aires local time, -3 GMT)

**Venue:** Zoom Webinar with YouTube livestream ([recording of YouTube available here](#))

**Language:** English/Spanish interpretation

On Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023, Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), in collaboration with Fundación Sustentabilidad Sin Fronteras and Uno.Cinco, hosted the official side event to the Second meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP2) to the Escazú Agreement: *Empowering Parliamentarians as Champions for the Escazú Agreement*.

Following welcoming remarks by the Chair, **Hon. Valerie Woods, MP (Belize)**, *Speaker of the House of Representatives and PGA Board Member and Convenor of the [PGA Climate Action Campaign](#)*, **Ms. Micaela Tomasoni**, Education and Awareness Programs Manager at Sustentabilidad sin Fronteras, underscored the importance of increased cooperation throughout Latin America and the Caribbean towards the effective implementation of this unique regional tool to address the climate crisis and ensure the rights protected through the Escazú Agreement.

In his Keynote Address, **Dr. David Boyd**, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment, underscored the impact of the Escazú Agreement for the realization of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. This robust tool, however, faces two challenges as outlined by Dr. Boyd: the need for more countries to ratify the Agreement, and the critical need for increased resources to support the effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement.

**Ms. Nicole Leotaud**, Executive Director of Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and Elected Representative of the Public for the Escazú Agreement, highlighted the need to strengthen national institutional frameworks to enable effective access to the access rights secured through the Agreement, and the need to increase awareness and capacity amongst civil society to engage with these rights.

**Dip. Luis Malla Valenzuela (Chile)**, Member of the Committee on Foreign Relations, Interparliamentary Affairs and Latin American Integration shared about the development of a new bill in consultation with civil society in Chile to protect the rights of human rights defenders of the environment. From Argentina, **Sen. Gladys González (Argentina)**, President of the Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development, and **Dip. Graciela Camaño (Argentina)**, Member of the Committee on Natural Resources and Conservation of the Human Environment called jointly for increased cooperation for the protection of human rights in environmental matters and accessible mechanisms for civil society to formalize participatory consultations, ensuring local ownership and utility of the rights granted through the Agreement.

**Dip. Ramón Barrios (Honduras)**, Chair of the Committee on Legislation and Constitutional Affairs, [reaffirmed his commitment](#) for Honduras to ratify the Escazú Agreement, noting its widespread benefits through the reduction of socio-environmental conflicts, strengthening efforts to address the climate crisis, reduction of environmental vulnerability, bolstering investment opportunities. **Hon. David Lee (Trinidad and Tobago)**, Opposition Chief Whip, emphasized that environmental rights are akin to human rights, and parliamentarians therefore have an obligation to remain informed and to take action for the realization of these human rights. **Sen. Sophia Frazer-Binns (Jamaica)**, Shadow Minister of Land, Environment and Climate Change, noted the various ways in which ratification and implementation of the Escazú Agreement would reinforce principles already enshrined in Jamaica's Constitution – Jamaica's Bill of Rights guarantees the human right to a healthy environment – through implementation of the Agreement's access rights in environmental matters.

**Mr. Erick Astorga**, Climate Empowerment Action Coordinator at Uno.Cinco emphasized the important role of civil society in the effective implementation of the Agreement, and the need for cooperation throughout Latin America and the Caribbean to ensure the protection of human rights defenders in environmental matters.

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) welcomes feedback on the **Factsheet for Parliamentarians: The Escazú Agreement, an Environmental and Human Rights Treaty** ([English](#), [Spanish](#)), which will be incorporated into the development of the Toolkit for Parliamentarians on this topic to be published in 2023.