DRAFT DECISION

ACTION PLAN ON HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 9 of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement), which refers specifically to the protection of persons, groups and organizations that promote and defend human rights in environmental matters,

Recalling also decision I/6 of the Conference of the Parties on human rights defenders in environmental matters, whereby an open-ended ad hoc working group on human rights defenders in environmental matters was established and entrusted with preparing an action plan in that regard, to be presented at the second ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties for consideration and adoption,

Taking note of the open and participatory process of preparing the draft action plan, which included in-person and virtual consultations between 2022 and early 2024, and with valuable input from the annual forums on the subject that took place in Quito in November 2022 and in Panama City in September 2023,

Convinced of the importance of advancing towards the full and effective implementation of article 9 of the Escazú Agreement and of having a regional framework for cooperation in this area,
Reaffirming the need to promote and deepen cooperation between the Parties, in accordance with article 11 of the Escazú Agreement, to take appropriate and effective measures to recognize, protect and promote all the rights of human rights defenders in environmental matters,

1. Adopts the Action Plan on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, contained in annex 1 to the present decision;

2. Thanks the countries that coordinated the open-ended ad hoc working group (Chile, Ecuador and Saint Kitts and Nevis) and the Presiding Officers, for their leadership and good work, with the support of the Secretariat, and all the Parties and members of the public, for their valuable contributions;

3. Decides to maintain the open-ended ad hoc working group on human rights defenders in environmental matters until the close of the ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in 2030, with a new mandate to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the measures included in the Action Plan and to report to the Conference of the Parties;

4. Also decides to continue holding forums on human rights defenders in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, in 2025 and every two years thereafter, with recognized specialists in the field and with the assistance of the Secretariat;

5. Invites the Parties and all countries of the region to help to implement the Action Plan and to step up their efforts to develop and strengthen all necessary measures at the national level to ensure the rights of human rights defenders in environmental matters;

6. Requests the Secretariat to promote and facilitate, in collaboration with relevant organizations, activities aimed at strengthening the implementation of the Action Plan and progress towards the achievement of its objectives at the regional, subregional and national levels.