

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

Santiago, 22–24 April 2024

DRAFT DECISION¹

NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 15.5 of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement), according to which the Conference of the Parties shall examine and promote the implementation and effectiveness of the Agreement and, to that end, may formulate recommendations to the Parties on the implementation of the Agreement,

Emphasizing that the objective of the Escazú Agreement is to guarantee the full and effective implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the rights of access to environmental information, public participation in the environmental decision-making process and access to justice in environmental matters, and the creation and strengthening of capacities and cooperation, contributing to the protection of the right of every person of present and future generations to live in a healthy environment and to sustainable development,

Considering article 4.3 of the Escazú Agreement, which establishes that each Party shall adopt the necessary measures, of a legislative, regulatory, administrative or any other nature, in the framework of its domestic provisions, to guarantee the implementation of the provisions of the Agreement,

Considering also article 13 of the Escazú Agreement, which establishes that each Party, to the extent of its ability and in accordance with its national priorities, commits to provide the resources for national activities that are needed to fulfil the obligations derived from the Agreement,



¹ Proposal by the Presiding Officers (Uruguay (Chair), Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Mexico and Saint Lucia (Vice-Chairs)).

Considering further articles 10, 11 and 12 of the Escazú Agreement, on capacity-building, cooperation and the clearing house,

Recognizing the progress made by the Parties in developing their national implementation plans,

1. *Urges* the Parties to continue advancing towards the full and effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement, taking all necessary measures, to the extent of their abilities and in accordance with their national priorities, and considering the principles of the Agreement, building and strengthening their capacities and cooperation;

2. *Welcomes* the preparation of plans and road maps for the national implementation of the Escazú Agreement, through transparent, collaborative processes with significant public participation and the support of the Secretariat, which include strategic and priority measures for the implementation of the Agreement in the countries;

3. *Highlights* the valuable contribution of the Observatory on Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean as the clearing house referred to in article 12 of the Escazú Agreement;

4. *Welcomes* the implementation guide for the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters for Latin America and the Caribbean,² prepared by the Secretariat, and recommends that it be updated regularly;

5. *Thanks* the Secretariat for its support and requests that it continue to facilitate understanding of how the Escazú Agreement works and to provide technical assistance to the Parties regarding national implementation;

6. *Appreciates* the support of international agencies and other organizations in advancing the implementation of the Escazú Agreement and invites the Secretariat to continue creating synergies and partnerships to support the development and implementation of the plans and road maps for national implementation and other initiatives of the Parties;

7. *Invites* all Parties to develop, with the support of the Secretariat, plans and road maps for the national implementation of the Escazú Agreement as soon as possible and no later than 2026 or two years after the entry into force of the Agreement in the State Party, as appropriate, and to report on progress in its implementation and follow-up at the next ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties;

8. *Urges* the Parties to contribute to the voluntary fund to support the implementation of the Agreement, preferably through recurring multi-year or annual contributions;

9. *Invites* the Parties, States not party to the Agreement, international organizations, financial institutions and the private sector to increase their efforts to provide financial resources to support the implementation of the Agreement.

² LC/TS.2021/221/Rev.2.