

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
MAINSTREAMING THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and in particular Principle 20, which states that women have a vital role in environmental management and development and that their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development,

Recalling also resolution 70/1 of the General Assembly of the United Nations, relating to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, of which the Goals and targets aim to ensure the human rights of all people and to promote gender equality and empower all women and girls, and in particular Goal 5 “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”,

Considering the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and relevant treaties, which aim to guarantee the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis,

Considering also the commitments made by the member States of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which make up the Regional Gender Agenda, and other relevant international commitments,

Reaffirming the principle of equality and the principle of non-discrimination established in article 3 of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement),



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

Considering the definition of “persons or groups in vulnerable situations” established in article 2 of the Escazú Agreement, understood as “those persons or groups that face particular difficulties in fully exercising the access rights recognized in the present Agreement, because of circumstances or conditions identified within each Party’s national context and in accordance with its international obligations”,

Considering also article 7.10 of the Agreement, according to which “each Party shall establish conditions that are favourable to public participation in environmental decision-making processes and that are adapted to the social, economic, cultural, geographical and gender characteristics of the public”,

Highlighting the significant participation of women in the negotiation of the Escazú Agreement,

Recognizing the importance of continuing to advance gender equality in order to achieve the full and effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement,

1. *Welcomes* all measures, initiatives and activities aimed at integrating and strengthening the gender perspective in matters related to the Escazú Agreement;
2. *Urges* the Parties to continue to promote the full and effective participation of women in their diversity and the incorporation of a gender-equality perspective into the implementation of the Agreement, particularly in their national implementation plans and road maps;
3. *Urges* the Parties to promote the aim and content of the Escazú Agreement in other regional and international forums that seek to contribute to gender equality and that favour synergies with the Regional Gender Agenda, in accordance with the rules of each one;
4. *Recommends* that the Parties incorporate the gender perspective into the creation of a safe and enabling environment for the defence of human rights in environmental matters, and to prevent discrimination and gender-based violence against women defenders;
5. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue recording progress in this area in the Observatory on Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean as the clearing house referred to in article 12 of the Escazú Agreement;
6. *Requests* the Parties to report regularly to the Conference on the progress made in the incorporation of the gender perspective into the activities related to the Escazú Agreement;
7. *Appreciates* the support of the Secretariat, international agencies and other organizations in advancing gender mainstreaming and calls for continued efforts to create synergies and partnerships with all relevant stakeholders.