DRAFT DECISION

NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS OF THE PARTIES

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling that decision I/1 on the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties defines a focal point as “a person officially designated by a Party to receive communications from the Secretariat relating to the Agreement”,

Convinced of the importance of each Party designating focal points and officially communicating this information so that these focal points may establish contact with the Secretariat and the other bodies of the Agreement and receive communications,

1. Invites each Party to designate the person or persons who will act as the focal point or focal points liaising between the States Parties and the bodies of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement) and to formally communicate this information to the Secretariat, using the form contained in annex 1 to the present decision;

2. Requests each Party to inform the Secretariat of any change in designation as soon as possible;

3. Decides that the national focal points of the Parties, as liaisons between the States Parties and the Secretariat and other bodies of the Agreement, shall perform the following functions, among others:

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1 Proposal by the Presiding Officers (Uruguay (Chair), Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Mexico and Saint Lucia (Vice-Chairs)).
(a) Receive communications from the Secretariat and other bodies of the Agreement addressed to the State Party;

(b) Submit on behalf of the State Party requests for support regarding implementation and other requests for technical assistance to the Secretariat and other bodies of the Agreement;

(c) Submit on behalf of the State Party its national implementation plan, in accordance with article 13 of the Agreement, along with other official communications from the Parties;

(d) Ensure that the State Party is represented at in-person and virtual meetings held under the Agreement;

(e) Follow up on the preparation and timely dispatch to the Secretariat of letters of credentials designating representatives at official meetings, when appropriate;

(f) Support the dissemination of documents and relevant information within States Party, as appropriate;

(g) Respond in a timely manner to requests made to the Party by the Secretariat and other bodies of the Agreement;

(h) Collaborate with national focal points of other countries to facilitate the implementation of the Agreement;

(i) Support the coordination, promotion and facilitation of the national implementation of the Agreement.
Annex 1

Form to designate or update focal points serving as liaisons between the States Parties and the bodies of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean

Are you designating a new focal point, updating the information of an existing one, or replacing a previous focal point?

- Designating a new focal point
- Updating the information of a designated focal point
- Replacing a previous focal point. In this case, please indicate the name of the outgoing focal point:

____________________________________________________________________________________

State Party (*): _______________________________________________________________________

Name (*): _____________________________________________________________________________

Surname(s) (*): ____________________________________________________________________________

Position (*): ______________________________________________________________________________

Ministry/Department (*): ______________________________________________________________

Address: ___________________________________________________________________________

City: __________________________________ Postal code: ______________________________

Direct telephone line (include country code): __________________________________________________

Mobile phone number (include country code):

____________________________________________________________________________________

Official email address (*): ______________________________________________________________

Alternative email address: __________________________________________________________

Comments (if applicable): _______________________________________________________________

Please send the completed form to secretaria.escazu@cepal.org. One form should be completed for each designated focal point. Please send: (1) the official letter of designation; (2) this form in Microsoft Excel format, available on the Secretariat’s web page.

The contact details of the designated focal points indicated with an asterisk (*) will be published on the Secretariat’s web page.