
Dialogue “The fundamental role of women and the mainstreaming of the gender perspective in the implementation of the Escazú Agreement”

*Third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement
April 25th, Santiago, Chile*

Background:

The importance of gender mainstreaming , as well as including women in decision making processes and the implementation of public policies on sustainable development, has been recognized in global instruments and agreements, such as Principle 20 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and through the Regional Gender Agenda, , which includes commitments on women’s autonomy and rights that countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have adopted as a result of the Regional Conferences on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Women in our region face important challenges in exercising their rights of access to information, to public participation and to justice in environmental matters. Fully acknowledging that, the Conference of the Parties of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement), will consider the adoption of a decision on the mainstreaming of the gender perspective. This decision reaffirms the principles of equality and non-discrimination established in its article 3 and it encourages Parties to continue to promote the full and effective participation of women in their diversity and the inclusion of the gender equality perspective in applying the Agreement, particularly in the roadmaps and national implementation plans they develop. It recommends that the Parties incorporate a gender perspective in the establishment of a safe and favorable setting for the protection of human rights in environmental matters, and to prevent discrimination and gender violence against women defenders.

The Escazú Agreement may constitute a fundamental tool to strengthen the full and effective participation of women in planning, developing, implementing, and assessing environmental

policies. Designing national plans to implement the Escazú Agreement is an opportunity to enhance women's participation and incidence in the national enforcement processes, aiming at guaranteeing mechanisms, proceedings and spaces that recognize their role in environment protection and integrating the gender perspective into environmental policy.

Thus, from a gender perspective, implementing the Escazú Agreement represents an opportunity to articulate innovative initiatives in terms of feminist foreign policy and international development cooperation policy that foster triangular and South-South cooperation.

Objective:

The proposed dialogue offers a space for state and non-state actors to address the importance of mainstreaming the gender perspective in implementing the provisions of the Escazú Agreement. In a similar fashion, it will motivate sharing experiences and best practices, in line with the Regional Agenda on Gender and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, pursuing to fulfill every person's human rights and nurture gender equality and autonomy for all women and girls.

The Dialogue is convened by the Foreign Affairs Ministries of Mexico, Chile, and Colombia as well as ECLAC, sponsored by GIZ/BMZ with the scope of its project "Strengthening Feminist Foreign Policy and Feminist International Cooperation through a Community of Practice between Chile, Colombia, México, Germany and ECLAC".

Date and place: April 25th, 16:00 hrs

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Headquarters in Santiago, Chile
Celso Furtado Conference Room

Programme:

<p>16:00- 16:10</p>	<p>Welcome and presentation of the decision on mainstreaming the gender perspective in the Escazú Agreement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carlos de Miguel, Officer-in-Charge of the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division at ECLAC • José Manuel Salazar- Xiriñachs, Executive Secretary of ECLAC (<i>video</i>) • Alicia Bárcena, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico (<i>video</i>).
<p>16:10-16:20</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - María Fernanda Cámara, Director for the Green Agenda, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico <p><i>The origins of the decision on mainstreaming the gender perspective in the Escazú Agreement</i></p>
<p>16:20- 17:10 7-minute interventions for States and 3 minutes for comments</p>	<p>Panel “The fundamental role of women and the mainstreaming of gender perspective in the national implementation of the Escazú Agreement”</p> <p>State’s experiences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paula Fuentes Merino, Office of International Affairs of the Ministry of the Environment, Chile - Ana María Llorente Valbuena, Deputy Director of Evaluation of Environmental Licenses, Colombia - Maureen Hyman-Payne Parliamentary Secretary for Justice and Legal Affairs, Antigua and Barbuda <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Corinna Küsel, Director, German Corporation for International Cooperation – South Cone GIZ - Irene Murillo, Elected Representative of the Public - Nidya Pesantez, UN Women representative in Bolivia - Mayte Gonzalez, Team Leader for Human Rights in Conservation, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) - Maria Eugenia di Paola, Program Coordinator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

	<p>Moderation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ana Güzmes – Director of the Division for Gender Affairs at ECLAC
17:10- 17:20	Q&A session
17:20 -17:25	<p>Conclusions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ana Güzmes – Director of the Division for Gender Affairs at ECLAC
17:25- 17:30	<p>Closure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ximena Mariscal de Alba – Embassy of Mexico in Chile. Coordinator for the Feminist Foreign Policy

Coffee