Report on the activities carried out by the secretariat of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean

Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division

11 October 2019
The Escazú Agreement

Adopted in Escazú (Costa Rica) on 4 March 2018
Opened for signature at UNGA on 27 September 2018

- Only treaty stemming from the UN Rio+20 Conference
- First regional environmental treaty of Latin America and the Caribbean
- First treaty in the world with specific binding provisions on environmental human rights defenders

Open to the 33 LAC countries

11 ratifications required to enter into force
Signing and ratification ceremony at the 74th General Assembly (27.09.19)

- Bolivia, Grenada, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Saint Kitts and Nieves, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Uruguay
Escazú Agreement: next steps

- 27 September 2018 - 26 September 2020
  Opening for signature of the 33 LAC countries at UN Headquarters in NY

- Ratification or accession of the Regional Agreement

- Entry into force: 90 days after the 11th instrument of ratification or accession

- Implementation of the Regional Agreement
Meetings of the Negotiating Committee (2014-2018)

Adoption of the Escazú Agreement

Escazú, February-March 2018

ECLAC, November 2017
Buenos Aires, July-August 2017
Brasilia, March 2017
Escazú, February-March 2018
ECLAC, November 2016
Santo Domingo, August 2016
Montevideo, April 2016
Panamá, October 2015
ECLAC, May 2015

Start of negotiations

+ 6 inter-sessional virtual meetings
## Content

### First part
- Preamble
- Objective (art. 1)
- Definitions (art. 2)
- Principles (art. 3)

### Operative part
- **General provisions** (art. 4)
- **First pillar**
  - Access to environmental information (art. 5 and 6)
- **Second pillar**
  - Public participation in the environmental decision-making process (art. 7)
- **Third pillar**
  - Access to justice (art. 8)
- **Fourth pillar**
  - Human rights defenders in environmental matters (art. 9)

Capacity-building and cooperation (art. 10 and 11) and clearing house (art. 12)

### Implementation, monitoring and evaluation

### Resources

### Institutional framework

### Final provisions
Adopts the Escazú Agreement

Requests the Presiding Officers to continue to steer and conduct the necessary work with signatory countries, significant participation by the public and the support by ECLAC as technical secretariat

Decides to apply mutatis mutandis the Modalities for participation of the public until the first COP

Invites all Latin American and Caribbean States to sign the Agreement and to ratify, accept, approve or accede to it, as appropriate, as soon as possible
Activities and events (since April 2019)

- **Forum of the LAC Countries on Sustainable Development**
  ECLAC, April 2019

- **Regional workshop on developments and challenges in the implementation of the Escazú Agreement**
  ECLAC, April 2019

- **Meeting of the Council of Ministers on Environmental Sustainability of the OECS**
  Martinique, May 2019

- **10º Steering Committee InforMEA**
  Switzerland, June 2019

- **Expert seminar on the right to a healthy environment**
  Switzerland, June 2019

- **2019 High-level Political Forum: Side event**
  New York, July 2019

- **13º Congress – Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN)**
  Guyana, August 2019
Capacity-building: central to support implementation

**Regional activities**

- **April / August 2019**
  Youth of Latin America and the Caribbean against climate change (Millennials Movement)

- **May 2019**
  Workshop on the rights of children and the environment

- **September 2019**
  Public Forum on the Escazú Agreement

- **June 2019**
  Public forum: Promoting the ratification of the Escazú Agreement

- **April-May 2019**
  Regional course on international law

- **May 2019**
  Workshop on the Escazú Agreement

- **July 2019**
  Workshop for civil society on the Escazú Agreement

- **September 2019**
  Symposium on human rights and the environment

- **October 2019**
  Workshop on climate change and the environment from a rights-based approach

- **May 2019**
  Session on the Escazú Agreement at Parliament with high authorities

- **August 2019**
  Public forum on the Escazú Agreement

- **May 2019**
  Session on the Escazú Agreement at Parliament with high authorities

- **August 2019**
  Implementation workshop on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and Escazú

- **May 2019**
  Workshop on the rights of children and the environment

- **May 2019**
  Workshop on the Escazú Agreement

- **May 2019**
  Uruguayan Congress of environmental law Seminar on the Escazú Agreement Sessions in Congress

- **March 2019**
  Regional webinar (Namati)
Observatory on Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean

Observatorio del Principio 10 en América Latina y el Caribe

Observatorio de leyes, políticas, instrumentos y tratados que garanticen que los derechos de las personas a la información, la participación y la justicia en asuntos ambientales, consagrados en el Principio 10 de la Declaración de Rio, sean aplicados cabalmente.

Información
23 países han adoptado leyes de acceso a la información pública

Participación
76% de los países incorporan disposiciones para promover la participación pública en leyes generales sobre el medio ambiente

Justicia
20 países tienen leyes que cualquier persona o colectivo pueda ejercitar acciones en defensa del medio ambiente

Destacados
- Costa rica firma y cierra ratificación Acuerdo de Escazú
- Colombia requiere la consulta de Naciones Unidas
- San Vicente y las Granadinas firma el Acuerdo de Escazú

Recursos
- Información sobre la creación de los registros de emisiones y transferencias de contaminantes (RETC)
- Boletín número 46

Publicaciones
The Escazú Agreement in other processes

Conclusions and recommendations – Third Forum of the Countries of Latin America on Sustainable Development

Resolution A/HRC/40/L.22/Rev.1 by the Human Rights Council on human rights defenders in environmental matters

Declaration of the Alliance of Environmental Legal Clinics

Declaration of the Andean Parliament on the signature and ratification of the Escazú Agreement

Communications to the 33 countries by human rights special rapporteurs
Dissemination

Website Meeting of Signatories (ES – EN)
http://acuerdodeescazu.cepal.org/s1/en
Dissemination

Infographics

The Escazú Agreement
Placing equality at the centre of sustainable development and leaving no one behind

To contribute to the protection of the rights of every person of present and future generations to live in a healthy environment and to sustainable development, the first regional environmental treaty of Latin America and the Caribbean guarantees the full and effective implementation of the rights of access to environmental information, public participation in the environmental decision-making process and access to justice in environmental matters (Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development).

http://www.obtusal.org/en/escazu-agreement

Newsletter – 46 issues
(ES – EN) (3 new newsletters)

Hoja informativa
(ES – EN - PR)
Regional Public Mechanism

Number of people registered

Regional Public Mechanism: **3908** (01.10.2019)

Regístrate
Para estar informado del proceso de Principio 10 en América Latina y el Caribe
Regional Public Mechanism

Signatory countries: 66%
Non-signatory countries: 34%
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Secretariat of the Escazú Agreement
Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division
United Nations – Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

http://www.cepal.org/acuerdodeescazu
http://observatoriop10.cepal.org

#AcuerdodeEscazú #EscazúAgreement