Challenges and priorities for the full implementation of the Escazú Agreement

12 October 2019
1. **Main challenges and priorities for the full implementation of the provisions on:**
   1. access to environmental information
   2. public participation in environmental matters
   3. access to justice in environmental matters
   4. human rights defenders in environmental matters

2. **Other challenges and priorities**

3. **Main opportunities for cooperation**
Summary

- Information: 50%
- Participation: 13%
- Justice: 10%
- Defenders: 20%
- Others (cross-cutting): 7%

Legend:
- Information
- Participation
- Justice
- Defenders
- Others (cross-cutting)
Access to information

- Need of greater coordination within government and change of management culture
- Respond adequately to environmental information requests
- Generate environmental information and registers
- Environmental information systems
- Dissemination of and awareness-raising on rights

Public participation

- Respond to the needs of territories and communities in public hearings and consultations
- Allocate resources to enable participation
Access to justice

- Strengthen capacities of judicial officials
- Training and access to experts/specialization of judges
- Management of environmental complaints
- Strengthen environmental public prosecutors
- Establish financial instruments for restoration and compensation for environmental harm

Human rights defenders

- Access to information and knowledge
- Cooperation with civil society and other stakeholders
- Effective protection mechanisms and legal aid
Other: cross-cutting

- Environmental education
- Make progress on signature and ratification
- Reflect the standards and practices of the agreement in the national legislative frameworks
- Design national work plans for the implementation of the agreement
- Financial resources
- Partnerships
- Dissemination in media
- Strengthening of institutions
- Transfer of technology (data and information systems and registers)
- Support groups and persons in vulnerable situations
Opportunities for cooperation

- South-South, bilateral, triangular cooperation
- Exchange of experiences and technical assistance
- Cooperation with other agreements, mechanisms and organizations
- Importance of subregional organizations (CARICOM, OECS)
- Need to support from UN Agencies, development banks and donors