



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

The Escazú Agreement in Antigua and Barbuda: empowering societies for sustainable development

Venue: Trade Winds Hotel, Dickenson Bay, Saint John's, Antigua

Tuesday, 8 December 2020

Duration: 9-1.30pm

The seminar is organized by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC)

Summary and objectives

The Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (“Escazú Agreement”), was adopted in Escazú, Costa Rica on 4 March 2018. Stemming from the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and inspired by the tenets of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Escazú Agreement is the first regional treaty on environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The regional agreement aims to guarantee the full and effective implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of the rights of access to environmental information, public participation in the environmental decision-making process and access to justice in environmental matters, and the creation and strengthening of capacities and cooperation, contributing to the protection of the right of every person of present and future generations to live in a healthy environment and to sustainable development. Placing equality at the core of sustainable development and striving to “leave no one behind”, the Regional Agreement contributes to the implementation of international and regional sustainable development commitments as well as the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Antigua and Barbuda was the first country to sign the Escazú Agreement on 27 September 2018 at United Nations headquarters in New York and ratified it on 4 March 2020. It is also hosting the second meeting of the signatory countries on 9 and 10 December 2020.

The **objectives** of the seminar are:

- to raise awareness on the Escazú Agreement among interested stakeholders
- to analyze best practices and experiences in the implementation of access rights in the region
- to seek views of participants on the implementation of the agreement in Antigua and Barbuda

IMPORTANT: In accordance with health and safety regulations of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, strict COVID-19 protocols and guidelines will be observed during the event. Temperature checks will be conducted upon arrival to the meeting venue. All participants are required to wear face masks at all times and frequently sanitize their hands at designated places. A limited number of persons will be allowed in the room, with due physical distancing. For more information visit: <https://covid19.gov.ag/>

AGENDA	
9.00-9.30 am	Registration of participants
9.30-9.35 am	State Anthem Prayer
9.35-10 am	Opening remarks Mr. Didier Trebucq, UN Resident Coordinator for Barbados and the OECS [tbc] Mr. Joseluis Samaniego, Director, Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division, ECLAC Hon. Samantha Marshall, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs, Government of Antigua and Barbuda
10-11 am	The Escazú Agreement: leaving no one behind <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Context and synergies with the 2030 Agenda, Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other international processes (Carlos de Miguel, ECLAC) - Overview of content, implications and future steps (David Barrio Lamarche, ECLAC) - The role of the public in promoting effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement (Karetta Crooks-Charles, Saint Lucia National Trust, alternate elected representative of the public, Saint Lucia)
11-11.15 am	Coffee break
11.15am-12.15pm	Regional framework and compared experiences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental access rights in the framework of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS Commission) - The implementation of environmental access rights in the Caribbean: practical examples (Danielle Andrade, attorney-at-law, elected representative of the public, Jamaica) - The public awareness process of the Escazú Agreement in Saint Lucia (Kate Wilson, Department of Sustainable Development, Government of Saint Lucia)
12.15-1.20pm	Towards the effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement in Antigua and Barbuda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Featured address: Senator Maureen Hyman-Payne, Minister of State, Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs, Government of Antigua and Barbuda - Presentations by local community groups - Challenges, priorities, needs and opportunities: Open discussion among participants
1.20-1.30pm	Conclusions and closing remarks
	Lunch