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

9 December 2020
The Escazú Agreement

Adopted in Escazú (Costa Rica) on 4 March 2018
Signature period between 27.09.2018 - 26.09.2020

- 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
24 have signed it
10 + (2) ratifications
11 ratifications required to enter into force

Adoption ceremony at Escazú (Costa Rica), 4 March 2018
Developments since the first meeting of signatories (Oct. 2019)

- **Signature:** Belize, Colombia and Dominica
- **Ratification:** Antigua and Barbuda, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Panama and Saint Lucia
- **Legislative approval:** Argentina and Mexico
# Meetings of the Escazú Agreement (Oct 2019- Dec 2020)

## 2 meetings of signatory countries

- **San José, October 2019**
- **Saint John’s/virtual, December 2020**

## 4 meetings of the Presiding Officers
- **COP Rules of procedures**
  - 15 April 2020
  - 25 June 2020

- **Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance**
  - 29 April 2020
  - 23 June 2020

- **Financial arrangements and Voluntary Fund**
  - 25 August 2020

## 2 information meetings with the public (27-28 May 2020)

## 5 virtual working group meetings

## Anniversary event

- ECLAC 4 March 2020
## Regional and global activities (since Oct. 2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparatory meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>Barbados, November 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (8 events)</td>
<td>December 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>7° Council of Ministers on Environmental Sustainability – Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States</td>
<td>June 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>V Forum on Business and Human Rights</td>
<td>September 2020</td>
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<td>Thirty-eighth session of ECLAC</td>
<td>October 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>XIX Meeting of the Transparency and Access to Information Network</td>
<td>October 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forum of environmental defenders in South America</td>
<td>November 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11º InforMEASteering Committee meeting</td>
<td>Virtual, November 2020</td>
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Capacity-building: central to support implementation

Mexico City
- March 2020
  First meeting on the implementation of the Escazú Agreement

San Salvador
- February 2020
  Public forum on the Escazú Agreement

Bogotá
- October 2020
  Workshop for public officials on the Escazú Agreement
- September 2020
  Workshop on the Escazú Agreement

Lima
- March 2020
  Congress for Public Prosecutors

Panama City
- September 2020
  Workshop on the Escazú Agreement

Port-of-Spain
- December 2019
  SDG Seminar for parliamentarians

Kingstown
- November 2019
  Activities with Government and civil society

Castries
- November 2019
  Workshop for Government and civil society and sessions with youth
- July-September 2020
  Workshops for trade union, bar association and the Judiciary

Asunción
- December 2019
  Congress on forest law

Buenos Aires
- November 2019
  Session on the Escazú Agreement at the Senate

Montevideo
- September 2020
  Event of the National Human Rights Institution and Ombudsoffice

Regional activities
- May 2020
  Webinar "The significant participation of the public in the Escazú Agreement in preparation for its entry into force: proposals and inputs"

Participation in 28 webinars since March 2020
Observatory on Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean

- 18 treaties
- 215 policy instruments
- 43 rulings
- 39 publications
- 17 resources

New design
Emphasis on data, maps and visual resources

New cell phone App
(iPhone and Android)
Other highlights

- Enhanced Programme of Action on the Escazú Agreement in the Eastern Caribbean
  ECLAC - OECS

- Statement by 38 UN Human Rights Council experts hailing the Escazú Agreement

- Online introductory course on SDG 16, the Aarhus Convention and the Escazú Agreement

- New Environmental and Social Policy Framework / Inter-American Development Bank

- UN Secretary-General Policy Brief: COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean
Publications and dissemination

Publications

Newsletter – 52 issues (ES – EN) (6 new issues)

Infographics
Regional Public Mechanism

Number of persons registered

Regional Public Mechanism: **5887** (05.12.2020)
Regional Public Mechanism

Países signatarios:
- Argentina
- México
- Colombia
- Perú
- Ecuador
- Brasil
- Bolivia
- Costa Rica
- Guatemala
- Rep. Dominicana
- Uruguay
- Panamá
- Antigua y Barbuda
- Paraguay
- Nicaragua
- Jamaica
- Granada
- Santa Lucía
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Saint Kitts y Nevis
- Haití
- Dominica
- Belize

Países no signatarios:
- 74%

Países signatarios:
- 26%
Contact

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Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division
United Nations, ECLAC

http://www.cepal.org/en/escazuagreement
http://observatoriopi0.cepal.org

#AcuerdodeEscazú    #EscazúAgreement