



United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean



Climate Change and the Escazú Agreement: Overview and synergies

Carlos de Miguel, Chief, Policies for Sustainable Development Unit
Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division

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Why Principle 10?

There is a growing recognition that access rights are a central component of environmental protection and sustainable development

Better democracies

- Partnerships and consensus-building for sustainability
- Increased trust in decisions
- Social cohesion and conflict prevention

Better economies

- Tool to overcome market and policy failures (information asymmetries and lack of coherence/coordination)
- Transparency
- Sustainable recovery

More justice

- Affirmative measures to exercise rights
- Rule of Law
- Accountability



Sustainable development: Global developments

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Escazú Agreement

Consensus

Human wellbeing depends on environmental quality and peace

Interdependence between human rights and the environment

Whole-of-Government and whole-of-society approach is essential to achieve sustainable development

Objective (art. 1)

Guarantee the full and effective implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean of environmental access rights *and* the creation and strengthening of capacities and cooperation



Information



Participation



Justice



Capacity-building
Cooperation

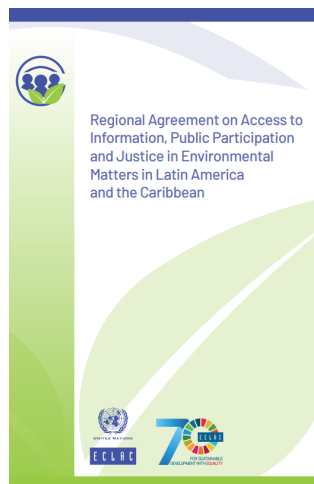


contributing to the protection of the right of every person of *present and future generations* to live in a healthy environment *and* to sustainable development.



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Basic facts about 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

Adopted by **24** countries

22 have already signed it

9 ratifications

11 ratifications required to enter into force



Adoption ceremony at Escazú (Costa Rica), 4 March 2018



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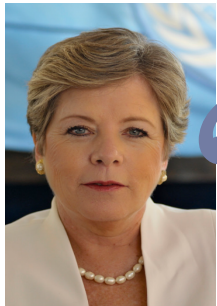
Relevance



“[The Escazú Agreement] affirms the value of the regional dimension of multilateralism for sustainable development.”

“Above all, this treaty aims to combat inequality and discrimination and to guarantee the rights of every person to a healthy environment and to sustainable development. In so doing, it devotes particular attention to persons and groups in vulnerable situations, and places equality at the core of sustainable development.”

António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations



“The Regional Agreement is a ground-breaking legal instrument for environmental protection.”

“Visionary and unprecedented, it is an agreement reached by and for Latin America and the Caribbean, reflecting the ambition, priorities and particularities of our region.”

Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC



Development Agenda and the Escazú Agreement

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Ensure equal access to justice

Effective, accountable and transparent institutions

Ensure inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making

Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms

Non-discriminatory law and policies for sustainable development









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Access rights in Multilateral Environmental Agreements

| | | Access to information | Participation | Access to justice | Capacity-building |
|---|---|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|  | Paris Agreement | X | X | | X |
|  | Minamata Convention | X | X | | X |
|  | Stockholm Convention | X | X | | X |
|  | Rotterdam Convention | X | X | X | X |
|  | United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification | X | X | X | X |
|  | Convention on Biological Diversity | X | X | X | X |
|  | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change | X | X | | X |
|  | Kyoto Protocol | X | X | | X |
|  | Basel Convention | X | X | X | X |
|  | Vienna Convention | X | X | X | X |
|  | Montreal Protocol | X | X | | X |
|  | CITES | X | X | X | X |
|  | Ramsar Convention | X | X | | X |

COP21-CMP11
PARIS 2015
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

How can Principle 10 support climate actions



Provide access to information to the public / governments receive climate-related information

- CO2 emissions, who/what/when/what types of emissions --- PRTRs

Ensure the public participates in decisions for climate adaptation and mitigation

- Sustainable development requires the involvement of all actors
- Increased synergies between governments and civil society
- More participation generally leads to better decision-making: increases quality of decisions
- Better implementation of decisions: generate ownership and legitimacy

PRINCIPLE 10 = BETTER CLIMATE DECISION-MAKING AND CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

**ASSIST IN TREATY IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE
(e.g. Paris Agreement enhanced transparency framework)**

Relation with the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement



(Art 6.3) Have environmental information systems ... with climate change sources



(Art 6.4) Take steps to establish Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers



(Art 6.5) Develop and implement early warning systems



(Art 6) Education and public awareness; (ii) Public access to information on climate change and its effects; (iii) Public participation in addressing climate change and its effects and developing adequate responses



Acknowledges need to respect and protect human obligations

(Art 12) enhance climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information



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Contact

Technical Secretariat – Escazú Agreement
Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division
United Nations, ECLAC

<http://www.cepal.org/en/escazuagreement>

<http://observatoriop10.cepal.org>

#AcuerdodeEscazú **#EscazúAgreement**
