



Capacity-building workshop for interested public and civil society organizations on participation in international negotiations on environmental matters

Date and venue: Sheraton Panama Hotel & Convention Center, Panama City, October 26,

Background

Governments at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Río+20) underscored that broad public participation and access to information and judicial and administrative proceedings are essential to the promotion of sustainable development and encouraged action at the regional, national, subnational and local levels on these matters.

In line with the above, in the framework of Rio+20, ten Latin American and Caribbean countries signed the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. Currently encompassing 20 Member States, signatory countries committed, with the support of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) as technical secretariat, to launch a process to explore the feasibility of adopting a regional instrument open to all countries in the region and with the meaningful participation of all concerned citizens to ensure full implementation of the rights of access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters. To this end, and after more than two years of preparatory work, in November 2014, signatory countries launched negotiations for a regional agreement on access rights in environmental matters, and established a Negotiating Committee with significant participation by the public and with a view to concluding its functions by December 2016.

Honouring the Declaration, Member States have placed public participation at the core of the regional process from the outset, providing opportunities for the significant participation of the public at large.

In view of this, ECLAC, UNEP and the Government of Panama are hosting a workshop intended to provide information about the process towards a regional agreement on access rights in environmental matters and enhance significant participation of the public of Latin America and the Caribbean in the Negotiating Committee.

The workshop will provide a unique opportunity for interested public and civil society actors from Panama and other Latin America and the Caribbean countries to learn about this ongoing negotiation process and strengthen their capacities to actively engage in it.

Objectives

- Bring together interested public and civil society actors from Latin America and the Caribbean to inform them about the Principle 10 regional process and how they can actively engage in the negotiations.
- Build capacity of civil society actors to be actively engaged in this ongoing process as well as other intergovernmental processes focusing on the environment.
- Promote networking amongst people and organizations working on access rights in environmental matters.

Expected outcomes

Effective sharing of knowledge and practices in support of the active engagement of interested public and civil society actors in the regional process towards an agreement on Principle 10 implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Date and venue

The workshop will be held at the *Sheraton Panama Hotel & Convention Center*, Panama City on 26 October 2015 in the margins of the Second Meeting of the Negotiating Committee of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (27-29 October 2015).

Participation

The meeting will bring together interested public and civil society actors from Latin America and the Caribbean working on environmental matters and access rights. **There are limited spaces. Prior registration is required (principio10.lac@cepal.org).**

Language

English and Spanish (with simultaneous interpretation).

Agenda

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| 8:00 - 9:00 | Registration |
| 9:00 - 9:30 | Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carlos de Miguel, Chief, Policies for Sustainable Development Unit, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)• Broke Alfaro, Chair of the Executive Board, CIAM, Panama• Felix Wing, Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment of Panama |
| 9:30 - 10:00 | Keynote speaker: Patricia Madrigal, Vice-minister of the Environment of Costa Rica |
| 10:00 -10:30 | Session 1: Towards a regional agreement on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean Brief outline of the Principle 10 regional process: Constance Nalegach, Head of International Affairs, Ministry of the Environment of Chile Future outlooks in the process and how can the public participate? Joana Abrego, Head of Legal Affairs, Ministry of the Environment of Panama Questions and answers |

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| 10:30 -10:45 | Coffee break |
| 10:45 - 13:00 | <p>Session 2: Successful public participation in environmental negotiations: Conversation with panelists</p> <p><i>Interactive and focused discussion with panelists with significant experience in environmental negotiations based on key questions raised by the moderator</i></p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sylvia Bankobeza, Lawyer, Division of Environmental Law & Conventions, UNEP • Gordon Bispham, Caribbean Policy Development Centre, Barbados • Rubens Born, Fundação Grupo Esquel, Brazil • Jerzy Jendroska, Member of the Compliance Committee of the Aarhus Convention • Nicole Leotaud, Executive Director, Caribbean Natural Resources Institute, Trinidad and Tobago • Andrés Napoli, Executive Director, Farn, Argentina • Magdolna Toth Nagy, Senior Adviser, Regional Environmental Center • Felix Wing, Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment of Panama <p>• Facilitators: Danielle Andrade and Andrea Sanhueza</p> <p>Questions and answers</p> |
| 13:00 -14:30 | Break for lunch |
| 14:30 – 16:00 | Session 3: Question and answer session with the aim of sharing experiences and practices amongst participants. |
| 16:00 -16:30 | Coffee break |
| 16:30 – 18:00 | <p>Session 4 : Environmental justice and access rights for sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winston Anderson, Judge, Caribbean Court of Justice • Silvia Cappelli, <i>Fiscal Superior</i>, Court of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil • Andrea Brusco, Environmental Governance Coordinator, UNEP <p>Moderator: Guillermo Acuña, Legal Advisor, Office of the Executive Secretary, ECLAC</p> |
| 18:00 | Closing remarks |