

# **The regional process on access to information, public participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Principle 10)**

**Virtual Meeting on Article 10  
CAPACITY BUILDING AND COOPERATION  
Tuesday March 7 2017**



# Environmental Equity and Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean

# Principle 10 was adopted in 1992 during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit) as an important element of Sustainable Development

- **PRINCIPLE 10:** *“Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided”.*

# Participation: 23 member countries



Source:  
 GDP/ Cap (Dollars at current market prices) and total population (Thousands of persons, at mid-year):  
 ECLAC (2015) Statistical yearbook of Latin America and the Caribbean.  
 HDI: UNDP, 2015.  
 Note: The names and boundaries shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

# Activities of the regional process

- **Convening and ongoing process from 10 to 23 signatory countries**
  - **4 meetings of Focal Points and 5 working groups (online and onsite)**
  - **More than 15 intersessional virtual meetings**
  - **5 Meetings of the Negotiation Committee:**
    - \* **Chile (May 2015)**
    - \* **Panama (October 2015)**
    - \* **Uruguay (April 2016)**
    - \* **Dominican Republic (August 2016)**
    - \* **Chile (November 2016)**
- Next meeting: Brazil (March 2017)**



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

<b>1</b> NO POVERTY 	<b>2</b> ZERO HUNGER 	<b>3</b> GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 	<b>4</b> QUALITY EDUCATION 	<b>5</b> GENDER EQUALITY 	<b>6</b> CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 
<b>7</b> AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 	<b>8</b> DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	<b>9</b> INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	<b>10</b> REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	<b>11</b> SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	<b>12</b> RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 
<b>13</b> CLIMATE ACTION 	<b>14</b> LIFE BELOW WATER 	<b>15</b> LIFE ON LAND 	<b>16</b> PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 	<b>17</b> PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 	



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# 16 PEACE AND JUSTICE STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Peaceful and stable societies with strong public institutions are conducive to sustained human health.

***SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels***



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# Principle 10 LAC in other processes



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# Statement by United Nations experts on the ECLAC's negotiation of a regional instrument on environmental democracy

*\* This negotiation is one of the most important steps ever taken to protect and promote environmental democracy at the international level, and it will provide a model for such steps in other regions and countries.*

*\* Sustainable development and human rights are interrelated. Rights of access to information, participation, and justice are at the fulcrum of the relationship. When the people most affected by environment and development policies—including indigenous peoples, whose livelihoods and cultures often depend on access to their lands and resources, and women, who are often the primary caregivers in the family—can exercise their human rights to information, participation in decision-making, and remedy, then the policies are most responsive, fair and effective.*



# BENEFITS

- **Rights of access will facilitate more transparent, inclusive and accountable decision-making in matters affecting the environment and development.**
- **Rights of access are the fulcrum of the relationship between Human Rights and the environment.**
- **Contributes to reduce and / or prevent social conflicts. A regional instrument can contribute to a more inclusive and peaceful means – with clear and robust rules – for dialogue and to channel interest, concern and demands that can go beyond national boundaries.**
- **An international instrument would make operational the rights of access to information, public participation and access to justice.**



# BENEFITS

- **A legally binding instrument would add effective enforcement, transparency and accountability.**
- **National legislation would be straightened and reinforced for the implementation of the rights of access.**
- **A treaty would establish cooperation mechanisms between nations.**
- **A legally binding instrument would establish means for verification and evaluation**



# ARTICLE 10: CAPACITY- BUILDING AND COOPERATION

- **Promote capacity-building and cooperation based on national demands, needs, specific considerations, flexibility and effectiveness, results based, and considerations of the target audiences.**
- **Strengthening and capacity- building for human and institutional resources for the implementation of the agreement.**
- **Modalities such as workshops, discussions, technical assistance, education and awareness-raising, observatories, voluntary codes of conduct, guidelines, share of good practices, etc.**



# ARTICLE 10: CAPACITY- BUILDING AND COOPERATION

- The establishment of a clearinghouse on access rights, to be managed by the Secretariat.
- Facilitation and promotion at national level:
  - \* Training for officials and authorities, provisioning of human and technological resources and ongoing evaluation of the qualitative and quantitative information.
  - \* Peru's proposal: The hiring of interpreters or translators of indigenous languages.
  - \* Promotion of environmental education and public awareness.
- Parties may partner with non-governmental, academic and private organizations and other relevant stakeholders.



¡Muchas gracias!