



UNEA-2 Side Event

Regional Efforts to Enhance the Application of Principle 10 for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Monday, May 23, 2016, 18h – 19.30h, Sustainable Innovation Expo Tent

Description of the Event

There is a common understanding that enhancing transparency, accountability and public engagement in environmental matters (Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration from 1992), are essential elements for moving towards inclusive societies for sustainable development. During the session, there will be an interactive discussion in form of a “world café”, creating a space for exchange of information, experiences and reflections on the key role of transparency, public participation and access to justice in achieving *all* SDGs. Panelists will contribute from their experiences regarding the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration of 1992, the UNEP Bali Guidelines for the Development of National Legislation for Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) with its Protocol, and on recent development regarding the current negotiation of a regional agreement on Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean. Through face to face dialogue in small groups, participants will have the opportunity to learn about new instruments and tools that support regional initiatives to further Principle 10 application, such as the Bali Guideline Implementation Guide, The Environmental Democracy Index, the Open Government Partnership and the Fisheries Transparency Initiative. During the interactive dialogue at the event, synergies and inter-linkages between Principle 10 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will be presented and how the application of Principle 10



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can support speedy implementation of Sustainable Development Goals. Side event participants will have the opportunity to contribute to the discussions.

Speakers/Resource Persons:

Mr. Felix Wing Solis, Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment of Panama, on the background and reasons for the regional initiative on Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean

H.E. Amb. Konrad Paulsen, Chile, on the negotiating committee of the LAC regional agreement on access rights enshrined in Principle 10: current situation and next steps

Christian Friis Bach, Executive Secretary of UNECE, on the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs) as tools to support sustainable development across the globe

Timothy R. Epp, Assistant General Counsel, International Environmental Law, Office of General Counsel, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on the Open Government Partnership.

Valeria Torres, UNECLAC, on how the LAC Principle 10 regional process contributes to place equality at the centre of the sustainable development

Stephen Stec, Central European University, on the UNEP Bali Guidelines for the Development of National Legislation on P 10

Carole Excelle, World Resources Institute, on the Environmental Democracy Index as tool to assess the status of P 10 at the national level

Marcos Orellana, (CIEL), on the importance of access to justice and how P 10 can enhance the opportunities for Civil Society to strengthen their engagement with the implementation of the 2030 agenda.

Sueli Giorgetta, UNITAR and Tim Scott, UNDP, on plans of UN Agencies to assist Principle 10 application at regional and national level

Moderation

Alexander Juras (UNEP)

Focal Point for the Event: Alexander Juras, UNEP



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