



Information on the opening for signature of the Escazú Agreement

United Nations headquarters, New York, 27 September 2018

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1. General information

The Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (“Escazú Agreement”) will open to the signature of the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on 27 September 2018 at United Nations headquarters in New York, in the margins of the general debate of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly.

The Governments of Chile and Costa Rica, in their capacity as co-chairs of the process, in coordination with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Treaty Section of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, are inviting all countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to participate at the highest level in an official signing ceremony on **27 September at 10 a.m. in the Treaty Event Area (“Kuwaiti boat”)** in the General Assembly building. There will be a group photo after the ceremony.

2. Participation of States in the signing ceremony

The Treaty Section of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs is responsible for confirming the participation of a State in the signing ceremony.

Those delegations wishing to participate in the signing ceremony shall provide confirmation, through their Permanent Mission to the United Nations, **as early as possible**, of the authority that would represent the country for the signature and, where applicable, ratification, to the Treaty Section of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (Dina Hamdy: hamdyd@un.org and Hada Guevara: guevarah@un.org) copying the Technical Secretariat of the Regional Agreement (principio10.lac@cepal.org).



Furthermore, a copy of the corresponding full powers shall also be sent, should these be needed based on the authority that will sign the Regional Agreement (see section 3 of this document).

3. Requirements for signature

Heads of State, Heads of Government or Ministers for Foreign Affairs may sign a treaty on behalf of the State without having to provide an instrument of full powers.

Any other representative of the State may sign a treaty only if that person possesses a valid instrument of full powers that has been previously sent to the Treaty Section of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs. Those representatives may participate in the ceremony only if the Treaty section has confirmed that the instrument of full powers is valid.

There is no specific form for an instrument of full powers, but it **must include the following information:**

- ▶ Be signed by the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs and must unambiguously empower a specified person to sign the Regional Agreement. Full powers may also be issued by a person exceptionally exercising the power of one of the above-mentioned three authorities of State ad interim. This should be stated clearly on the instrument.
- ▶ Indicate the title of the treaty: Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- ▶ State the full name and title of the representative authorized to sign. They are individual and cannot be transferred.
- ▶ Date and place of signature must be indicated.
- ▶ Official seal. This is optional and it cannot replace the signature of one of the three authorities of State.



4. Requirements for ratification, acceptance and approval

From 27 September 2018 onwards, any State that has signed the Regional Agreement may ratify, accept or approve it. Ratification, acceptance or approval can be undertaken immediately after the signature.

When a State wishes to ratify, accept, approve or accede to a treaty, it must execute an instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, signed by one of three competent authorities (Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs).

There is no mandated form for the instrument, but it **must include the following**:

- ▶ Title, date and place of conclusion of the treaty (Escazú, Cosa Rica, 4 March 2018)
- ▶ Full name and title of the person signing the instrument, i.e., the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs or any other person acting in such a position for the time being or with full powers for that purpose issued by one of the above authorities;
- ▶ An unambiguous expression of the intent of the Government, on behalf of the State, to consider itself bound by the treaty and to undertake faithfully to observe and implement its provisions;
- ▶ Date and place where the instrument was issued;
- ▶ Signature of the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs (the official seal only is not adequate) or any other person acting in such a position for the time being or with full powers for that purpose issued by one of the above authorities.

An instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession becomes effective only when it is deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations at United Nations Headquarters in New York.



5. Access to the *Treaty Event Area* of the General Assembly

Access to the United Nations complex will be restricted to delegates and their staff; staff members of the United Nations Secretariat and of the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system; accredited media; and affiliates who have been issued a United Nations grounds pass.

In addition to the authority that will sign, two additional officers per country may participate in the official signing ceremony. To access the hall where the official signing ceremony will take place, each delegation must have the corresponding grounds passes. Each delegation is responsible for obtaining the grounds passes of their authority and members of the delegation. Neither UN ECLAC nor the Treaty Section of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs are responsible for such grounds passes.

Each delegation shall ensure that their authority is in the Treaty Event area (“Kuwaiti Boat Area”) in due time (between five and ten minutes in advance), in order to begin the ceremony promptly at 10 a.m. on 27 September 2018.

6. Participation of other stakeholders

Intergovernmental organizations and related entities that have observer status with the General Assembly as well as non-governmental organizations that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council may participate if they are in possession of the corresponding grounds passes and subject to space availability in the room.

Each organization is responsible for obtaining the grounds passes for their authority and members of the delegation. Neither UN ECLAC nor the Treaty Section of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs are responsible for such grounds passes.



7. Media accreditation

In order to gain access to the premises during the signing ceremony, national media must have previously obtained proper media accreditation from the Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit of the United Nations Department of Public Information (<http://www.un.org/es/media/accreditation/>).

8. Contact information

Technical Secretariat of the Regional Agreement

E-mail: principio10.lac@cepal.org

Website: <https://www.cepal.org/en/escazuagreement>