



2 June 2014
ORIGINAL: ESPAÑOL



Fifth [virtual] meeting of the Working Group on
Capacity-Building and Cooperation established in the
Plan of Action to 2014 of the Declaration on the
Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration
On Environment and Development in
Latin America and the Caribbean

Friday, 30 May 2014

[This document has not been through editorial revision]

MINUTES – SUMMARY OF THE MEETING

1. BACKGROUND

The Plan of Action to 2014 for the implementation of the Declaration, adopted in April 2013 in Guadalajara, Mexico, established two working groups for the advancement towards the formulation of a regional instrument. According to the Plan of Action to 2014, the objective of the Working Group on Capacity-building and Cooperation is to formulate a proposal to intensify regional and international cooperation on the basis of the training and financing needs and options, both for the public sector and the public in general. In addition, at the Third meeting of the Focal Points designed by the governments of the signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, held in Lima, in October 2013, the following priority action lines were agreed in capacity-building and cooperation:

1. The group will focus during 2014 in identifying the best practices in the region with regard to access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in order to contribute to the discussion on the specifics of the regional instrument and the regional standard. The group values the report “Access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean: Situation, outlook and examples of good practice” developed by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and requests ECLAC to deepen the knowledge of the best practices in the region.
2. The group encourages signatory countries to develop national and regional capacity-building activities during 2014 to promote the implementation of Principle 10 and the Declaration. Understanding that, even though working in all access rights is a

commitment of the signatory countries, it is necessary to concentrate special efforts in the advancement of the access to justice and capacity-building in this area.

3. The group encourages signatory countries to search ways to include supporting capacity-building other organizations related with the topic of the process. Additionally, as mentioned at the working group meetings, in order to take advantage of the training resources it is important to detect the multipliers from the different sectors.
4. The group encourages international organizations to support these efforts at the national level and to continue working together with the ECLAC to promote regional capacity-building. In this context, the group values the joint capacity-building workshops organized by ECLAC, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the World Resources Institute-The Access Initiative (WRI-TAI) and other organizations such as the Peruvian Society for Environmental Law (SPDA) and the Caribbean Academy for Law and Court Administration (CALCA), the educational arm of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ).
5. The group encourages signatory countries and the interested public to develop educational materials and timely reporting, and to make training resources available to the Technical Secretariat in order for the Secretariat to create and maintain a register updated periodically on the Web.
6. The group will review the outcomes of the two regional capacity-building workshops undertaken within this process, and will propose two capacity-building priorities for each of the three pillars of Principle 10. They will be presented at the 4th meeting of the working group.
7. The group encourages signatory countries and the interested public to link the Principle 10 with other on-going international process on the post-2015 United Nations development agenda.

Below is a summary of the development and conclusions of the fifth virtual meeting of the Working Group on Capacity-Building and Cooperation, which had as its objective the discussion of capacity building and cooperation models on the basis of the existing mechanisms in multilateral environmental agreements. Attached in Annex I is the list of participants of the meeting.

2. DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEETING

In the welcoming words, ECLAC showed gratitude for the interest the meeting had aroused, welcomed the new delegate of Colombia and briefly summarized the development of the process. In addition, it informed that the Dominican Republic was unable to participate in the meeting.

Afterwards, the coordinators of the Working Group (Colombia and Jamaica) informed that, pursuant to the priority action lines established for the Working Group for 2014, the Technical Secretariat had sent an e-mail to all delegates of the signatory countries inviting them to: i) organize activities at the national level on the basis of the priorities agreed and the tasks established in the Plan of Action to 2014: and, ii) identify good practices in order to share experiences on the implementation of access rights in the region using the form provided by **26 July 2014**.

On the other hand, it was recalled that together with the organization of national activities on capacity-building and cooperation, the Working Group had agreed to work during 2014 in the incorporation of the capacity-building and cooperation element of the instrument and articulate efforts of both Working Groups of the process.

With the aim of informing discussions of the group on this point, ECLAC made a presentation on capacity-building and cooperation mechanisms and elements incorporated in the main multilateral environmental agreements. ECLAC highlighted that this review was not exhaustive and that it intended to initiate the debate on the capacity-building and cooperation content. Furthermore, it indicated that the review had focused on the texts of multilateral agreements not encompassing their implementation or development in practice since this would be done at later stage. It added that the presentation would be available in the Principle 10 webpage.

The delegates from Colombia and Jamaica thanked ECLAC for the presentation and valued the presentation positively. The delegate from Colombia requested that the effective implementation of the capacity-building and cooperation mechanisms such as that of the Convention on Biological Diversity also be considered.

The delegate from Chile was thankful for the presentation and stressed that since its beginning, the process had had a cooperation and training approach both for governments and citizens. In this sense, she considered training and cooperation a key element of the future regional instrument which should be applied to the three pillars of Principle 10 as was established in the Lima Vision. She also recalled the need that the Working Group work on the elaboration of a proposal of contents on capacity-building and cooperation for the regional instrument and that it generate synergies with the Working Group on Access Rights and Regional Instrument. She underlined that each country is to determine their capacities in access rights and called for all countries to carry out this exercise.

The delegate from Mexico highlighted that it was necessary to keep in mind the differences between countries to implement access rights. Among the matters to consider, she included the training of civil servants and the public in general, the exchange of experts, financing and definitions (for example, what is understood by capacity-building and which information is considered confidential) as well as the establishment of training programmes at the national level. She also indicated that Mexico was working in this sense by evaluating its priorities and determining its capacities in access rights.

In the dialogue which followed, the representative of a group of master students from the Catholic University of Chile intervened to inform of the gathering of good practices that they

were undertaking. In addition, they requested the participation of the private sector and civil society and underlined the importance of education and awareness-raising for the population.

A representative of the public from Mexico referred to Chapter 37 of Agenda 21 indicating that each country should determine its priorities taking into consideration its environmental and economic needs and disseminate the practical and specialized technical knowledge in a way that is accessible to all the public.

A representative of the public from Bolivia requested that capacity-building of women in the exercise of access rights also be considered, especially of indigenous and peasant women.

ECLAC used the opportunity offered by this intervention to inform that it had delivered a presentation on Principle 10 at the 50 Meeting of the Presiding Officers of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. Such presentation linked the process with gender equality and aroused great interest among participants.

A representative of the public from the Access Initiative in Latin America highlighted the opportunity of mainstreaming capacity-building in the three pillars and at various levels (authorities, public and civil society).

A representative of the public stressed the importance of having capacity-building mechanisms for the public in general and for vulnerable communities as well as of directly involving civil society and the private sector.

ECLAC informed that possibilities of collaboration with other entities in the framework of capacity-building and cooperation were being explored.

The coordinators of the Working Group closed the meeting by thanking ECLAC for the presentation and participants for their interventions. They reiterated the invitation made to countries to share good practices using the form sent by ECLAC and send them on the date specified. In addition, they called on the delegates and the public to send their input to elaborate the content of a capacity-building and cooperation proposal to be considered in the regional instrument by **7 July**.

3. AGREEMENTS

- It was agreed that the deadline to send inputs and proposals on capacity-building and cooperation to be included in the regional instrument be **Monday, 7 July**.

ANNEX 1
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

**A. Países signatarios de la Declaración /
Signatory countries of the Declaration**

ARGENTINA

Punto focal/Focal Point:

- Brenda Mariana Pangrazi, Secretario de Embajada, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto

CHILE

Punto focal/Focal Point:

- Constance A. Nalegach, Punto Focal Democracia Ambiental, Ministerio de Medio Ambiente

Otros participantes:

- Julio Cordano, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

COLOMBIA

Punto focal/Focal Point:

- Hans de Francesco, Tercer Secretario de Relaciones Exteriores, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

HONDURAS

Otros participantes:

- Mauro Salgado

JAMAICA

Punto focal/Focal Point:

- Princess Gordon, Documentation/Information and Access Service Director, Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change

MÉXICO/MEXICO

Otros participantes / Other participants:

- Berta Helena de Buen, Directora General Adjunta de Participación y Atención Ciudadana, Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
- Vicente Silva Liga, Subdirector de Participación Social, Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
- Alfa María Ramos Herrera, Directora de Normas de Participación Social, Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
- Miguel C. Molina, Subdirector de Asuntos Internacionales de Acceso, Instituto Federal de Acceso a la Información y Protección de Datos

PANAMÁ

Otros participantes / Other participants:

- Lisbeth Carreiro, Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente

C. Público / Public

- Carolina Álvarez, periodista, Chile
- Daniel Barragán, Centro Ecuatoriano de Derecho Ambiental, Ecuador
- Sherrie Baver, Director LALS Program, CUNY, USA
- Astrid Milena Bernal Rubio, abogada, Asociación Ambiente y Sociedad, Colombia
- Anne-Laure Bouchet, Centro Ecuatoriano de Derecho Ambiental, Ecuador
- Isabel Calle Valladares, SPDA, Perú
- Jorge Calvo Campos, Magister Universidad Católica, Chile
- Carmen Capriles
- Denisse Carvacho
- Olimpia Castillo Blanco, Comunicación y Educación Ambiental SC
- Alberto Contreras, Red de Veedurías, Colombia
- Alejandra Cornejo, CEDEPESCA, Argentina
- Chiara Costanzo, Phd candidate, National University of Ireland, Ireland
- Euren Cuevas Medina, Director Ejecutivo del Instituto de Abogados para la Protección del Medio Ambiente, República Dominicana
- Jaime Delgado, Magister Universidad Católica, Chile
- Franklin Díaz, Magister Universidad Católica, Chile
- Yolanda Díaz, COEPAL, Directora Carrera Administración Ambiental, U Distrital Colombia, Colombia
- Juan José Dimas, El Otro Medio, Argentina
- Noel Ehrler, Magister Universidad Católica, Chile
- Carole Excell, Senior Associate, The Access Initiative, USA
- Natalia Gómez Peña, Abogada Investigadora, Asociación Ambiente y Sociedad, Colombia
- Carmen Guerrero, CEDEPESCA, Perú
- Gerardo Gabriel Juara
- Claudio Manzano Donoso, Municipalidad de La Pintana, Chile
- Alexandra de Moreau, Magister Universidad Católica, Chile
- Valeria Noé Figueroa, Magister Universidad Católica, Chile
- Francisco Olivares, Magister Universidad Católica, Chile
- Alfredo Otero Ortega, Arquitecto, Colombia
- Norberto Ovando, Asociación Amigos de Parques Nacionales, Argentina
- Francisca Reyes, Universidad Católica, Chile
- Rodrigo Rivera, abogado, eelaw, Chile
- Roxana Salazar, Directora, Fundación Ambio, Costa Rica
- Tomás Severino, Cultura Ecológica, México
- Solange Teles da Silva, Environmental Law Professor, Mackenzie University, Brazil
- Francisco Vicencio, Chile

- Héctor Villaverde, CEFIR, Uruguay
- Ernesto Villegas Rodríguez
- Sharon Zabarburu Chávez, SPDA, Perú

D. Secretaría / Secretariat

Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL)/Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

- Carlos de Miguel, Oficial de Asuntos Ambientales, División de Desarrollo Sostenible y Asentamientos Humanos/Environmental Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division
- Valeria Torres, Oficial de Asuntos Económicos, División de Desarrollo Sostenible y Asentamientos Humanos/Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division
- David Barrio, Oficial de Asuntos Políticos, División de Desarrollo Sostenible y Asentamientos Humanos/Political Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division
- Daniel Chierighini, División de Desarrollo Sostenible y Asentamientos Humanos/Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division