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Sixth [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, 22 August 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 sixth virtual meeting of the Working Group on Capacity-Building and Cooperation, which had as its objective the discussion of the proposal on capacity-building and cooperation to be included in the regional instrument. Attached in Annex I is the list of participants of the meeting.

## **2. DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEETING**

In the opening remarks, ECLAC showed gratitude for the interest the meeting had aroused, welcomed the new delegate from Colombia and informed that the delegate of Jamaica was unable to attend. It recalled that the objective of this meeting was to prepare the capacity-building workshop and the Seventh Meetings of the Working Groups established in the Plan of Action, to be held in Costa Rica on 9, 10 and 11 September 2014. For this reason, the good practices received on the implementation of Principle 10 would be presented in the first place

and then the proposal on the capacity-building and cooperation component to be included in the regional instrument would be discussed.

Afterwards, the delegate from Colombia thanked and highlighted the 33 good practices received from governments and civil society as well as from other stakeholders from Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Uruguay. She emphasized the variety and heterogeneity of the good practices and indicated that they reflected the high commitment of the participating countries with access rights. She then presented them briefly. In addition, she stated that all the good practices would be available at the Principle 10 website and thanked ECLAC for its support in their collection and publication.

The delegate from Chile, in her capacity as Chair of the process, welcomed the new delegate from Colombia. She also noted that the good practices that were presented gave account of the high degree of implementation of access rights in the region, sometimes going beyond the national legal frameworks of the countries. These developments, she said, will undoubtedly inspire the discussions on the contents of the instrument and will be decisive during the negotiations of the second stage of the process.

A representative of the public from Peru asked if it was still possible to send good practices. ECLAC replied affirmatively, requesting that these be sent as soon as possible so that they could be presented at the Costa Rica workshop. In any case, they should be sent before **3 October 2014** in order for them to be considered at the meeting of focal points of November. Practices can be e-mailed to [principio10.lac@cepal.org](mailto:principio10.lac@cepal.org) using the established format available in the website of the process. In turn, ECLAC recalled that other practices in the region had already been included in the assessment report it had published. Such report, it said, is a living document that is constantly being updated in light of the new developments and achievements the region is experiencing.

Once this point of the agenda had been discussed, the proposal of the capacity-building and cooperation component to be included in the regional instrument which considers the inputs received from governments and the public was dealt with.

On this subject, the delegate from Colombia underscored that at the Fifth Meeting of the Working Group it was agreed to call upon the delegates of the signatory countries and the public to send inputs to prepare a proposal on the capacity-building and cooperation contents to be considered in the regional instrument. In addition, she recalled that the coordinators had made a proposal to encourage the discussions. The delegate expressed gratitude for the inputs received and presented the new proposal of the capacity-building and cooperation component to be included in the regional instrument prepared on the basis of such inputs. This proposal would be circulated and uploaded to the website of the process.

During the presentation of the proposal, the coordinator stressed the importance that capacity-building and cooperation should have in the new instrument. Moreover, she stated that the possibility of creating a fourth pillar on capacity-building and cooperation should be explored.

The delegate from Chile thanked Colombia for the presentation and insisted on the importance that capacity-building and cooperation must have in the new instrument in order to achieve the ultimate objective of the process (the full implementation of access rights). On a preliminary basis, she emphasized the principles, the follow-up mechanisms and the flexibility of the different forms and modalities of capacity-building and cooperation contained in the new proposal. She further mentioned that the Government of Chile would be holding a meeting with civil society on 2 September to discuss the proposals on contents for the instrument and encouraged other countries to hold similar events to strengthen their stances.

A representative of the public from Mexico supported the idea of including capacity-building and cooperation as a fourth pillar in the instrument and backed the comments made by the delegate from Chile. In addition, regarding good practices, he thanked the Working Group for the effort and indicated that he wanted to share a manual on the justiciability of the right of access to information with the other participants of the process.

A representative of the public stressed the importance of considering synergies with other regional processes in operation, such as the Organization of American States (OAS).

ECLAC underlined that the Principle 10 process was open to collaborations with other organizations and regional stakeholders, such as the OAS, UNEP or UNITAR. ECLAC highlighted that representatives of these organizations had already participated in meetings of the process and joint activities had already been undertaken.

The delegate from Colombia took the floor to emphasize that the advantages for each possibility are to be considered when exploring the possibility of including capacity-building and cooperation as a fourth pillar and/or mainstreaming it in the instrument. Furthermore, she noted that cooperation activities should be carried out simultaneously with the negotiation process so that countries of the region could benefit from mutual learning and cooperation.

ECLAC recalled that a training workshop was scheduled for 9 October in Santiago on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR), organized by ECLAC, OECD and the Ministry of Environment of Chile. Moreover, training activities were being analyzed for 2015.

A representative of the public from Saint Lucia underscored the need to incorporate the vision of the Caribbean in the instrument and in capacity-building and cooperation activities. She also noted the need of having more Caribbean countries join the regional process and consequently suggested strengthening cooperation with regional organizations, such as CARICOM and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States.

The coordinator of the group closed the meeting by thanking the participants for their comments and recalled the invitation made to share good practices using the established format through the Technical Secretariat. She also encouraged the countries to continue carrying out national capacity-building activities.

### 3. AGREEMENTS

- It was agreed that the good practices received on the implementation of Principle 10 in the region would be uploaded to the web site and that a repository would be created and be regularly updated.
- It was agreed to set **3 October 2014** as the deadline to send good practices in the event that the authors wanted them to be considered at the Fourth Meeting of Focal Points of the signatory countries.
- Given that the proposal on the capacity-building and cooperation component to be included in the regional instrument will be analyzed in the Seventh Meetings of the Working Groups established in the Plan of Action (to be held on 10 and 11 September in San Jose, Costa Rica), the countries and the public were invited to actively participate in these meetings, either in person or virtually (via "web streaming"). Comments and suggestions can also be sent by e-mail to [principio10.lac@cepal.org](mailto:principio10.lac@cepal.org) for consideration during the discussions.

**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
- Verónica Grygianiec, 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

**COLOMBIA**

Punto focal/Focal Point:

- Andrea Marcela Alarcón Mayorga, Coordinadora de Asuntos Sociales, Dirección de Asuntos Económicos, Sociales y Ambientales, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

**GUATEMALA**

Otros participantes:

- Paola Andrea Morris, Coordinadora, Unidad de Relaciones y Cooperación Internacional, Ministerio de Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
- Cesar A. Ruiz, Sección de Estadísticas Ambientales, Instituto Nacional de Estadística

**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
- Alfa María Ramos Herrera, Directora de Normas de Participación Social, Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
- Vicente Silva Liga, Subdirector de Participación Social, Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
- María del Rosario Vásquez Rosales, Directora de Asuntos Internacionales de Acceso, Instituto Federal de Acceso a la Información y Protección de Datos
- 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
- Raúl González, Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente

## **URUGUAY**

### Punto focal/Focal Point:

- Alison Graña, Secretario del Servicio Exterior, Dirección de Medio Ambiente, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

## **B. Organismos de Naciones Unidas / United Nations bodies**

### **Instituto de las Naciones Unidas para Formación Profesional e Investigaciones / United Nations Agency for Training and Research (UNITAR)**

- Carlos Alberto Suárez Marín, Individual Contractor, Chemicals and Waste Management Programme

## **C. Público / Public**

- Patricia Abed, IDEA Paraguay, Paraguay
- Carla Aceves Ávila, México
- Manuel José Amaya, Colombia
- María Rosa Ávila, abogada
- Daniel Barragán, Centro Ecuatoriano de Derecho Ambiental, Ecuador
- Ariel Benítez
- Nelson Betancourt Claros, Colombia
- Rubens Harry Born, Fundação Grupo Esquel Brasil, Brasil
- Anne-Laure Bouchet, Centro Ecuatoriano de Derecho Ambiental, Ecuador
- Isabel Calle Valladares, SPDA, Perú
- Jorge Carpio, Director, Centro de Investigaciones en Políticas Sociales Urbanas, CEIPSU/UNTREF, Argentina
- Julián Casasbuenas, Colombia
- Olimpia Castillo Blanco, Comunicación y Educación Ambiental SC
- Juan Carlos Castro Rivadeneira
- Alejandra Cornejo, CEDEPESCA, Argentina
- Chiara Costanzo, Phd candidate, National University of Ireland, Ireland
- Karetta Crooks, Saint Lucia National Trust, Saint Lucia
- Franklin Díaz
- Yolanda Díaz, Sociedad Civil PNUMA
- Allison Galindo
- Claudia García, Argentina
- Natalia Gómez Peña, Abogada Investigadora, Asociación Ambiente y Sociedad, Colombia
- Carmen Guerrero, CEDEPESCA, Perú

- Sara Irene Gutiérrez, Colombia
- Manuela Hernández Nanetti, Presidenta Academia de Derecho Ambiental, Universidad Nacional Andrés Bello
- Alex Martínez González
- Renato Morgado, Imaflora, Brasil
- Gloria Esperanza Narváez Tafur, Colombia
- Carlos Ovelar
- Paulina Ramírez
- Eyolquy Ríos López, Guatemala
- Lisa Russell, Jamaica Environment Trust, Jamaica
- Graciela Salaberri, Sociedad Amigos del Viento, Uruguay
- Genny Sánchez, Colombia
- Moisés Sánchez, Secretario Ejecutivo, Alianza Regional por la Libre Expresión e Información, Uruguay
- Ezequiel Santagada, IDEA Paraguay, Paraguay
- Tomás Severino, Cultura Ecológica, México
- Cristina Silva, Alianza Regional por la Libre Expresión e Información, Uruguay
- Plácido Silva, Colombia
- Juan Manuel Velasco, Fundación Ecologista Verde
- Leonardo Vera
- Sandro von Matter
- Pablo Wisznienski, Director, Instituto de Estudios e Investigaciones Ambientales, Universidad de Ciencias Empresariales y Sociales, Argentina
- Marisa Young, Fundación Agreste, Argentina
- Sharon Zabarburu Chávez, SPDA, Perú
- Ivonne Zapata, Colombia

#### **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
- Suzanne Arnold, División de Desarrollo Sostenible y Asentamientos Humanos/ Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division