



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC



REPÚBLICA DE PANAMÁ

GOBIERNO NACIONAL

MINISTERIO DE AMBIENTE



Escazú
Agreement



SEGUNDO
FORO
ANUAL
SOBRE

Defensoras y Defensores
de los Derechos Humanos
en Asuntos Ambientales de
América Latina y el Caribe

Ciudad de Panamá, Panamá, 26 AL 28 DE SEPTIEMBRE, 2023

GENERAL INFORMATION



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



ONU
MUJERES



HUMAN RIGHTS
INCLUSION
EMPOWERMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

The **Second Annual Forum on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean** will be held on 26-28 September 2023 in Panama City.

This forum is organized in partnership with the Government of Panama, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme, and the support of the World Bank.

The purpose of this document is to provide participants with the necessary information to facilitate their work in the Meeting. The meeting coordinators will be available to answer any questions concerning logistical or organizational matters that you may have, before or during the event.

2. VENUE OF THE MEETING

The Second Annual Forum on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters will be held in person, in the **Great Room 1 del Hotel W de Panamá**, located at Calle 50 & Aquilino de la Guardia, Panama City, Panama. There will be live broadcast through <https://live.cepal.org/escazu/>.

3. COORDINATION OF THE MEETING

The meeting is organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Questions on substantive matters relating to the meeting may be addressed to Carlos de Miguel, David Barrio, Gabriela Burdiles and Andrea Sanhueza of the Secretariat of the Escazú Agreement secretaria.escazu@cepal.org, (+56) 2 2210 2310).

Enquiries concerning operational aspects of the meeting should be addressed to María Paz Rivera mariapaz.rivera@un.org, and Carla López carla.lopez@cepal.org

4. HOTEL RESERVATION

The Secretariat of the Agreement has reserved a limited number of rooms at a special rate for ECLAC at the following hotel:

- **HOTEL W PANAMÁ(5*)**
Calle 50 & Aquilino de la Guardia, Panama City, Panama
Tel.: +1 507 309 7530 | Movil: +507 6220 9891
wpanama.com

Single standard room: **USD 140 dollars, plus 10% taxes**. This value includes buffet breakfast and unlimited broadband Wi-Fi in the room and throughout the Hotel.

Each participant is responsible for making their reservation and the corresponding payments directly with the hotel.

To make reservations, please use the online form available at [Book your group rate for Grupo CEPAL](#) or email reservations.wpanama@whotels.com

Reservations must be requested directly to the selected hotel before **23 September 2023**. After that date, the hotel reserves the right to modify the rate and does not guarantee the availability of rooms.

All reservations must be guaranteed with a credit card number (number, expiration date and security code) of the passenger.

In Panama, the no-show policy applies, according to which all reservations can be canceled up to 24 hours before the guest's arrival; Otherwise, the first night will be charged. Each participant must pay their bill directly to the hotel at the end of their stay.

5. REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS AND BADGES

On Tuesday, 26 September, starting at 8 a.m., in the **Hall del Great Room 1**, the accreditation of participants **who have previously registered online and received prior written confirmation of their registration** will take place.

Participants will receive a badge, which for security reasons will be required to attend all sessions.

6. OPENING SESSION

The opening session of the Forum will begin at **8:30 am on Wednesday, 27 September** in the Great Room 1, Hotel W Panamá.

7. INTERNET

The Great Room and rooms assigned to the Defenders Forum will have a wireless Internet connection (wi-fi) for the participants.

8. LANGUAGES

The working language of the meeting will be Spanish. There will be simultaneous interpretation into English.

9. MEDICAL SERVICES

It is the responsibility of each participant to have medical insurance, in case of emergency within the venue of the Meeting.

10. DOCUMENTS

The Meeting will make efficient use of paper. All documents will be available for consultation and download on the website <http://www.cepal.org/acuerdodeescazu>. We encourage you to bring your laptop, tablet, or other mobile device, as hard copies will not be distributed at the Meeting.

11. LOCAL TRANSPORTATION

The transfer between the airport and the hotel will be the responsibility of each participant. At the international airport there is a taxi service. It is suggested to take the official taxi services.

12. REQUIREMENTS TO ENTER PANAMA

Participants are requested to bring a valid passport, the email containing the registration and approval of their participation in the Forum or, where applicable, the letter of invitation to the event, and the program for review by Immigration and Security agents at the Tocumen International Airport.

Panama airport Customs officials may randomly request you to demonstrate financial solvency for your stay in the country. The email with the approval of your registration, or, where appropriate, the invitation letter from ECLAC should be sufficient, but it must be taken into account that this process depends on the Immigration authorities.

To enter Panama, visitors must have the following documentation:

- Valid passport
- Return ticket and documents to enter the destination country
- Visa or tourist card. The tourist visa can be obtained at the Panamanian consulates abroad.

To check the countries that require a tourist visa, stamped visas or tourist cards, as well as the entry requirements for these countries, we recommend that you consult the page: <http://www.migracion.gob.pa>, where you will find the list of visa-requiring countries and countries benefiting from the Visa Exemption Agreement, as well as the application form for the stamped visa.

To enter Panama it is mandatory to have received the yellow fever vaccine at least 10 days before the trip.

13. GENERAL INFORMATION ON PANAMA

The Republic of Panama is located in the center of the Western Hemisphere. It borders to the north with the Caribbean Sea, to the south with the Pacific Ocean, to the east with Colombia and to the west with Costa Rica.

According to data from the Comptroller General of the Republic of Panama, the country's surface area is 74,177.3 km² and the population amounts to 3,787,511 inhabitants.

Panama forms a link between Central America and South America, constituting an isthmus 80 km wide in its narrowest section.

The capital is Panama City and is located at the entrance to the Panama Canal. It has an international character thanks to its importance as a commercial, political and cultural center of the country.

Language

The official language is Spanish, although many Panamanians also speak English.

Climate

Panama's climate is tropical and the temperature is usually uniform throughout the year. There are two well-defined annual climatic seasons: the dry and the rainy. The dry season runs from mid-

December to April; and the rainy season, from May to mid-December. The average temperature is 27°C.

Useful information for your stay

Local currency	The official monetary unit of the Republic of Panama is the balboa (\$). However, the circulating paper currency is the United States dollar. Panama's own coins are equivalent in size and value to those of the United States.
Local time	GMT-5.
Electricity	Electricity is 110 volts throughout the country.
Airport tax	Passengers on international commercial flights must pay a \$40 departure tax at the airport when departing Panama.
Tips	Tips are not included in restaurant prices. It is customary to give between 10% and 15% of the total consumed.
Taxis/remises	There is a taxi rank in the departure area of the airport once you have passed customs. The 45-minute ride from Tocumen airport to Panama City by taxi can cost around \$40. The official rate is \$10 per person if sharing the taxi with four passengers, \$14 per person if sharing with two, and \$40 for a private taxi. There are also buses, but they do not run near the terminal and the bus stop is a considerable distance away on foot. Taking the bus is not recommended.