



## **The effective and coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda in Guyana through the Escazú Agreement**

**Georgetown, Guyana**

**14 August 2019**

### **Summary and objectives**

Strengthening accountability, inclusiveness and governance and enhancing effective, responsible and transparent institutions are key to the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Whether it be to end poverty in all its forms (SDG 1), ensure healthy lives (SDG 3) and achieve sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11) and consumption and production patterns (SDG 12), or protect life on land (SDG 15) and below water (SDG 14), tackle climate change (SDG 13) or foster peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16), the generation and access to relevant and timely information, the active engagement of all sectors of society and the integration, consistency and coherence of policies are fundamental.

Placing equality at the core of sustainable development and striving to “leave no one behind”, the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (“Escazú Agreement”) constitutes a decisive tool to deliver on the environmental dimension of the sustainable development agenda. As the first regional environmental treaty of Latin America and the Caribbean aiming to guarantee the full and effective implementation of the environmental access rights to information, participation and justice, the Escazú Agreement promotes a coordinated, coherent, integrated and evidence-based approach to policymaking while empowering societies to protect the environment.

In recent years, Guyana has spearheaded efforts to implement the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the tenets of the Escazú Agreement. In addition to being the first country of the region to ratify the Escazú Agreement on 18 April 2019, Guyana underwent its first Voluntary National Review at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2019. Furthermore, it has adopted a Green State Development Strategy.

The present workshop will seek to analyze how the Escazú Agreement contributes to the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda in an effective and coherent manner in Guyana. To that end, it will specifically review key provisions of the Escazú Agreement and analyze national strengths, weaknesses and opportunities considering the current legislative and policy framework. It will also seek to identify gaps, needs and priorities and set the stage for national strategies and plans of action to more effectively implement the Escazú Agreement in the context of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda.

The **objectives** of the workshop are:

- to raise awareness on the role of the Escazú Agreement in the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda;
- to undertake a national gap analysis and determine priority areas to enhance environmental democracy and access rights in light of the provisions of the Escazú Agreement and internationally agreed goals; and,
- to devise future steps in the national implementation of the Escazú Agreement in pursuit of the environmental pillar of sustainable development.

### **Draft agenda**

- 9–9.30      Opening remarks**
- Ndibi Schwiers, Director, Department of Environment, Ministry of the Presidency, Guyana
  - Mikiko Tanaka, UN Resident Coordinator in Guyana
- 9.30-10.30      Achieving regional sustainable development: key aspects from an environmental perspective**
- Overview of the Escazú Agreement and synergies with the 2030 Agenda, Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other international processes  
*David Barrio Lamarche, Environmental Affairs Officer, UN ECLAC*
  - The role of civil society in the environmental dimension of sustainable development  
*Danielle Andrade-Goffe, Attorney-at-law, Jamaica*  
*Karetta Crooks-Charles, Communication Officer, Saint Lucia National Trust*  
*Melinda Janki, The Justice Institute of Guyana, Guyana*
  - Q & A / Discussion with participants
- 10:30 – 11:30      Stocktaking on the environmental dimension of sustainable development through the lens of the Escazú Agreement**
- Status of environmental access rights in Guyana
  - Gap analysis, priorities and opportunities for action
  - Q & A / Discussion with participants
- 11:30 – 11:45      Health break**
- 11:45 – 12:15      Moving towards effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement and the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda**
- Enabling activities, strategies and roadmaps
  - Experiences at the regional/sub-regional level
  - Q & A / Discussion with participants
- 12:15-12:30      Conclusions and closing remarks**