Cooperation between the Aarhus Convention and the Escazú Agreement to promote the protection of access rights and of environmental defenders

ONLINE SIDE EVENT

Organized by the Guta Environmental Law Association, CIEL, EarthJustice, EEB and ECLAC

Friday, 15 October 2021 | 15:00-17:00 | Geneva time

During this side event we exchange views and identify areas for cooperation to build synergies between the Aarhus Convention and the Escazú Agreement, in order to maximize the protection of the public’s access rights and of environmental defenders under these instruments, and support the implementation of the Escazú Agreement.

Background: The Parties and stakeholders of the Aarhus Convention warmly welcomed the important milestone of entry into force of the Escazú Agreement on April 22, 2021. The first Conference of Parties of the Agreement is planned for April 2022. During different Aarhus events it was raised that a more strategic and systematic cooperation would be beneficial between the two international agreements.

The European Parliament also adopted a resolution on May 19, 2021 on the effects of climate change on human rights and the role of international environmental law in which, among others, in par. 21, “Calls on the Commission, in particular to initiate a programme in support of the Escazú Agreement, with the aim, inter alia, of assisting state parties in ratifying and implementing the Agreement, assisting civil society in engaging with this Agreement and contributing to its implementation, and providing support for the voluntary fund established under the Agreement.”

Invited audience: Parties and Signatories of the Aarhus Convention and of the Escazú Agreement, CSOs and other stakeholders promoting the implementation of Aarhus Convention and the Escazú Agreement, potential donors.

The event will be moderated by Ms. Magdolna Tóthné Nagy, Co-Executive Director, Guta Environmental Law Association.

Registration for the event
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qaGth6FUQsGODw9antvLNA

Zoom link for the event
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84840048981?pwd=Zm8xUngrME8zQm9jU6gpzYTAVZGgvZz09

Passcode: 847322

PROGRAMME

Opening
- Ms. Magdolna Tóthné Nagy, Co-Executive Director, Guta Environmental Law Association (5 minutes)

Keynote address
beneficiaries and opportunities from the Escazú Agreement for Saint Lucia and the Caribbean
- Hon. Shawn A. Edward, Minister for Education, Saint Lucia (5 minutes)

Opportunities for cooperation between the Aarhus Convention and the Escazú Agreement:
- Ms. Camila Zepeda, Director for Environment, Trees and Landscapes, United Nations Environment Programme (5 minutes)
- Mr. Carlos de Migue, Deputy Director, Environment Division, UNECE (7 minutes)
- Mr. Jonas Ebbesson, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, UK (7 minutes)
- Mr. Sebastien Duyk, CIEL (7 minutes)
- Mr. Yves Lador, Environment (7 minutes)
- Mr. Tomas Severino, Cultura Ecologica, Mexico (7 minutes)
- Mr. Zaal Lomtadze, EarthJustice (7 minutes)
- Mr. Jonas Ebesson, Co-Executive Director, Guta Environmental Law Association (3 minutes)

The future of the Aarhus Convention: Challenges and opportunities
- Ms. Danielle Andrade, Elected Representative of the Public (7 minutes)
- Ms. Mattea Zappa, Deputy Director, Environment Division, UNECE (7 minutes)
- Mr. Yves Lador, EarthJustice (7 minutes)
- Ms. Magdolna Tóthné Nagy, Co-Executive Director, Guta Environmental Law Association (7 minutes)

The Aarhus Convention: Some key areas for cooperation
- Mr. Eneida Andrade, Chair of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee (7 minutes)

Lessons from the development and operation of the Aarhus Convention
- Mr. Jonas Ebesson, Chair of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee (7 minutes)
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Lessons from the development and operation of the Escazú Agreement
- Mr. Jonas Ebesson, Chair of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee (7 minutes)

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Discussion, questions and answers, and interventions by other participants (15-20 minutes)

Concluding remarks and closing
- Ms. Magdolna Tóthné Nagy, Co-Executive Director, Guta Environmental Law Association (3 minutes)