



# Meeting of the Ad hoc Working Group

on human rights defenders in environmental matters in Latin  
America and the Caribbean

12 november 2024



# AGENDA

- 1) BRIEF INTRODUCTION
- 2) COORDINATORS OF THE WORKING GROUP
- 3) EVALUATION, FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW OF THE ACTION PLAN
- 4) IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM GUIDELINES
- 5) NEXT STEPS



# 1) Introduction: Decision III/2

- Adopted the **Action Plan** on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters in LAC
- Decided to **maintain, until the close of the ordinary meeting of the COP to be held in 2030, the open-ended ad hoc working group** on human rights defenders in environmental matters:
  - Shall allow for meaningful public participation
  - Especially by indigenous peoples and local communities
  - Endeavouring to include persons or groups in vulnerable situation
- **New mandate:** to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the measures included in the Action Plan and to report to the Conference of the Parties.
- **Invites the Parties and all countries of the region** to help to implement the Action Plan and to step up their efforts to develop and strengthen all necessary measures **at the national level**
- **Requests the Secretariat to promote and facilitate**, in collaboration with relevant organizations, activities aimed at strengthening **the implementation of the Action Plan**



Decisions adopted



5

**DECISION III/2**

**ACTION PLAN ON HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

Recalling article 9 of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement), which refers specifically to the protection of persons, groups and organizations that promote and defend human rights in environmental matters,

Taking note of resolution 53/144 of the General Assembly of the United Nations of 9 December 1998 on the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms,

Recalling decision I/6 of the Conference of the Parties on human rights defenders in environmental matters, whereby an open-ended ad hoc working group on human rights defenders in environmental matters was established and entrusted with preparing an action plan in that regard, to be presented at the second ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties for consideration and adoption,

Taking note of the open and participatory process of preparing the draft action plan, which included in-person and virtual consultations between 2022 and early 2024, and with valuable input from the annual forums on the subject that took place in Quito in November 2022 and in Panama City in September 2023,

The screenshot shows the official website for the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement. The page features a navigation menu at the top with options like HOME, EVENT INFORMATION, BACKGROUND, PROGRAMME, SIDE EVENTS, DOCUMENTS, PRESS CENTRE, and PRE COP. A main banner image shows a large group of people in a conference room. Below this, there is a section titled 'COP 3 of the Escazú Agreement Reinforces the Commitment to Recognize, Protect and Promote All the Rights of Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters'. To the right of this banner, a list of links is provided, with 'Decisions adopted' circled in red. Other links include 'FIRST MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE ESCAZÚ AGREEMENT - 2022', 'SECOND MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE ESCAZÚ AGREEMENT - 2023', 'WEB PAGE OF ESCAZÚ AGREEMENT', 'REGIONAL PUBLIC MECHANISM', 'SUBSCRIBE', and 'COP3 PHOTO GALLERY - ESCAZÚ AGREEMENT'. The bottom right corner features a 'VIDEO' section with a thumbnail of the meeting and the caption 'Third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement, Santiago, Chile, 22 April, 2024'.

## PRIORITY AREAS

A Knowledge  
creation

B Recognition

C Capacity-building  
and cooperation  
for national  
implementation

D Evaluation,  
follow-up and  
review



## 2) Coordinators of the Ad hoc Working Group

- At its August 20, 2024, meeting, the Presiding Officers agreed to invite Chile, Ecuador and St. Kitts to continue to serve as coordinators of the working group.
- In October, the Secretariat received confirmation from the focal points of the 3 countries.
- In the same month, the Board of Directors asked them to begin their work as soon as possible.



### 3) Evaluation, follow-up and review of the action plan (Area D)

- **Objective of this area:** Implement measures for evaluation, follow-up and review of the action plan **within the framework of the institutional architecture of the Escazú Agreement**, in accordance with the principles of transparency and accountability.
  - D.2. Develop an **implementation programme** for this action plan that considers, among other factors, **responsibilities, deadlines and possible sources of support.**



## 4) Guidelines for the implementation programme

- For each area and lines of action define:
  - **Deliverables:** products or concrete activities
  - **Responsible for the implementation:** Main responsible and collaborators
  - **Deadline:**
    - Short (2025-2026)
    - Medium(2027-2028)
    - Long (2029-2030)
  - **Level of implementation:** regional, national, subnational, local
- Possible sources of support
- Milestones:
  - Forum 2025-COP4 2026
  - Forum 2027-COP5 2028
  - Forum 2029-COP6 2030





## 5) Next steps

- Definition of the implementation programme:
  - Dialogue with PO, parties, elected representatives of the public and the public: november 2024-january 2025.
- In the next Forum:
  - April 2025 (tbd)
  - Invite States Parties to report on efforts to implement actions at the national, subnational or local level at the next meeting.

