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Establishing environmental rights for the most vulnerable

Side Event to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2019

Organized by World Resources Institute, Government of Costa Rica, UN ECLAC, The Access Initiative, Namati, CIVICUS-World Alliance for Citizen Participation, DAR-Perú

Monday, 15 July 2019, 1,15-2.30pm, Conference Room B (UN Conference Building)

DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

Focusing on the theme of this year's HLPF (2019) "empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality", the event seeks to discuss how the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (known as the Escazu Agreement) supports the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by devoting specific attention to people and groups in vulnerable situation and including specific mechanisms for the protection of environmental defenders. Special attention will be given to highlight the critical role of the Escazu Agreement to mainstream public participation in climate action, to ensure that climate policies and actions are shaped by and benefited from those that are most affected by climate change

PROGRAMME

***The event will be moderated by Ms. Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC)*

1.15-1.20 pm	Welcome remarks on behalf of the Escazú Campaign Coalition <i>Ms. Carole Excell, Acting Director, Environmental Democracy Practice, World Resources Institute</i>
1.20 – 1.35 pm	OPEN ADDRESS Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality through the effective application of access rights <i>Ms. Diane Quarless, Director of ECLAC's subregional headquarters for the Caribbean</i> <i>Mr. Rodrigo Carazo, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations</i>
1.35 – 1.55 pm	PANEL DISCUSSION (5 minutes each – based on questions sent to panelists) Ms. Yineth Balanta, afro-Colombian environmental leader from Suarez, Colombia Ms. Verónica Bustamante, Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations Ms. Gabriela Burdiles, Project Director of FIMA, member of the NAMATI global network on access to justice
1.55 – 2.10 pm	Questions & answers
2.10 – 2.15 pm	Concluding observations by moderator