



The Escazú Agreement

Strengthening climate action



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC



The challenge

Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels (Paris Agreement)

How to tackle it

- ✓ Generate and grant access to climate information, increasing awareness
- ✓ Guarantee the full and effective participation of all and consider local knowledge in climate policies and actions
- ✓ Protect those that defend the environment and climate action

Public participation and access to information and knowledge are essential to design and apply effective climate policies. The **Escazú Agreement** is an unprecedented tool to catalyse climate governance and action in Latin America and the Caribbean.

- Art. 6.3** Each Party shall have in place one or more up-to-date environmental information systems, which may include (...) climate change sources.
- Art. 6.4** Each Party shall take steps to establish a pollutant release and transfer register.
- Art. 6.5** Each Party shall develop and implement an early warning system.

Escazú Agreement
Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean



Mutual reinforcement for climate empowerment



United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)



Paris Agreement

Art. 12 Parties shall cooperate in taking measures, as appropriate, to enhance climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information.

Art. 6 Education, training and public awareness; (ii) Public access to information on climate change and its effects; (iii) Public participation in addressing climate change and its effects and developing adequate responses.

Regional developments

100%

All 33 countries have ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement

22

22 of 33 countries have signed the Escazú Agreement, 8 have ratified it and 11 are needed for it to enter into force

5

5 of 33 countries include express references to climate change in their constitutions

9

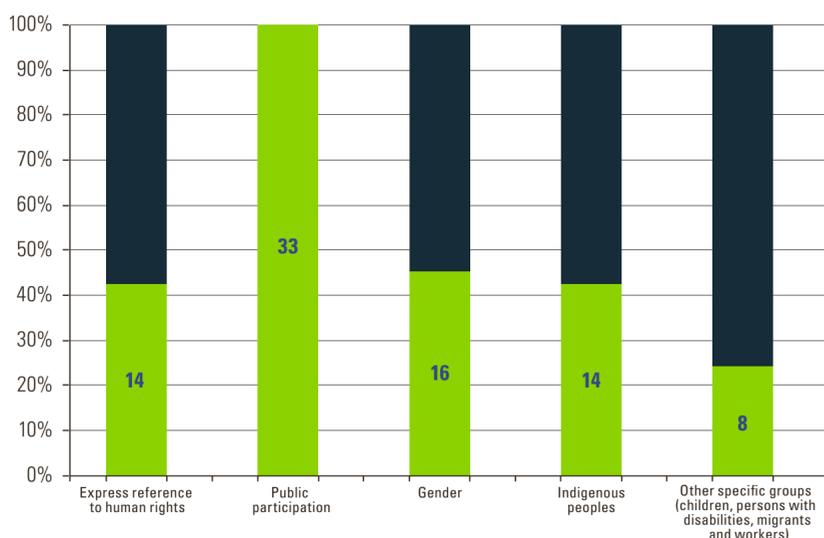
9 of 33 countries have climate change laws, all of which include provisions on information and participation

25

25 of 33 countries have set up multi-stakeholder committees or councils to address the challenges of climate change

Updated as of May 2020.

The human rights-based approach in the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) of Latin America and the Caribbean, as of May 2020 (Number of countries)



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Recommendations for updating NDCs (2020-2021)

- ✓ Strengthen public participation in their development, implementation, follow-up and evaluation
- ✓ Give particular consideration to vulnerable groups to move towards a just transition
- ✓ Actively involve women, youth, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities in climate action
- ✓ Ensure a safe environment for environmental human rights defenders and climate defenders in accordance with the Escazú Agreement

More information:

www.cepal.org/en/escazuagreement
<https://observatoriop10.cepal.org/en>

