THE ESCAZÚ AGREEMENT: HOW TO BECOME A STATE PARTY

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

What is it?
A treaty negotiated and agreed in a transparent and participatory manner by countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in order to benefit their citizens.

Why is it so important?
It is the first regional environmental treaty of Latin America and the Caribbean and the first in the world to include specific provisions to guarantee a safe and enabling environment for environmental defenders. It focuses on persons and groups in vulnerable situations so as to leave no one behind.

How can States become Parties?

The Escázcú Agreement is open to the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. The treaty provides two procedures for States to become Parties:

- Ratification: The Agreement was open for signature between 27 September 2018 and 26 September 2020 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The 24 countries that signed it may deposit their instruments of ratification at any time.
- Accession: The Agreement is open to the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and the first in the world to include specific provisions to guarantee a safe and enabling environment for environmental defenders. It focuses on persons and groups in vulnerable situations so as to leave no one behind.

When will the Agreement enter into force?

The Agreement will enter into force 90 days after the date of deposit of the eleventh instrument of ratification or accession.

When will the first Conference of the Parties take place?

The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties will be convened no later than:

- 1 year after the deposit of the eleventh instrument of ratification or accession.

More information:
Secretary – Escázcú Agreement
Columbia Development and Human Settlements Division
Executive Secretariat of the Agreement
http://www.zepapa.or.g

http://www.unep.or.g