



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

THE ESCAZÚ AGREEMENT

A COMPACT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

It protects the right of every person, of present and future generations, to live in a healthy environment and to sustainable development through access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters.

WHAT IS IT?

It is a treaty negotiated and agreed by the States of Latin America and the Caribbean in a transparent and participatory manner for the benefit of their citizenry.

WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?

It is the first regional environmental treaty of Latin America and the Caribbean and the only one in the world to include specific provisions that guarantee a safe and enabling environment for environmental defenders. It places an emphasis on persons and groups in vulnerable situations in order to leave no one behind.

OBSERVATORY ON PRINCIPLE 10 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS



countries recognize the right to a healthy environment in their constitutions



countries have enacted access to information legislation

76%

of countries provide for public participation in their general environmental laws



countries entitle any person or group to file legal actions in defense of the environment

BETTER DEMOCRACIES

- Partnerships and consensus-building for sustainability
- Increased trust in decisions
- Social cohesion and conflict prevention

BETTER ECONOMIES

- Tool to overcome market (information asymmetries) and policy failures (lack of coordination)
- Transparent policies and curbing corruption

MORE JUSTICE

- Affirmative measures to fully exercise rights
- Strengthened Rule of Law
- Increased accountability of decisions



ANTÓNIO GUTERRES
Secretary-General of the United Nations

“As we continue to tackle the shattering impacts of COVID-19 and step up efforts to curb the triple crisis of climate change, biodiversity collapse and pollution of the natural environment, the Escazú Agreement’s entry into force provides hope and inspiration, and sets the stage for sustainable and resilient recovery.”

ALICIA BÁRCENA
Executive Secretary of ECLAC

“Visionary and unprecedented, it is an agreement reached by and for Latin America and the Caribbean, reflecting the ambition, priorities and particularities of our region on access to information, justice and participation in environmental matters.”

