

Call for papers on the occasion of the Third Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement

The Secretariat of the [Escazú Agreement](#) is seeking unpublished articles on access to justice and human rights defenders in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean on the occasion of the Third Conference of the Parties (COP-3) to the Escazú Agreement, which will be held in Santiago, Chile from 22-24 April 2024.

The selected articles will be compiled in an ECLAC publication. Authors may participate in related activities convened by the Secretariat.

The process will consist of two phases. In the first phase, those interested must send a concept note of their proposed article. The Secretariat, with the support of an Evaluation Committee, will make a selection of concept notes and invite the authors to participate in face-to-face sessions at ECLAC, Santiago, on 25 and 26 April 2024, after the closure of the Third Conference of the Parties, to showcase the proposed articles. In a second phase, authors will be asked to send their final complete articles. Selected articles will be compiled in an ECLAC publication.

A. Who can participate?

Anyone interested may propose an unpublished academic article.

Researchers, professors, graduate students, public officials, members of civil society and any interested person from Latin America and the Caribbean are encouraged to participate.

Proposals from women, youth and indigenous peoples will be particularly welcome.

B. What topics can the articles address?

Articles may deal with any of the topics and subtopics indicated below:

1. Human rights defenders in environmental matters

- a) Experiences and good practices in the establishment of a safe and enabling environment, the recognition and promotion of human rights for the defense of the environment.
- b) Experiences and good practices in individual or collective protection mechanisms.
- c) Analyses of regulatory frameworks related to defenders in environmental matters.
- d) Analyses of jurisprudence related to defenders in environmental matters.
- e) Analyses of emerging challenges and solutions, such as new types of threats and risks, smear campaigns, strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs), the use of new technologies, among others.

2. Access to justice in environmental matters

- a) Experiences and good practices in reducing or eliminating barriers to access to justice in environmental matters, such as broad legal standing, affordability and reasonableness of costs, measures to facilitate the production of evidence, provision of and access to specialized knowledge, mechanisms for execution and compliance with decisions and rulings, among others.
- b) Experiences and good practices in supporting persons and groups in vulnerable situations, such as affirmative measures, differentiated approaches, gender, intergenerational and cultural awareness and technical or legal support, among others.

- c) Experiences and good practices in the generation and strengthening of environmental institutions for access to justice (administrative, judicial and other independent State bodies).
- d) Analyses of regulatory frameworks related to access to justice in environmental matters.
- e) Analyses of jurisprudence related to access to justice in environmental matters, including the guarantee of access to environmental information, public participation in environmental decision-making processes, adverse effects on the environment or contravention of environmental regulations.

C. Application and selection process

First phase:

1. Sending a concept note

Those interested must send a concept note of **a maximum of 3 pages in Word format, in Spanish or English**, by email to secretaria.escazu@cepal.org by Thursday, 29 February 2024 (11:59 p.m. Santiago, Chile) with the following:

First page:

- Information about the author or authors: full name, institution they represent (if applicable), contact information including email. Please note that the Secretariat will delete this data during the review phase to ensure the objectivity of the selection process. Personal data or data that identify the author(s) shall not appear in any other part of the concept note.
- Tentative title of the article.
- Summary: brief description of the scope and contents of the article (maximum of 350 words).
- Keywords 3-5 words that describe the main topic(s).

Second page:

- Introduction and justification: briefly explain the relevance of the topic and the expected contributions of the article (maximum of 250 words).
- Objectives: state the general and specific objective(s) of the article.
- Methodology and sources: concisely explain the methodological approach and the main sources to be used.

Third page:

- Preliminary outline of contents: list of the main topics and subtopics to be developed.
- Preliminary conclusions.

2. Concept note selection process

Article proposals will be subject to a blind review by a multidisciplinary Evaluation Committee coordinated by the Secretariat of the Escazú Agreement.

The Evaluation Committee will examine these proposals on the basis of the concept note once the information about the author(s) have been deleted by the Secretariat.

Systematization, consistency, coherence, relevance, diversity, and innovation in the proposals will be especially valued.

3. Participation in presentation and dissemination activities of article proposals

Authors of the selected concept notes will be invited to participate in face-to-face sessions at ECLAC, Santiago, on 25 and 26 April 2024 to present their article proposals.

The details of this participation will be communicated to the invited authors in advance.

4. Submission of complete articles

After their participation in the presentation and dissemination activities on 25 and 26 April 2024, authors will have two months (until 1 July 2024) to send their complete articles by email to the Secretariat (secretaria.escazu@cepal.org).

Complete articles must meet the following:

- Maximum length: 15 pages.
- Font: Verdana or Calibri 11, single spacing, 2.5 cm margins.
- Language: Spanish or English.
- Format: The text must be sent in an electronic Word file. Since the document is printed in black and white, any mention of the colors used in tables, graphs, maps and diagrams should be avoided, even if electronic versions may be in colour.
- Titles should be concise.
- Footnotes shall be limited to those that are strictly necessary. It is recommended that footnotes are not used to cite bibliographic references, which should preferably be incorporated into the text. Footnotes must be numbered consecutively, with Arabic numerals written as superscripts.
- Acronyms or abbreviations should not be used unless they are essential, in which case the full name should be written the first time they are mentioned in the article.
- Charts, graphs, diagrams and maps must indicate their sources explicitly and fully.
- Charts: they must be inserted into the Word file, as editable content, in the corresponding place within the text.
- Graphics: must be inserted into the Word file, as an image, in the appropriate place within the text. It is also essential to attach an Excel file that contains all the editable graphics in the order in which they appear in the text. In the Excel file, each graph must occupy a sheet and each tab indicate the graphic number.
- Diagrams: must be inserted into the Word file, as editable content, in the appropriate place within the text.
- Maps: must be inserted into the Word file, as an image, in the appropriate place within the text and, in addition, attached in an editable file with the extensions eps, pdf or ai (Illustrator).
- References to tables, charts and graphic elements: in the text there must be at least one reference for each table, box, graph, map or diagram. Additionally, all these elements must include the title, source, and unit of measurement of the data presented, if applicable.
- Bibliography: Bibliographic references must have a direct link with what is stated in the article and not be unnecessarily long. At the end of the article, under the title "Bibliography", all the necessary information should be recorded accurately and in alphabetical order of authors: name

of the author(s), year of publication, full title of the article (if any), of the work, subtitle when applicable, city of publication, publisher and, in the case of a magazine, month of publication.

5. Review and submission of final complete articles

The month after the submission of complete articles, the Secretariat will review them and may request clarifications and suggest changes that do not imply substantive alterations. Subsequently, the authors must send the final articles no later than 30 August 2024.

6. Compilation of articles in an ECLAC publication

Selected articles will be compiled in an ECLAC publication.

The Secretariat reserves the right to accept the final works received and publish them, as well as to suggest changes that do not imply substantive alterations and to edit, translate the texts and undertake desktop publishing for final publication, including the titles.

The drafting and responsibility of the works that are finally published correspond to the authors, who must ensure the work is their own without violating or affecting intellectual property rights of third parties. The works must be of their exclusive authorship and they must hold ownership over the same. In addition, they must certify that the articles are unpublished, not previously submitted for other publications, published or close to publication, that the rights to the works in question have not been transferred in advance and that there is no lien or limitation on their use.

The authors of the works that are selected for publication must sign a non-exclusive rights transfer letter in favour of the United Nations, granting permission for the editing, publication, reproduction and distribution of the article by any means or format.

D. Deadlines

Stage	Date
PHASE 1	
Opening of the call to present concept notes of proposed articles	Monday, 15 January 2024
Deadline to submit concept notes for proposed articles	Thursday, 29 February 2024 (11:59 p.m. Santiago, Chile)
Applicants informed of the result of the selection process	Friday, 15 March 2024
Authors of selected concept notes participate in face-to-face events to present the proposed articles at ECLAC, Santiago	Thursday, 25 April and Friday, 26 April 2024
PHASE 2	
Submission of complete articles	Monday, 1 July 2024
Review and comments on complete articles by the Secretariat	Thursday, 1 August 2024
Submission of final articles	Friday, 30 August 2024

E. Support materials

The following materials are recommended for the drafting of articles:

- [Text of the Escazú Agreement \(in particular articles 8 and 9\)](#)
- [Implementation guide of the Escazú Agreement](#)
- [Observatory of Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)

For inquiries, please contact: secretaria.escazu@cepal.org