RULES FOR THE ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PUBLIC FOR THE ESCAZÚ AGREEMENT

BACKGROUND:

The Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement, adopted by means of the Decision I/1 of 22 April 2022, establish the Regional Public Mechanism as the channel for electing the representatives of the public in order to encourage and facilitate public participation and to channel their contributions.

NORMATIVE BASE:

- The Guadalajara Action Plan of 17 April 2013, which established the creation of the Regional Public Mechanism and the first modalities for public participation.
- The Santiago Decision of 10 November 2014, which invites the public to designate representatives to maintain a continuous dialogue with the Presiding Officers.
- The Modalities for participation of the public in the negotiating committee of the regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted at the Third Meeting of the Negotiating Committee held in Montevideo, Uruguay, 5-8 April 2016.
- The Final Act of the Ninth Meeting of the Negotiating Committee of 4 March 2018.
- Article 15.4 (a) of the Escazú Agreement, which states that at its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties shall discuss and adopt by consensus its rules of procedure, including the modalities for significant participation by the public.
- Decision I/1 of the First Conference of the Parties, which adopts the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties.

ELECTORAL RULES:

Article 1: Objective

The present rules establish the bases for the election of the representatives of the public for the Escazú Agreement (REPS), as provided for in the third paragraph of Rule XIV of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties.

Article 2: Nature and functions of the role

The elected representatives aim to encourage and facilitate public participation and to represent the public[1] at the Conference of the Parties (COP), the Presiding Officers, the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance (CSIC) and other subsidiary bodies, and meetings of the Agreement. For this purpose, the representatives shall conduct consultations with the public at large through the Regional Public Mechanism.

As approved in the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties (Decision I/1), the Presiding Officers shall be composed of one of the elected representatives of the public, to participate in meetings with a voice but not a vote. In addition, the elected representatives shall have two seats at the main table

[1] According to Rule II (h) of Decision I/1 "Public" means one or more natural or legal persons and the associations, organizations or groups established by those persons, that are nationals or that are subject to the national jurisdiction of the countries in annex 1 to the Agreement.

in the room and may speak on behalf of the public at meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement.

Their duties shall be as follows:

a) Regularly disseminate information on the Agreement and its bodies, in order to incorporate the greatest diversity of actors and interests, giving special emphasis to persons and groups in vulnerable situations as indicated in the Escazú Agreement.
b) Work actively in advance of meetings to incorporate their views and proposals, and those of the public, into the deliberations and decisions to be taken by the COP, the CSIC, and the Presiding Officers.
c) Prepare documents (at least in English and Spanish) reflecting positions on specific issues of the Agreement, as well as statements, text proposals, messages, advocacy strategies, interventions, responses, speeches, and press releases, among others.
d) Be proactive in seeking and considering input from the public for the different processes of the Agreement through the Regional Public Mechanism. For this purpose, representatives will consolidate the proposals they receive into a single document that they will share through the Regional Public Mechanism.
e) Work with the Secretariat to ensure an efficient engagement of the public registered in the Regional Public Mechanism and comply with the modalities for participation of the public contained in the Rules of Procedure of the COP.
f) Contribute to the regular dissemination of information to the public on the progress of the Agreement bodies and any other relevant information on the process.
g) Promote public participation prior to and during meetings of the COP, the CSIC and other bodies of the Agreement.
h) Maintain a continuous dialogue with the Presiding Officers, participating in the preparatory meetings prior to the COPs to discuss the agenda of the COP in particular.
i) Promote, as appropriate, the ratification, accession and implementation of the Escazú Agreement in Annex I countries.
j) Any other function established or that may be established by the Conference of the Parties, the Presiding Officers, the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance, the Secretariat or any other body or instance of the Agreement.

The functions of the representatives do not exclude or preclude the participation of other members of the public, who may use the modalities for the participation of the public contained in the Rules of Procedure of the COP.

Article 3: Number of representatives and subregions

A total of six representatives of the public shall be elected. Two representatives shall be elected from each of the following electoral sub-regions:

- **Sub-region 1:** Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

- **Sub-region 2:** Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

- **Sub-region 3:** Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama.

Article 4: Election

A single election shall be held, in accordance with the electoral process detailed in the following articles. The election process shall be fully coordinated by the Secretariat of the Agreement. It shall be final and not subject to appeal.

Article 5: Electoral calendar

The electoral calendar contains the following stages:

a) Call for elections and candidacies, containing the rules and electoral calendar.
b) Closing of voter registration, certification of persons registered in the Regional Public Mechanism and notification of electors.
c) Review, acceptance and publication of candidacies.
d) Electoral campaign period
e) Elections
f) Scrutiny
g) Publication of results
h) Notification to the Presiding Officers of the Agreement, States Parties and the Regional Public Mechanism of the persons elected as representatives.

Article 6: Voters

All persons registered in the Regional Public Mechanism established by the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties (Decision I/1) by the date of the closing of the electoral register are eligible to vote.

The closing of the electoral register shall take place 15 business days after the call for elections and candidacies, containing the present Rules, carried out through the Regional Public Mechanism.

The Secretariat shall certify the persons registered as eligible to vote by the closing date of the electoral register and notify them by sending an e-mail to the address registered in the Regional Public Mechanism.

Article 7: Candidacies

Any person meeting the following requirements may become an elected representative:

a) Be a national or resident of a country of Latin America and the Caribbean of Annex I of the Agreement, proving such status by means of a passport, identity card, residence permit or other authoritative means.
b) Be registered in the Regional Public Mechanism, as certified by the Secretariat, by the closing date of the electoral register.
c) Not being employed or have been employed in any branch of a State, whether national or subnational, in the 12 months prior to the election. Candidates must provide the affidavit contained in Annex 2 to these rules for this effect.

Candidates must submit the form contained in Annex 1 to these rules and a motivation letter by the deadline and via the e-mail address indicated in the call for elections. All forms received will be published on the webpage of the Secretariat.

Candidates shall indicate the electoral sub-region for which they are running as set out in Article 3.

All efforts will be made to achieve ethnic and cultural diversity and gender equity in the candidacies. To this end, the electoral process for representatives will be widely disseminated among civil society organizations, networks of organizations and other means in each of the sub-regions.

Article 8: Eligibility of candidacies
The Secretariat shall receive candidacies and review them to ensure that they comply with the requirements.

If the Secretariat detects incompatibilities, omissions or inaccuracies in the nomination, the candidate is allowed to clarify the situation or complete the nomination within a period of 5 days.

Once the review has been completed, the Secretariat will notify the candidates whose candidatures have been accepted and announce them through the Regional Public Mechanism.

Article 9: Campaign period
The electoral campaign period shall be 30 days, beginning on the date of the publication of the accepted candidacies and their applications through the Regional Public Mechanism. Each candidate shall be responsible for its own campaign.

Article 10: Election
a) The election shall be conducted electronically through a platform established by the Secretariat.
b) For the purpose of conducting the election, the Secretariat shall prepare a list of all accepted candidacies, broken down by the electoral sub-region for which they are being nominated.
c) Each voter shall have only one vote to elect any candidate.

Article 11: Geographical and parity representation
In each sub-region, no more than one person elected as representative may be from the same country (national or resident) or of the same sex.

Article 12: Scrutiny
Once the election is closed and the votes have been counted, the Secretariat shall prepare a report with the results and the votes received by each candidate. The results shall reflect the order of the election, from the highest to the lowest number of votes obtained by each candidate. All nominations will then be ranked by electoral sub-region, noting the country and sex of the candidate.

Article 13: Designation
a) The two persons receiving the highest number of votes in each of the sub-regions shall be elected as representatives.
b) In the event that the two persons from the same sub-region receiving the highest number of votes are persons from the same country, the list of representatives shall be ordered as follows: the person receiving the highest number of votes shall automatically be elected as the REP, with the second place going to the person from a different country of the sub-region who has obtained the second highest number of votes.
c) In the event that the two persons from the same sub-region and different country, who have obtained the highest number of votes, are persons of the same sex, the list of representatives shall be ordered as follows: the person receiving the highest number of votes shall automatically be elected as the REP,

with second place going to the person of a different sex from that sub-region who has obtained the next highest number of votes and who is not from the same country.

d) If all nominations are from the same sex in a sub-region, the candidates with the highest number of votes in that sub-region shall be elected.
e) This procedure shall be carried out in all electoral sub-regions.
f) In the event of a tie, the candidate that is registered with an earlier date in the Regional Public Mechanism shall have priority.

The results of the election will be tallied by the Secretariat and published. The results shall be final and not subject to appeal.

Article 14: Notification of results

The Secretariat shall notify the elected candidates of their election. They will have five days to expressly accept their position as representative.

The absence of an express acceptance by any candidate elected representative shall be deemed as a rejection and the next candidate on the corresponding sub-regional list shall be notified, in accordance with the number of votes received and in accordance with the nomination procedure set out in Article 13, until such time as the vacancy can be filled.

Article 15: Notification to the Presiding Officers

Once all the positions of the representatives have been accepted, the Secretariat shall notify the Presiding Officers, States Parties and the MPR the names of the persons who have been elected as representatives. Their contact details will be sent to the Regional Public Mechanism and posted on the website of the Secretariat.

Article 16: Conditions under which the functions of the persons elected as representatives shall be performed

The six representatives shall have equal representation. Prior to each meeting of the COP, the names of the persons who will occupy each of the institutional seats allocated to the REPS according to the Rules of Procedure shall be communicated to the Presiding Officers.

Representatives will perform their functions “ad honorem” and in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the COP.

Article 17: Term of office

The term of office shall be four years, ending after a new election process.

Article 18: Re-election

A representative of each sub-region shall be eligible for re-election for one additional term. If both representatives of the same sub-region wish to stand for re-election, the Secretariat shall determine by the drawing of lots which of them shall be eligible for re-election.

Article 19: Time frame of the election

A new election shall be held after the end of the ordinary meeting of the COP preceding the fourth year of the term of office and within the same calendar year in which the meeting is held.

Article 20: Resignations, vacancies and replacements of representatives

In the event of resignation or if the other representatives unanimously consider that a representative has ceased to perform his or her duties effectively for any reason, the situation shall be duly justified and communicated to the Secretariat, which shall declare the position of such representative vacant.

In the event of a vacancy, the following procedure shall be followed:

a) The Secretariat shall inform the Presiding Officers and the other REPS of the existence of a vacancy.
b) In accordance with article 13, the Secretariat will then proceed to nominate a replacement from the list of nominations from the immediately preceding one, who will serve for the duration of the unexpired term of office.
c) The person nominated for the role must expressly accept the nomination pursuant to article 14.

Article 21: Communications

All communications with respect to the present rules shall be by e-mail.

Article 22: Annexes

The present rules comprise two annexes:

- Annex 1: Application form
- Annex 2: Affidavit on article 7c)

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ANNEX 1
APPLICATION FORM

***** ALL FORMS RECEIVED WILL BE PUBLISHED *****

PLEASE SEND TO SECRETARIA.ESCAZU@CEPAL.ORG BY 10 AUGUST 2026 (11:59 PM SANTIAGO, CHILE TIME). WORD FORMAT (DOCX) ONLY.

Please select as applicable:

	YES	NO
I am a national or resident of a Latin American and Caribbean country of Annex I of the Escazú Agreement	☐	☐
I am registered in the Regional Public Mechanism by the closing date of the electoral register (31 July 2026)	☐	☐
I am employed or have been employed in any branch of the State, national or sub-national, within the 12 months prior to the election	☐	☐

a. Personal details

1) Full name:

2) Gender:

3) Date of birth (day/month/year):

4) Nationality:

5) Country of residence:

6) E-mail, for communications with the public:

Include a photo

b. Subregion. Indicate the electoral sub-region for which you are running according to your nationality or country of residence **(select ONE):**

Subregion 1. ☐
Subregion 2. ☐
Subregion 3. ☐

c. Languages

Level of Spanish:				
Oral:	Basic: ☐	Intermediate: ☐	High: ☐	Mother tongue: ☐
Written:	Basic: ☐	Intermediate: ☐	High: ☐	Mother tongue: ☐
Level of English:				
Oral:	Basic: ☐	Intermediate: ☐	High: ☐	Mother tongue: ☐

Written:	Basic: ☐	Intermediate: ☐	High: ☐	Mother tongue: ☐
Other language (please specify)				
Oral:	Basic: ☐	Intermediate: ☐	High: ☐	Mother tongue: ☐
Written:	Basic: ☐	Intermediate: ☐	High: ☐	Mother tongue: ☐

d. Letter or statement of motivation for applying for the role (600-1000 words maximum):

e. Education and relevant experience: indicate your education and experience in matters related to the Escazú Agreement

f. Time availability: please explain your time availability and commitment to perform the functions of representative of the public

g. Other relevant information

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ANNEX 2

AFFIDAVIT ON ARTICLE 7 (c) OF THE RULES FOR THE ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PUBLIC FOR THE ESCAZÚ AGREEMENT

In (city, country) _____, on (date)_____, I (full name as stated in the identity card) _____, (Identity or passport number)_____, with address at _____, declare for the purposes of my candidacy as elected representative of the public for the Escazú Agreement:

1. To have read and understood the Rules for the election of representatives of the public for the Escazú Agreement, including the requirements for submitting candidacies.

2. Not to incur in the prohibition set out under article 7 c) of the Rules for the election of representatives of the public for the Escazú Agreement, that is, "not be employed or have been employed in any branch of a State, whether national or subnational, in the 12 months prior to the election".

3. To be aware that failure to comply with this affidavit or providing false statement will result in the disqualification of my candidacy from the election process.

4. To have read the Escazú Agreement and the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties, as adopted by Decision I/1 of 22 April 2022.

_____

SIGNATURE