The Escazú Agreement

Placing equality at the centre of sustainable development and leaving no one behind

Environmental Information
Participation in environmental decision-making
Access to justice in environmental matters
Environmental defenders
Capacity-building and cooperation

Carlos de Miguel, Head, Policies for Sustainable Development Unit
Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division

National online workshop "Generating climate change and disasters indicators for policy decision-making in Antigua and Barbuda"

Antigua and Barbuda, 3 December 2021
Basic facts about the Escazú Agreement

Adopted in Escazú (Costa Rica) on 4 March 2018
Entered into force 22 April 2021

- Only treaty stemming from the UN Rio+20 Conference
- First regional environmental treaty of Latin America and the Caribbean
- Latest Multilateral Environmental Agreement adopted at the UN
- First treaty in the world with specific binding provisions on environmental human rights defenders

Open to the 33 LAC countries

24 have already signed it

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>State party since</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antigua and Barbuda</td>
<td>27/09/2018</td>
<td>04/03/2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Guyana, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Uruguay

Adoption ceremony at Escazú (Costa Rica), 4 March 2018
Objective (art. 1)

Guarantee the full and effective **implementation** in Latin America and the Caribbean of environmental access rights **and** the creation and strengthening of capacities and cooperation

contributing to the protection of the **right** of every person of present and future generations to live in a healthy environment and to sustainable development.
Underlying basis of the Escazú Agreement

Environmental issues are best handled with the active participation of all concerned.

Access to environmental information is critical for sound policy-making.

Environmental harm must be prevented and remedied.

Regional cooperation is key.
Salient features of the Escazú Agreement

- Achieving a healthy environment and sustainable development
- Rights-based
- People-centered
- Leave no one behind
- Capacity-building and cooperation

Environmental dimension of sustainable development

- Generation and access to environmental knowledge and information
- Meaningful engagement of all sectors of society
- Redress and remedy against environmental harm

Special consideration of Small Island Developing States

Implementation support

Progressive realization
Environmental information

- Access to information (art. 5)
  - Accessibility
  - Refusal of access
  - Conditions for delivery (format, timeframes, cost)
  - Independent review mechanisms

- Generation and dissemination of information (art. 6)
  - Environmental information systems
  - Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs)
  - Disasters / early warning systems
  - Report on State of Environment
  - Information for consumers and users
  - Company sustainability reports
By enhancing access to data, knowledge, and information, and by engaging vulnerable groups, it upholds fundamental values of democratic life and fosters responsive public policies.

When the agreement enters into force and is implemented, countries will be better placed to preserve their strategic natural heritage through more inclusive and community-oriented actions.
OECS Council of Ministers on Environmental Sustainability welcomes the Enhanced Programme of Action on the Escazú Agreement in the Eastern Caribbean

Scope of OECS–ECLAC MoU:

- facilitating policy formulation,
- technical cooperation,
- training and capacity-building
- strategic advocacy and awareness,
- joint studies, publications, reports and analytical work
- Promoting a green recovery COVID-19

"...provides an excellent platform and framework for advancing the aspirations of our Small Island Developing States" - Dr. Didacus Jules

"...is the first and only of its kind concluded by ECLAC as Secretariat of the Escazú Agreement and reinforces our Caribbean First Strategy" - Ms. Alicia Bárcena
Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Escazú Agreement at COP26 on climate change
Get to know the activities on the Agreement at COP26 taking place between 31 October and 12 November 2021

Meetings
- 15/10/2021: Cooperation between the Aarhus Convention and the Escazú Agreement to promote the protection of access rights and of environmental defenders
- 23/09/2021: Webinar informativo sobre implementación del Acuerdo de Escazú y sus implicancias sobre el Sector Minero en el territorio argentino
- 28/07/2021: Seminar on the Escazú Agreement for Government officials and relevant stakeholders in Belize

Regional Agreement
The certified true copies of the Regional Agreement are available at the website of the United Nations Treaty Section

News
- 25/10/2021: The Escazú Agreement at COP26 on climate change
- 15/07/2021: The Time Has Come to Bolster Access to Environmental Information, Participation and Justice, to Build a More Resilient and Sustainable World: Alicia Barcena
- 21/03/2021: OECS Council of Ministers on Environmental

http://www.cepal.org/en/escazuagreement
Contact

Secretariat – Escazú Agreement
Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division
United Nations, ECLAC

http://www.cepal.org/en/escazuagreement
http://observatoriop10.cepal.org

#AcuerdodeEscazú    #EscazúAgreement