

Environmental Equity and Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean



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PROMINENT REASONS FOR A REGIONAL INITIATIVE

1. Facilitates concerted actions and strategies to better address **common challenges** facing the region.
2. Promotes and strengthens dialogue, cooperation, technical assistance, **capacity building**.
3. Strengthens **national implementation** and promotes the strengthening of **environmental governance** in the countries of the region.
4. Encourages building a regional agenda based on **sustainability** and **equality**.
5. Improves the conditions of **vulnerable populations**.
6. Contributes to **reduce and/or prevent social conflict**. A regional instrument can contribute to a more inclusive and peaceful means -with clear and robust rules- for dialogue and to channel interests, concerns and demands that can go beyond national boundaries.
7. By adding the regional level, **State policy**, effective enforcement, transparency and accountability is promoted.
8. Recognizes the specific characteristics of the region, responding to regional challenges and needs, and allows to establish goals and steps that are considered appropriate to the circumstances. Greater sense of **ownership**.



Declaration on the application of Principle 10

Commitments must be made to ensure the **full exercise** of the **rights** of access to information, participation and justice regarding environmental issues as enshrined in Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration of 1992. To this end, we declare our willingness to launch a process to explore the feasibility of adopting a **regional instrument**, ranging from guidelines, workshops and best practices to a regional convention open to all countries in the region and with the meaningful participation of all concerned citizens. Latin America and the Caribbean can and must take a meaningful step forward on this front. For this, Governments commit to drafting and implementing a **Plan of Action 2012-2014**, with the support of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) as the technical secretariat, to work towards such a regional convention or other instrument.



Río de Janeiro (Brasil)
20 a 22 de junio de 2012

Documento final de la Conferencia

Nota verbal de fecha 27 de junio de 2012 dirigida al Secretario General de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible por la Misión Permanente de Chile ante las Naciones Unidas

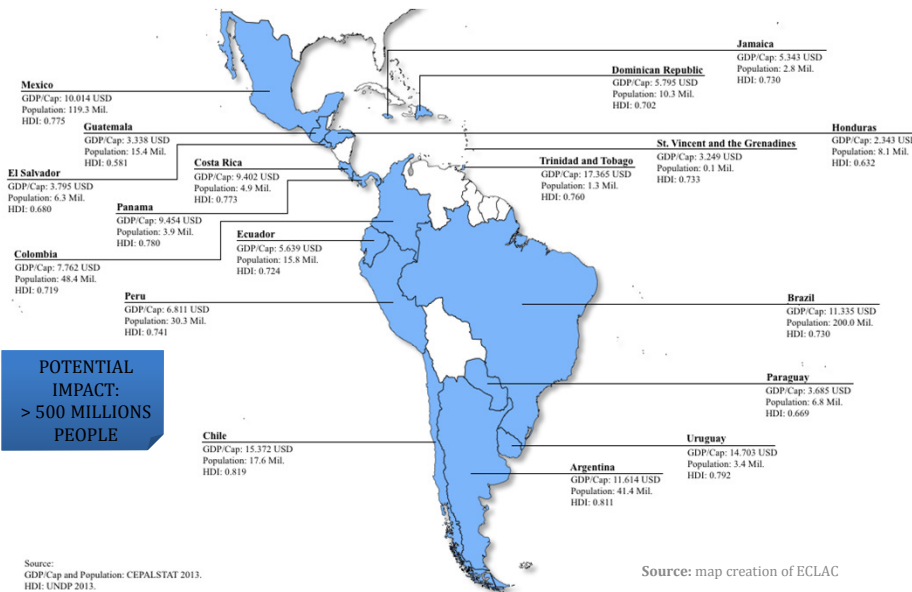
La Misión Permanente de Chile ante las Naciones Unidas tiene el honor de adjuntar la Declaración sobre la aplicación del principio 10 de la Declaración de Río sobre el Medio Ambiente y el Desarrollo (véase el anexo), impulsada por los Gobiernos de Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Jamaica, México, Panamá, Paraguay, Perú, República Dominicana y Uruguay.

La Misión Permanente de Chile ante las Naciones Unidas solicita a la Secretaría de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible que tenga a bien hacer distribuir esta declaración como documento oficial de la Conferencia.



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SIGNATORY COUNTRIES A/CONF.216/13.



THE PROCESS IN A SNAPSHOT

1. A convening process: From 10 to 18 signatory countries

2. A political process where commitment is reaffirmed

- Declaration – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (June 2012)
- Roadmap – Santiago, Chile (November 2012)
- Plan of Action 2013-2014 – Guadalajara, Mexico (April 2013)
- Common Vision of the Instrument – Lima, Peru (October 2013)

3. An effective process: Main tasks agreed upon and being implemented

- Promote the declaration and incorporate new signatories to the process,
- Strengthen and highlighting the progress made in the region
- Promote active public participation at the national level, and
- Move towards the establishment of a regional instrument through working groups

Three meetings of Focal Points held (November 2012, April 2013, October 2013) and five working groups (online and onsite)

4. A valued process: International and public recognition: CELAC and CELAC UE

5. A participative process: Regional Public Mechanism operating

Online Register (www.cepal.org/rio20/principio10) that allows all stakeholders in the process to receive regular information meetings and progress of the process.

6. A serious and ambitious process: Baseline

ECLAC document "Access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in LAC: situation, outlook and examples of good practices"

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ORGANIZATION OF WORK

SIGNATORY COUNTRIES

Focal Points

Decision-Making body

WORKING GROUPS

Focal Point or Representative

Advisory Bodies

Capacity-building and
Cooperation

Coordinators:
Jamaica and Colombia

Access Rights and
Instrument

Coordinators:
Brazil and Costa Rica

PRESIDING OFFICERS

Dominican Republic,
Mexico, Chile

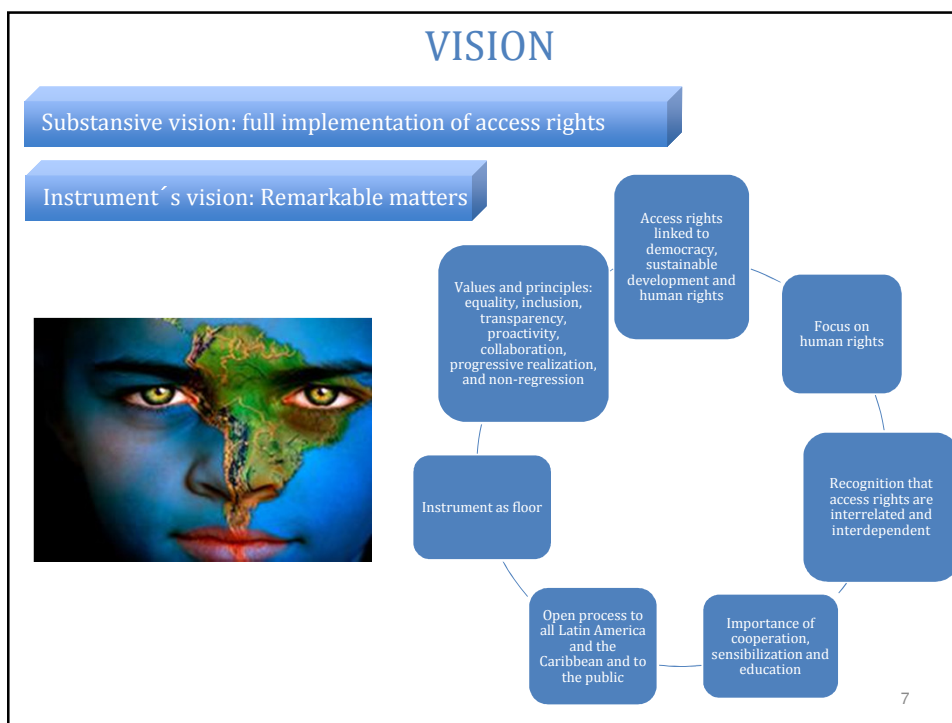
Coordination of the process

ECLAC

Technical Secretariat

PUBLIC
Any natural or legal
person or
community
organization

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CEPAL'S PROPOSAL ON MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE REGIONAL INSTRUMENT FOR THE FULL APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLE 10 (first draft)

- First Part
 - Previous documents approved in the process can be inputs for the content of a first part that includes preamble, objectives, definitions, principles and general provisions and obligations.
- Matters to be considered in each right:
 - **Access to environmental information:**
passive and active transparency
 - **Participation:**
at project level; in policies, plans, norms, regulations, programmes, projects and strategies, and in international agreements
 - **Access to justice:**
mechanisms to appeal in case of refusal of access to information and to report general violations of environmental laws, special consideration to vulnerable groups, training of judicial and administrative officers.

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CEPAL'S PROPOSAL ON MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE REGIONAL INSTRUMENT FOR THE FULL APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLE 10 (first draft)

- Means of implementation
 - Support to comply with the instrument
 - Technical assistance
 - National activities
 - Financing
- Rules of procedure:
 - Proposal to consider “Rules of public participation in the meetings” in the framework of the instrument
- Institutional Framework
 - Meeting/ Conference of Parties
 - Secretariat
 - Advisory Group or subsidiary bodies
 - Compliance mechanism
 - Other procedural matters as right to vote, signature, ratification, etc.

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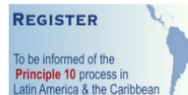
NEXT STEPS

1. **Implementation of the Plan of Action to 2014**
 - i. Working Groups and Focal Points Meeting
 - ii. Actions at the National Level
2. **Public Participation**
 - i. Substantive contribution to the regional process
 - ii. Hold governments accountable for national and international commitments
 - iii. Proper Ambition
 - iv. Partnerships and Actions

SANTIAGO, NOVEMBER 2014:
DEFINITION OF
NATURE AND CONTENTS OF
COOPERATIVE INSTRUMENT



<http://www.mma.gob.cl/1304/w3-propertyvalue-16536.html>



<http://www.cepal.org/rio20>

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