



## Environmental democracy for sustainable societies

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Side event to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2018

Organized by UN ECLAC in collaboration with Chile, Costa Rica, France, Italy, UNECE, UN ENVIRONMENT, and The Access Initiative

**11 July 2018, 6:30 pm – 8 pm, ECOSOC Chamber (UN Conference Building)**

### DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

The world is facing several fundamental challenges, such as climate change and the depletion of natural resources, which require profound transitions towards sustainable development, including by ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns, introducing a circular economy and minimizing release of pollutants. These challenges cannot be met by any actor alone. Promoting environmental democracy through the effective engagement of civil society, including NGOs, indigenous peoples, academia and other stakeholders, reinforces and complements the ability of governments to address these problems. The event will highlight and clarify the critical importance of rights to access to information, participation and justice (as enshrined in Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration) for combating inequality and building sustainable and resilient societies. It will also show case concrete experiences on how the international community is jointly and proactively acting on these matters --from the recently adopted “Escazu Agreement” of the Latin America and the Caribbean countries to the Aarhus Convention, currently celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. During the event synergies and inter-linkages between promotion of environmental democracy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will be presented.

## PROGRAMME

*\*\*The event will be moderated by Ms. Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean*

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6:30 –  
6:40 pm

### **OPEN ADDRESS**

#### **Promoting sustainable and resilient societies through the effective application of Principle 10**

*Ms. Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean*

*Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe*

6:40 –  
7:30pm

### **PANEL DISCUSSION (5 minutes each)**

#### **Background and reasons for the regional initiative on Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean**

*Mr. Jorge Iglesias, Deputy Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations*

#### **Escazu Agreement: Future steps**

*Ms. Verónica García, Chargée d'Affaires, Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations*

#### **Aarhus Convention and Sustainable Development Goals**

*Mr. Martin Bortzmeyer, Head of the Delegation for Sustainable Development, Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, France*

#### **Aarhus Convention and Sustainable Development Goals**

*Mr. Sergio Mercuri, Minister Plenipotentiary, Sustainability Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italy*

#### **Challenges faced by Caribbean countries on Principle 10 application and opportunities open by the Escazu Agreement on capacity building and cooperation**

*Ms. Pernelope Beckles, Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations*

#### **How binding instruments can enhance the opportunities for civil society to get engaged in implementing the 2030 Agenda**

*Ms. Natalia Gómez, Representative of the public in the Latin America and the Caribbean Principle 10 process*

#### **Plans of UN Environment to assist Principle 10 application at regional and national level**

*Mr. Mamadou Kane, Environmental Governance, UN Environment*

7:30 –  
7:45 pm

Questions & answers

7:45 –  
8pm

Concluding observations by moderator