

## **ECLAC Statement**

*Joint High-level Segment under the Meetings of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on PRTRs (2 July 2014, Maastricht, the Netherlands)*

### **Welcome remarks**

- Thank you Madam Chair. Excellencies, distinguished delegates, colleagues and friends. On behalf of UNECLAC, I would like to reiterate our gratitude to the Government of the Netherlands and the Aarhus Convention Secretariat for inviting ECLAC to participate at the Joint High-Level Segment under the Meetings of the Parties to the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on PRTRs.

### **Environmental Democracy and the Post 2015 Development Agenda**

- I would like to recall that the Millennium Development Goals were a fundamental guide for the implementation of public policies, putting in place international cooperation and channeling ODA. The Sustainable Development Goals, currently under discussion, will be broader in scope and more ambitious, with the aim to promote Sustainable Development in the world.
- We are, therefore, convinced that the full implementation of Principle 10 must be at the heart of the post-2015 development agenda in order to guarantee that all persons, but in particular the vulnerable groups and the poor, have access to reliable information and can participate in decisions which affect their lives, placing equality and environmental protection at the core of sustainable development.
- Both the Open Working Group under which sustainable development goals are being discussed, and the next Conference of the Parties of the Climate Change Convention to be held in Lima, Peru, next December, offer an outstanding opportunity to highlight the connections between access rights, the post-2015 development agenda and the future climate regime, (the latter, in line with Article 6 of the Climate Change Convention). We at

ECLAC have also stressed that sustainable development will not be possible without more participatory and transparent democracies.

- Excellencies, at this point in time, 18 countries from Latin America and the Caribbean are currently embarking upon a process to advance towards a regional instrument on access rights relating to the environment. Europe and Latin America share values and a special friendship. Their common support of the implementation of the Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration was recognized in the CELAC-EU Summit in Santiago, Chile, 2013. The success of this regional process will deeply benefit from your political support.
- Let me finalize by congratulating the Maastricht Declaration and thanking its supportive mention to the LAC process on Principle 10.
- Thank you very much for your attention.