

ECLAC Statement

Second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to justice in Environmental Matters – General Segment

3-4 July 2014, Maastricht, the Netherlands

Welcome remarks

- Thank you Mr. Chair. I would like to thank the Government of the Netherlands and the Aarhus Convention Secretariat for inviting ECLAC to participate at the Second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs.

Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration and PRTR in LAC Region

- At ECLAC we are convinced that PRTRs are key for the effective application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration due to their power of generating systematized information and its wide dissemination. To provide proper access to information and participation, good information is needed.
- Furthermore, we are convinced that in order to design effective environmental policies have reliable data is a must. In this context, we acknowledge that PRTRs are a comprehensive dataset of pollutants that not only contribute to improving environmental policies but also to align economic incentives to the ultimate goal of achieving sustainable development. This is why we, as a regional commission, we are particularly keen in promoting and supporting countries to implement this tool.
- Currently, the only countries in the region with PRTRs in operation are Chile and Mexico, although Ecuador and Peru are in the final phase of its implementation. Some countries from Central America and the Dominican Republic have received capacity-building with the support of UNITAR but still need a continuous strong support to implement PRTRs.

- At the Fourth Meeting of the Working Group on Capacity-Building and Cooperation of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Latin America and the Caribbean countries identified training priorities for each of the three pillars of Principle 10 so as to guide the efforts to implement regional actions and provide guidance for activities that countries wish to undertake at the national level. One of the priorities identified in access to information was the dissemination of good practices and information tools to support environmental management and the right to know of citizens.
- In this context and on the occasion of the 17th Meeting of the Task Force on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to be held in Santiago, Chile, on 6, 7 and 8 October 2014, ECLAC, OECD and the Ministry of the Environment of Chile have joined efforts to organize an event open to all countries in Latin America and the Caribbean with the aim of sharing practices and knowledge and promote the establishment of these registers in the region. I also want to thank the government of Spain for providing trainers and I invite other Parties to do the same. The meeting will also be an opportunity to discuss the achievements and difficulties encountered in the region and explore new means of cooperation which would allow advancing towards the development of Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers in the region.
- ECLAC supports any cooperation effort to allow Latin America and Caribbean countries to develop PRTR or other sources of environmental information.
- Thank you very much for your attention.