

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP OF THE PARTIES TO THE PROTOCOL ON PRTRs

We would like to thank the Secretariat for providing us a space in this meeting to present an achievement that gives us great satisfaction.

Colombia is pleased to inform you that after eight years of institutional commitment, articulated and continuous work among different stakeholders, Resolution 839 of 25 August 2023, approving the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR), has finally been issued by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.

The PRTR is an important milestone in the implementation of the Escazú Agreement on "Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean" and in the fulfilment of the commitments that Colombia has made in the post-accession phase with the OECD Chemicals and Biotechnology Committee (CBC) regarding the Recommendation of the Council on Establishing and Implementing Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTRs).

The information to be collected, processed and validated in the PRTR will be made available to the public through a web portal in order to increase public knowledge, participation and interest in environmental issues and decision-making.

For the industrial sector, this tool will also serve to promote pollution reduction through productive comparisons between companies on pollution levels and risks from potentially hazardous releases and transfers.

For the public sector, it will also enable the identification of major sources of pollution that can put pressure on ecosystems at local, regional and national levels.

If you have any doubts or questions about the implementation of the Colombian PRTR, we would be glad to organise a dissemination or socialisation meeting.

Thank you.