



19 August

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: SPANISH

First virtual meeting of the Working Group on capacity-building and cooperation established under the Plan of Action to 2014 of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

August 9, 2013

[This document has not been subject to editorial revision]

MINUTES –SUMMARY OF THE MEETING

1. BACKGROUND

The Plan of Action to 2014 for the implementation of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean established two working groups for advancing towards the formulation of a regional instrument:

- i) Working group on capacity-building and cooperation; and
- ii) Working group on Access rights and the regional instrument.

The Plan of Action states that all signatory countries may participate in the working groups, in which they may be represented by the focal points or by a representative appointed by them. Non-signatory countries of the region may participate as observers in these meetings. Each group will elect at least a coordinator and an alternate coordinator from among the government representatives and the stakeholders will participate according to modalities set forth at the modalities of participation of stakeholders.

At the Second meeting of the focal points appointed by the Governments of the signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Guadalajara, in April 2013, the delegations agreed that the working group on capacity-building and cooperation would be led by Colombia and Jamaica. The objective of the group is to make a proposal to intensify regional and international cooperation with regard to training and financing needs and operations, both for the public sector and for the public in general.

The first virtual meeting was attended by focal points of the Declaration and other representatives of the States signatories of the Declaration as well as members of the Public previously registered at the Regional Public Mechanism. The list of participants is included in Annex 1.

2. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

At the opening, the representative of Colombia, as one of the coordinators of the Working Group, briefly explained the objectives of the meeting and modalities of work.

Then, the delegate of Chile, which currently has the presidency of the Presiding Officers, presented a brief explanation and update of the regional process. She highlighted the recent accession of Argentina to the process.

Presentation of the regional outlook on Principle 10 implementation and resources available for capacity building and cooperation

ECLAC, technical secretariat of the Declaration, presented the document “Access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean: situation, outlook and examples of good practice”. The document reviews the laws and institutional frameworks that safeguard access to information, participation in decision making and justice in environmental matters in the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. The information gathered was complemented with a questionnaire on the implementation at the national level of Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration, which was filled in by 16 countries and 10 civil society organizations. The preliminary version of the document, presented at the Second meeting of focal points held in Guadalajara, received comments and inputs that were integrated in a final version to be published soon. The presentation is available at: <http://www.cepal.org/rio20/principio10>.

Then the delegate of Jamaica, one of the coordinators of the Working Group, referred to the objectives of the workshop on the implementation of Rio Principle 10 in the Caribbean Region, organized by ECLAC, UNEP and UNITAR and to be held on September 16 and 17 in Trinidad and Tobago. A second workshop will be held back to back the Third Meeting of Focal Points appointed by the Governments signatories of the Declaration, to be held the last week of October or the beginning of November.

Dialogue with participants on regional priorities for capacity building and cooperation

In view of the Third Meeting of Focal Points (end of October or beginning of November) and based on the Plan of Action to 2014, the coordinators suggested the following objectives for 2013:

1. Identify capacity building need and elaborate a list of resources available for governmental and public
2. Identification of best practices with regard to the three pillars of Principle 10
3. To make recommendations to focal points with regard to intensification of cooperation based on needs and funding and capacity building options, both for public sector as well as general public (scope and priorities).

The objectives were well received by the participants at the Working Group, who discussed how to incorporate different stakeholders, including the private sector, in the process of implementing the Declaration and the Plan of Action to 2014.

Establishment of a calendar and form of next meetings: proposal by coordinators

Coordinators proposed the establishment of the Quickr site administered by ECLAC to advance on the group discussions and to have a second virtual meeting by the end of September 2013. Also it was proposed to have Third meeting (not virtual) back to back with the Third meeting of focal points appointed by the signatory countries.

3. AGREEMENTS

- Group discussions will continue through the Quickr system, that will be accessible for all participants of the group to discuss and/or exchange information. ECLAC will send the information about the Quickr.
- The coordinators will prepare a proposal of activities for 2014 to be submitted for consideration at the Third Meeting of focal points appointed by the signatory countries.
- The proposal will be prepared by the coordinators, with support of the Secretariat and the Presiding Officers, and will be available to the public for comments two weeks before the Third meeting of the Working Group.

Anexo 1
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A. Países signatarios de la Declaración
Signatory countries of the Declaration

ARGENTINA

Punto Focal / Focal Point

- Fabiana Loguzzo, Directora General de Asuntos Ambientales del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto

Otros participantes:

- Brenda Mariana Pangrazi, Secretario de Embajada, Dirección General de Asuntos Ambientales, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto

CHILE

- Punto Focal / Focal Point

- Constance Nalegach, Ministerio de Medio Ambiente

Otros participantes:

- Gabriel Mendoza, Encargado de Participación Ciudadana, Oficina de Transparencia y Participación Ciudadana, Ministerio del Medio Ambiente

COLOMBIA

- Punto Focal / Focal Point

- María Angélica García, Coordinadora de Asuntos Sociales, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

COSTA RICA

- Punto Focal / Focal Point

- Mariamalia Jiménez, Ministra Consejera de la Embajada de Costa Rica en Santiago

JAMAICA

- Punto Focal / Focal Point

- Princess Gordon, Documentation/Information and Access Service Director, Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change

MÉXICO/MEXICO

- Punto Focal / Focal Point

- Jorge Legorreta, Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales

Otros participantes:

- Alfa María Ramos Herrera, Directora de Normas de Participación Social, Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
- María Ana González, Directora de Acceso a la Información, Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
- María del Rosario Vásquez Rosales, Director de Asuntos Internacionales de Acceso, Dirección General de Asuntos Internacionales, Instituto Federal de Acceso a la Información y Protección de Datos
- Miguel Molina, Subdirector de Asuntos Internacionales de Acceso, Dirección General de Asuntos Internacionales, Instituto Federal de Acceso a la Información y Protección de Datos

PANAMÁ/PANAMAOtros participantes:

- Linesel Saavedra, Abogada, Oficina de Asesoría Legal, Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente
- Natividad Jaramillo, Analista Oficina de Asuntos Internacionales, Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente
- Generoso Guerra, Autoridad Nacional del Ambiente

URUGUAYPunto focal / Focal point:

- Alison Graña, Secretario del Servicio Exterior, Dirección de Medio Ambiente, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

B. Miembros del Público / Public

- Daniel Barragán, Centro Ecuatoriano de Derecho Ambiental – CEDA
- Gloria Olimpia Castillo, Comunicación y Educación Ambiental SC
- Karetta Crooks, Communications & Advocacy Officer Saint Lucia National Trust, St Lucia
- Carole Excell, Senior Associate, World Resources Institute
- Teresa Flores, Coalición Iniciativa de Acceso- PRODENA Bolivia
- Ana Lucía Maya, Ambiente y Sociedad, Colombia
- Andrés Mejías
- Florencia Ortuzar, AIDA-Americas, Chile
- Daniel Ryan Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (FARN), Argentina
- Andrea Rodríguez, AIDA-Americas, Chile
- Andrea Sanhueza, Iniciativa de Acceso América Latina
- Ezequiel Santagada, Director Ejecutivo, Instituto de Derecho y Economía Ambiental – IDEA

**C. Secretaría/
Secretariat****Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL)/Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)**

- Carlos de Miguel, Oficial de Asuntos Ambientales, División de Desarrollo Sostenible y Asentamientos Humanos/Environmental Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division
- Valeria Torres, Oficial de Asuntos Económicos, División de Desarrollo Sostenible y Asentamientos Humanos/Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division