



DRAFT

March 2014

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: SPANISH

Fourth [virtual] meeting of the Working Group on Capacity-building and Cooperation established in 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

Friday, 28 March 2014

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

Background: The Plan of Action to 2014 for the implementation of the Declaration, adopted in April 2013 in Guadalajara, Mexico, established two working groups for the advancement towards the formulation of a regional instrument. According to the Plan of Action to 2014, the objective of the Working Group on Capacity-building and Cooperation is to formulate a proposal to intensify regional and international cooperation on the basis of the training and financing needs and options, both for the public sector and the public in general. In addition, at the Third meeting of the Focal Points designed by the governments of the signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, held in Lima, in October 2013, the following priority action lines were agreed in capacity-building and cooperation:

1. The group will focus during 2014 in identifying the best practices in the region with regard to access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in order to contribute to the discussion on the specifics of the regional instrument and the regional standard. The group values the report "Access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean: Situation, outlook and examples of good practice" developed by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and requests ECLAC to deepen the knowledge of the best practices in the region.
2. The group encourages signatory countries to develop national and regional capacity-building activities during 2014 to promote the implementation of Principle 10 and the Declaration. Understanding that, even though working in all access rights is a commitment of the signatory countries, it is necessary to concentrate special efforts in the advancement of the access to justice and capacity-building in this area.
3. The group encourages signatory countries to search ways to include supporting capacity-building other organizations related with the topic of the process. Additionally, as mentioned at the working group meetings, in order to take advantage of the training resources it is important to detect the multipliers from the different sectors.

4. The group encourages international organizations to support these efforts at the national level and to continue working together with the ECLAC to promote regional capacity-building. In this context, the group values the joint capacity-building workshops organized by ECLAC, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the World Resources Institute-The Access Initiative (WRI-TAI) and other organizations such as the Peruvian Society for Environmental Law (SPDA) and the Caribbean Academy for Law and Court Administration (CALCA), the educational arm of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ).
5. The group encourages signatory countries and the interested public to develop educational materials and timely reporting, and to make training resources available to the Technical Secretariat in order for the Secretariat to create and maintain a register updated periodically on the Web.
6. The group will review the outcomes of the two regional capacity-building workshops undertaken within this process, and will propose two capacity-building priorities for each of the three pillars of Principle 10. They will be presented at the 4th meeting of the working group.
7. The group encourages signatory countries and the interested public to link the Principle 10 with other on-going international process on the post-2015 United Nations development agenda.

Objective of the meeting: Define the main tasks to be carried out by the Working Group in 2014 so as to fulfill the aforementioned aims and the calendar for the year.

Date: Friday, 28 March 2014 [virtual]

12:00 - 12:20	Welcome words and presentation by participants <i>With the support of ECLAC</i>
12:20 - 12:30	Summary of actions carried out in 2013 <i>Coordinators of the Working Group</i>
12:30 - 13:00	Presentation of the proposal of main tasks to be carried out in 2014 <i>Coordinators of the Working Group</i> With emphasis on: i) how to incorporate capacity-building and cooperation into the regional instrument ii) proposal of two capacity-building priorities per pillar of Principle 10 and fostering of actions in these matters and iii) Fostering capacity-building activities at the national and regional levels
13:00 - 13:30	Dialogue with participants on a proposal of main tasks to be carried out in 2014

	<i>With the support of ECLAC</i>
13:30 - 13:45	Proposal of calendar for 2014 <i>Coordinators of the Working Group</i>
13:45 - 14:00	Adoption of agreements and closing of meeting