Public participation and access to information and knowledge are essential to design and apply effective climate policies. The Escazú Agreement is an unprecedented tool to catalyse climate governance and action in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The challenge
Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels (Paris Agreement)

How to tackle it
- Generate and grant access to climate information, increasing awareness
- Guarantee the full and effective participation of all and consider local knowledge in climate policies and actions
- Protect those that defend the environment and climate action

Escazú Agreement
Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean

Regional developments
- 100%
  - All 33 countries have ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement
- 22%
  - 22 of 33 countries have signed the Escazú Agreement, 8 have ratified it and 11 are needed for it to enter into force
- 5%
  - 5 of 33 countries include express references to climate change in their constitutions
- 9%
  - 9 of 33 countries have climate change laws, all of which include provisions on information and participation
- 25%
  - 25 of 33 countries have set up multi-stakeholder committees or councils to address the challenges of climate change

Recommendations for updating NDCs (2020-2021)
- Strengthen public participation in their development, implementation, follow-up and evaluation
- Give particular consideration to vulnerable groups to move towards a just transition
- Actively involve women, youth, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities in climate action
- Ensure a safe environment for environmental human rights defenders and climate defenders in accordance with the Escazú Agreement

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

The human rights-based approach in the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) of Latin America and the Caribbean, as of May 2020
(Number of countries)

More information:
www.cepal.org/en/escazuagreement
https://observatoriop10.cepal.org/en