

# THE ESCAZÚ AGREEMENT: HOW TO BECOME A STATE PARTY



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



## What is it?

A treaty negotiated and agreed in a transparent and participatory manner by countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in order to benefit their citizens



## Why is it so important?

It is the first regional environmental treaty of Latin America and the Caribbean and the first in the world to include specific provisions to guarantee a safe and enabling environment for environmental defenders. It focuses on persons and groups in vulnerable situations so as to leave no one behind

## How can States become Parties?

Art. 21 of the Agreement

The Escazú Agreement is open to the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean

The treaty provides two procedures for States to become Parties:

If the State **signed** before 26 September 2020



**Ratification**

If the State **did not sign** before 26 September 2020



**Accession**

The Agreement was open for signature between 27 September 2018 and 26 September 2020 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. **The 24 countries that signed it may deposit their instruments of ratification at any time.**

## Signatory countries

 Antigua and Barbuda

 Dominica

 Jamaica

 Peru

 Argentina

 Dominican Republic

 Mexico

 Saint Kitts and Nevis

 Belize

 Ecuador

 Nicaragua

 Saint Lucia

 Bolivia

 Grenada

 Panama

 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

 Brazil

 Guatemala

 Paraguay

 Uruguay

 Colombia

 Guyana

 Costa Rica

 Haiti



The countries that did not sign the Agreement before 26 September 2020 may accede to it in a single step process

## When will the Agreement enter into force?

Art. 22 of the Agreement

 States that ratify or accede **before** entry into force

 States that ratify or accede **after** entry into force

90 days

**DEPOSIT**  
Eleventh instrument of ratification or accession



90 days

**DEPOSIT**  
Instrument of ratification or accession



The Agreement will enter into force **90 days after the date of deposit** of the eleventh instrument of ratification or accession

For those States that **ratify or accede after the entry into force of the treaty**, it shall enter into force **90 days after the date of deposit** of their instrument of ratification or accession

## When will the first Conference of the Parties take place?

Art. 15, paragraph 2

The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, that serves as Secretariat of the Escazú Agreement, **shall convene the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties** no later than **one year after the entry into force of the Agreement**. That is, no later than 15 months after the deposit of the eleventh instrument of ratification or accession.

 The first meeting of the Conference of the Parties will be convened no later than:

1 year

Entry into force of the Agreement



15 months

**DEPOSIT**  
Eleventh instrument of ratification or accession



### More information:

**Secretariat – Escazú Agreement**  
Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division  
<http://www.cepal.org/en/escazuagreement>  
<http://observatoriop10.cepal.org/en>



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