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**REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE
OF THE REGIONAL AGREEMENT ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION,
PARTICIPATION AND JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS
IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

Santo Domingo, 9-12 August 2016

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A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Place and date of the meeting

1. The fourth meeting of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Santo Domingo, from 9 to 12 August 2016.
2. The meeting was organized jointly by the Government of the Dominican Republic and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in its capacity as technical secretariat of the regional process relating to the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.¹

Attendance²

3. The meeting was attended by representatives of the 22 signatory countries of the Declaration: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Plurinational State of Bolivia, Saint Kitts and Nevis,³ Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.
4. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela attended as an observer.
5. Representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Compliance Committee of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) were also in attendance.
6. Also attending were international experts in access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters, elected representatives of the public and members of the public, in accordance with the Santiago Decision, the *Organization and work plan for the negotiating committee of the regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean*⁴ and the *Modalities for participation of the public in the negotiating committee of the regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean*.⁵
7. The meeting was open-ended and webcast live.

¹ See A/CONF.216.13.

² See the list of participants in annex 2.

³ Saint Kitts and Nevis adhered to the Declaration at the meeting.

⁴ See LC/L.4011/Rev.1.

⁵ See LC/L.4163.

Chair

8. The Dominican Republic chaired the meeting in its capacity as host country.

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

9. The following agenda was adopted:
 1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Actions taken at the national level by the signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and activities carried out by the secretariat.
 3. Negotiation of the regional agreement on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.
 4. Other matters.
 5. Consideration and adoption of agreements.

C. SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS**Opening session**

10. At the opening session, statements were made by Bautista Rojas, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic; Joseluis Samaniego, Chief of the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Dolores María Duverges, Under-Secretary for Planning and Environmental Land Management of the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina, representing the Presiding Officers; Natalia Gómez and Euren Cuevas, representatives of the public; and Andrés Navarro, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic.

11. After welcoming the participants, the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic said that his country had been committed since the beginning to the process of negotiating a regional instrument on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean and pointed out that access to environmental information was enshrined in the Constitution and environmental laws of the Dominican Republic. Hosting the meeting was an example of his country's efforts to strengthen and consolidate existing legislation and to highlight the importance of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. He noted that it was necessary to strike the right balance between environmental needs and the advancement of peoples. Lastly, he advocated public participation in defining sustainable development priorities and invited the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to join this effort to strengthen participation and democracy in the region.

12. The Chief of the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC referred to the document presented by the Commission at its thirty-sixth session held in Mexico City in May 2016, *Horizons 2030: Equality at the Centre of Sustainable Development*, which described the major changes taking place on the regional and international levels, such as the widespread economic slowdown, demographic and urban transition, the global challenge of climate change and the technological revolution with implications for the economy and employment. In Latin America and the Caribbean, natural resource degradation was linked to patterns of consumption and urban concentration. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its follow-up mechanisms aspired to end poverty and hunger; combat inequalities; build a peaceful, just and inclusive society; safeguard human rights; empower women and children; and protect the planet. The establishment of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean for Sustainable Development was evidence of the will of the countries of the region to move forward in a collaborative manner. The process of negotiating a regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters was a clear example that, with an approach grounded in consensus, autonomy, progressiveness, cooperation and capacity-building, the countries of the region could tackle global challenges and strengthen environmental governance, thus contributing to social and economic progress and environmental sustainability.

13. The Under-Secretary for Planning and Environmental Land Management of the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina, representing the Presiding Officers, referred to the progress made in the development of a common vision of countries' abilities to ensure peoples' access to environmental information. The three pillars of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, namely access to environmental information, access to environmental justice and public participation in environmental matters, were indivisible, meaning that when one was undermined, the other two were also affected. She also drew attention to the synergies between the regional process and the Sustainable Development Goals.

14. The representatives of the public said that the process of negotiating a regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters was a commitment to a dialogue around environmental democracy, which would help to address environmental challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean. Dialogue and public participation must be strengthened in an effort to avert conflicts, increase transparency and advance sustainable development. A binding agreement was also needed to make sustainable development a reality; an agreement which would transcend national legislation and allow high common regional standards to be achieved, while, at the same time, providing certainty, setting out governments' commitments and raising standards of environmental governance in the region. Lastly, they said that the whole world was watching the regional negotiations and that many forums had cited it as a clear example of international best practice. The process showed that Latin America and the Caribbean had decided to base their vision of the region's future on environmental democracy.

15. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic said that the effects of climate change, which undermined citizens' rights, could be seen in the Dominican Republic. The effects of climate change must be tackled jointly and from a regional perspective. Public participation was crucial, as public policy must be inclusive and participatory. Implementing Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development would require a new regional institutional framework, since the State could not impose it solely by relying on the law; policies must also be legitimized by the support of society. Lastly, he acknowledged the close cooperation between the Dominican Republic and ECLAC and commended the Commission's technical support and expertise.

New signatory to the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

16. The representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis announced his country's adhesion to the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, which was welcomed by those present. He also reiterated his Government's steadfast commitment to rights of access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters and said that his Government stood ready to play its part and would make every effort to ensure the adoption of an instrument that would form the basis for access rights in environmental matters.

Actions taken at the national level by the signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and activities carried out by the secretariat (agenda item 2)

17. The signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development referred to the actions taken at the national level as part of the regional process for the effective implementation of Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean, including consultations, meetings and workshops with various governmental and non-governmental stakeholders, as well as dissemination and awareness-raising activities. Statements were made by the following delegations:⁶ Costa Rica, Argentina, Colombia, Honduras, Mexico, Brazil, Uruguay, Antigua and Barbuda, Chile, Jamaica, Peru, Paraguay, Panama, El Salvador, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominican Republic, Plurinational State of Bolivia and Guatemala.

18. The representative of Costa Rica reported on a meeting held with civil society in July 2016 under the auspices of the Office of the President of Costa Rica and coordinated by the Vice-Minister of Environment. She said that her country was promoting a national open government strategy and had established a presidential committee to monitor environmental commitments.

19. The representatives of Argentina reported on a workshop organized by the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina, in which representatives of other ministries, provincial governments, civil society, the academic sector and the general public had participated. During the workshop, the progress made thus far in the regional process was reported, discussions and consultations were held to determine the national position, and synergies were established between open government policies, public participation and transparency.

20. The representative of Colombia spoke of the launch in May 2016 of the Open Government Coordination Bureau, headed by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, with the participation of the academic sector, civil society and the private sector. The possibility of creating an intersectoral board on Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development was being considered. During meetings at the national level, participants had examined the progress made in the preparation of the Principle 10 national implementation strategy, an international forum on Principle 10, environmental information needs in Colombia and a Latin American open data event to be held in November. The representative also highlighted the strengthening of Colombia's environmental information system, institutional coordination on the environment, efforts to establish a pollutant release and transfer register, and the progress made in the implementation of an information system on prior consultation.

⁶ Listed in speaking order.

21. The representative of Honduras said that her country had carried out various preparatory activities for the meeting with a view to finalizing negotiations in 2016, and that the negotiation document had been sent to the various State and non-State sectors for their feedback. In July 2016 an intersectoral meeting had been held with representatives of the public sector, civil society, the business community, the academic sector, volunteers and donors. In concluding, she said that the National Commission on Cooperation with UNESCO was following up the regional process and stood ready to assist in the implementation of Principle 10 in the region.

22. The representative of Mexico referred to the national framework, highlighting the adoption of new legislation on the right of access to information, such as the Federal Law on Transparency and Access to Public Information, and reporting on the progress made towards establishing the National Transparency Platform. He emphasized the importance of carrying out consultations with the judiciary, particularly on matters related to access to justice.

23. The representative of Brazil said that national coordination meetings continued to be held with the relevant government bodies, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Mining, and the Office of the Comptroller General, and that there had been specific meetings on the negotiation process with representatives of the government and of the social and academic sectors. He also said that the government had participated in the Brazilian Congress on Environmental Law along with jurists, representatives of civil society, the judiciary and the public prosecutor.

24. The representative of Uruguay reported on the review of the intended nationally determined contributions (INDC) to reduce greenhouse gases, which involved representatives of civil society, trade unions and rural associations. He said that his country was giving priority to strengthening civil society and that the government had taken steps to ensure that a Global Environment Facility (GEF) project would benefit all citizens and not just the entities that had submitted it.

25. The representatives of Antigua and Barbuda stressed that it was a priority to incorporate access rights into all government policies. They underscored the invitation to ministers and public entities, as well as civil society organizations, local communities and churches, to participate in shaping the national position. Workshops (in which all social sectors participated) had also been held on sustainable cities and the regulatory framework applicable to environmental access rights.

26. The representative of Chile said that her country had carried out activities both at the national and at the international levels. In Chile, the negotiation process and the document examined had been presented to the advisory councils of environmental institutions. A board had been set up, and had held 17 meetings attended by representatives of the public and private sectors, in order to encourage participation and transparency. It was also usual practice to hold meetings prior to and following each meeting of the negotiation committee. The first inter-agency seminar on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals and a seminar on constitutional reform and environmental protection had been held, during which the process taking shape at the regional level was discussed. Work was being done on the new action plan for the Open Government Partnership. At the international level, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and ECLAC jointly published *Environmental Performance Reviews: Chile 2016*, which acknowledged and commended the process relating to the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. The representative also highlighted the actions of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Pacific Alliance and the United Nations Environment Assembly. She recalled Chile's position that the agreement ultimately adopted should be a binding, ambitious instrument. To that end, the negotiation process should be transformative and inclusive.

27. The representative of Jamaica said that the work of the multisectoral forum on the follow-up of regional negotiations had continued its work, with the participation of various government entities and representatives of civil society. The ministry responsible for environmental affairs was spearheading an environmental education programme in secondary schools to initiate dialogue on the environment and on environmental management, focusing on young people's access to environmental information.

28. The representative of Peru reported that ECLAC and OECD had jointly published *Environmental Performance Reviews: Peru 2016*, an analysis focused on strengthening environmental democracy. A working group comprising vice-ministers had been created and a plan of action had been determined to follow up on the recommendations of the review. With regard to access to information, an air quality index including six pollutants had been created along with an air quality information system (InfoAire), and 12 sectoral reports on environmental management had been published. In terms of participation, a sectoral group had been created to propose solutions to problems faced by indigenous peoples. With regard to affairs of justice, the representative announced that special tribunals would be set up in five districts, and a mobile phone application would be created to allow users to file environmental complaints.

29. The representative of Paraguay reported on the publication of a manual for processing and responding to requests for access to public information in the framework of Law 5282, the creation of offices for public access to information in government departments and the upgrading of the single-window public information portal. He pointed out that Peru had moved up 27 places in the e-Government Readiness Index and 50 places in the e-Participation Index, both established by the United Nations. Other progress included the creation of a citizen complaint portal, the new Open Government Action Plan for 2016-2018 and an editable map of national forest cover.

30. The representative of Panama urged the other committee members to support the adoption of the binding agreement. With regard to national progress, he highlighted the various consultation processes carried out to establish regulations, such as the outline of the draft bill on forestry incentives and protected areas, and the rules for environmental best practice guides. He also underlined the strengthening of citizen participation forums, such as the inter-institutional platform on coastal marine resources and the execution, along with Costa Rica, of a strategic environmental evaluation in protected areas. He said that legal entity status had been granted to community organizations responsible for environmental matters, and that representatives of civil society had been included in official delegations attending meetings on climate change and of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. In concluding, he said that Panama was implementing Law No. 81 establishing the rights to consultation and prior, free and informed consent of indigenous peoples, which had been passed recently.

31. The representative of El Salvador referred to three meetings (two with government institutions and one with civil society organizations and the private sector) during which the progress and challenges of the negotiation process had been reviewed and articles 6 and 10 of the negotiation text of the regional agreement had been examined. She underscored the importance of this process for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Five-Year Development Plan and the Citizen Participation Policy of the executive branch. With respect to information, she said that the analysis carried out by the Institute for Access to Public Information of El Salvador had ranked the Ministry of the Environment third out of 45 institutions and she reported on the improvements in the environmental information system. She highlighted the public consultation processes relating to activities, works and projects, inter-agency mechanisms to regulate project permits, and the work of the Environmental Court and the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic in environmental matters.

32. The representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines reiterated that her country was in favour of adopting a binding agreement and reported on the two informal meetings with representatives of civil society

held in February and July 2016 to strengthen the country's position on the subject. She said that Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development provided a general framework for the analysis of other issues, such as climate change, tourism, agriculture and natural disasters. National discussions on the subject had included relevant civil society stakeholders, including agricultural associations, members of informal interest groups, environmental organizations, lawyers and young people.

33. The representative of the Dominican Republic highlighted the adoption of the Second Plan of Action on Open Government 2014-2016, which promoted transparency, enabled citizen participation and gave priority to open data. He also noted that the website of the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources was publishing information on air quality and that the Department of Public Procurement had set up an electronic procurement portal to improve transparency.

34. The representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia referred to the continuing efforts of its institutions to internalize the regional process on the implementation of Principle 10 and said that close contact was being maintained with civil society in that connection. The Ministry of Institutional Transparency and the Fight against Corruption and the Participation and Social Oversight Act played a key role in those efforts. Several workshops had been held on substantive issues such as the implementing regulations of the law on integrated waste management, and the system of environmental licensing had been modified to make it more flexible and less bureaucratic.

35. The representative of Guatemala said that the negotiating document had been circulated among various government institutions and bodies of the judiciary, including the Attorney General's Office and the Public Prosecutor's Office. A dialogue had been held with civil society, including representatives of rural areas, indigenous peoples and academia. She reiterated the need to adopt an instrument that would strengthen environmental capacities and bolster existing legislation.

36. The representatives of the public reported on the action taken by civil society at the national level in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia, including workshops, outreach activities, talks and the preparation of publications, infographics and manuals. At the regional and international level, 18 organizations from 11 countries in the region had met in Panama in July 2016 in order to prepare coordinated proposals on articles 6 to 9 of the compiled text for the negotiation of the regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters. In addition, they had organized several side events at the United Nations Environment Assembly and had addressed issues relating to human rights defenders, indigenous peoples and the situation in the Caribbean countries. They invited delegations to visit the new website of the elected representatives of the public⁷ and called for the adoption of a binding agreement with firm, clearly defined standards.

37. The representative of ECLAC reported on the activities of the technical secretariat since the third meeting of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo in April 2016. He said that the work of the technical secretariat had focused on promoting capacity-building and cooperation, especially through the preparation of technical documents and the organization of workshops, and on raising awareness of and facilitating the process of negotiating the text of the agreement. Since the committee's previous meeting, the technical secretariat had organized workshops in Chile, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay and had participated in 11 activities and events relating to access rights in environmental matters. At the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC, held in Mexico City in May 2016, the member States had adopted resolution 706(XXXVI) on the Application of Principle 10 of the

⁷ See [online] <http://www.lacp10.org>.

Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which had taken note of the progress made and the convergence achieved in the regional process.

38. The representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) said that his entity was following closely the agreement negotiation process and commended the countries and the public on the progress made to date. He recalled that the United Nations Environment Assembly had adopted resolution 2/25, which took note of the negotiation process of the regional agreement and encouraged the countries to continue their efforts to strengthen international dialogue and cooperation, technical assistance and capacity-building in support of the implementation of Principle 10 at the national and regional levels. He also reported on the activities undertaken to support such implementation, including the launch of the Spanish version of the Implementation Guide for the UNEP Bali Guidelines.

Negotiation of the regional agreement on access to information, public participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (agenda item 3)

39. Under this agenda item, the delegations considered the document *Text compiled by the Presiding Officers incorporating the language proposals received from the countries on the preamble and articles 1 to 10 of the preliminary document on the regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean. Third version.*⁸ The negotiations focused on articles 6 and 7 of the third version of the text compiled by the Presiding Officers.

40. The delegations began the discussion with numeral 3 of article 6, they revised the remaining numerals in that article, then negotiated up to numeral 5 of article 7. Agreement was reached on the following numerals: 6.4, 6.5, 6.7, 6.9, 6.11, 6.12, 6.13, 6.14, 6.15, 6.17, 6.19, 7.1, 7.3 and 7.4.

41. As had been agreed at previous meetings, for the numerals on which no consensus was reached, the country putting forward each new or alternative proposal was reflected, as were any countries supporting the proposal, where applicable, on the understanding that any countries not mentioned preferred the original text of the preliminary document prepared by ECLAC at the request of the countries. Proposals by the public sponsored by one or more countries were incorporated into the text, indicating which countries had supported them.

42. In order to contribute to discussions within the framework of the meeting, the following technical briefing sessions were organized: “Improving access to information on climate change, disasters and coastal vulnerability in Latin America and the Caribbean”, “The regional dimension of the 2030 Agenda and Principle 10” and “Launch of the Implementation Guide for the UNEP Bali Guidelines”. In the first session, a representative of ECLAC analysed the key elements of the commitments on access to information and transparency contained in the Paris Agreement and gave examples of models, policies and instruments that contributed to generating information on climate change, disasters and coastal vulnerability, and to strengthening transparency frameworks and systems. In the second session, representatives of ECLAC and Mexico, as Chair of the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, referred to the regional dimension of the 2030 Agenda and, in particular, the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, established by virtue of resolution 700(XXXVI), adopted at the thirty-sixth session of ECLAC, held in Mexico City in May 2016. In the third session, a representative of UNEP presented the Spanish-language version of the Implementation Guide for the

⁸ LC/L.4059/Rev.2.

UNEP Bali Guidelines for the Development of National Legislation on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.⁹

Other matters (agenda item 4)

43. The representative of Trinidad and Tobago stressed the need for the agreements to reflect the determination of the countries to move forward in the negotiations and that, if they were to reach article 10 at the fifth meeting of the negotiating committee, the countries could continue to examine the rest of compiled text.

44. The representative of Costa Rica urged all countries to have completed their consultations on articles 10 to 25 by the fifth meeting of the negotiating committee, since there would be opportunity at that meeting to define the future steps to be taken. She also asked delegates to examine the observations made so far in order to identify existing proposals that could be combined, withdrawn or simplified with a view to achieving greater consensus and thus faster progress in the negotiations.

45. The representative of Chile commended the participants on the progress made and the spirit of cooperation and flexibility that had enabled the rapprochement of positions. She noted that there had been a greater number of specific and precise proposals and encouraged the countries to continue formulating proposals on behalf of groups of countries since that modality had facilitated the discussions. While it was unlikely that the negotiations would be concluded in 2016, it behooved the committee to take urgent action to finalize the future agreement, given the imperative to make the best possible use of the time and resources available and to meet the social needs and demands of the region. She joined the call for countries to have a clear mandate to examine the articles following article 10 and asked the delegations to review their proposals and seek advice from experts and the public.

46. A representative of the secretariat said that the fourth version of the compiled text resulting from the meeting would be available on the website of the fourth meeting of the negotiating committee.¹⁰ At the request of the countries, in the fourth version ECLAC would include the progress made at the meeting in Santo Domingo and would combine and condense the language proposals throughout the compiled text, with a view to moving forward more efficiently in the negotiations.

Consideration and adoption of agreements (agenda item5)

47. The draft agreements of the fourth meeting of the negotiating committee were submitted for consideration by the delegations.

48. The delegations accepted with thanks the kind offer of the Government of Chile to host the fifth meeting of the negotiating committee at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago in the fourth week of November 2016.

49. The delegations adopted the agreements figuring in annex 1, by consensus.

⁹ See [online] <http://www.unep.org/civil-society/Portals/24105/documents/BaliGuidelines/UNEP%20MGSB-SGBS%20BALI%20GUIDELINES-Spanish%20final.pdf>.

¹⁰ See [online] <http://negociacionp10.cepal.org/4/en>.

Closing session

50. In the closing session, statements were made by the representative of the Government of the Dominican Republic, in his capacity as Chair of the meeting; a representative of the public; and the Chief of the Policies for Sustainable Development Unit of the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC.

51. The representative of the Government of the Dominican Republic, in his capacity as Chair of the meeting, underscored the spirit of cooperation and good faith demonstrated in the meeting and urged those present to continue moving forward efficiently in the negotiations at the fifth meeting of the negotiating committee.

52. The representative of the public encouraged everyone to continue working proactively at the regional level to contribute to social peace, the right to live in a healthy environment and the quality of life of the peoples of the region.

53. The Chief of the Policies for Sustainable Development Unit of the Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division of ECLAC thanked the Government of the Dominican Republic for its efforts and for the excellent conduct of the meeting and the delegations for their active participation. He reiterated the commitment of ECLAC, in its capacity as technical secretariat, to see the negotiation process of the regional agreement through to a successful conclusion.

Annex 1

AGREEMENTS

The representatives of the countries participating in the fourth meeting of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santo Domingo from 9 to 12 August 2016,

1. *Acknowledge* the significant progress made in the negotiations on articles 6 and 7 of the text compiled by the Presiding Officers, which shall be presented in a fourth version of the document;

2. *Agree* to resume negotiations on articles 7 to 10 at the fifth meeting of the negotiating committee, using the fourth version of the compiled text, and review outstanding issues from the preamble to article 10;

3. *Agree also* to discuss the way forward for the negotiations;

4. *Welcome* Saint Kitts and Nevis as a signatory country of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development¹ and recall that the invitation to join this regional process is open to all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean;

5. *Thank* the Government of Chile for the invitation to hold the fifth meeting of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago from 22 to 25 November 2016;

6. *Thank also* the people and the Government of the Dominican Republic for their hospitality and the effort devoted to the organization of the fourth meeting of the negotiating committee of the regional agreement on access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean.

¹ A/CONF.216/13.

Annex 2

**LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

La lista provisional contiene los nombres de los participantes que se han comunicado a la Secretaría. Se publicarán adiciones a la lista a medida que se vaya recibiendo información. Se ruega a las delegaciones se sirvan informar de cualquier corrección a Lucía Concha Grugan, Oficial de Conferencias (lucia.concha@cepal.org), de la CEPAL.

The provisional list contains the names of the participants communicated to the Secretariat. Addenda will be issued as information is received. Delegations are requested to inform of corrections to the list to Ms. Lucía Concha Grugan, Conference Officer (lucia.concha@cepal.org), of ECLAC.

**A. Países signatarios de la Declaración
Signatory countries of the Declaration****ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA/ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**Representante/Representative:

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ARGENTINARepresentante/Representative:

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ECUADOR

Representante/Representative:

- Rodrigo Riofrío, Embajador del Ecuador en la República Dominicana

EL SALVADOR

Representante/Representative:

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GUATEMALA

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- Patricia Abreu, Viceministra de Cooperación Internacional del Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales de la República Dominicana
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**B. Países miembros de la Comisión que participan en calidad de observadores
States members of the Commission participating as observers**

VENEZUELA (REPÚBLICA BOLIVARIANA DE)/VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF)

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**C. Secretaría de las Naciones Unidas
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**D. Organismos de las Naciones Unidas
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**E. Invitados especiales
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