



UNITED NATIONS

ECLAC

25 November 2016

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: SPANISH

16-01269

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

Santiago, 21-25 November 2016

AGREEMENTS

The representatives of the countries participating in 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, held in Santiago from 21 to 25 November 2016,

1. *Acknowledge* the significant progress made in the negotiations on the basis of the text compiled by the Presiding Officers, which will be presented in a fifth version of that document;
2. *Also acknowledge* the progress made by signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development¹ in their national policies for the implementation of access rights, and appreciate the establishment of the Observatory on Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean in the framework of the efforts undertaken by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in its capacity as technical secretariat of the process, and encourage countries and the public to continue to contribute information to the Observatory;
3. *Agree* to resume the negotiations on articles 9 to 25 of the compiled text at the sixth meeting of the negotiating committee, using the fifth version of that text, recalling that, according to the Santiago Declaration,² the nature of the regional instrument will be defined during the negotiation process;
4. *Also agree* to request the Presiding Officers, before the sixth meeting of the negotiating committee and in consultation with the signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, to set out flexible working modalities, including the establishment of working groups open to public participation, in order to facilitate the review of outstanding issues;
5. *Request* the Presiding Officers to steer the negotiation process, with the support of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as technical secretariat, with a view to completing the process by December 2017, based on the calendar of meetings attached as an annex hereto;

¹ A/CONF.216/13.

² LC/L.3970, Annex A.

6. *Also request* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in its capacity as technical secretariat, to prepare a preliminary report assessing the possible administrative, financial and budgetary implications of the agreement and the different options and modalities for the establishment of its secretariat;

7. *Thank* the Government of Brazil for the invitation to hold the sixth 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 in Brasilia in March 2017;

8. *Agree* to convene the seventh 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 a place and on a date yet to be decided and, at the suggestion of the co-chairs, to convene another meeting of the negotiating committee if deemed appropriate;

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

10. *Thank* the people and the Government of Chile and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for their hospitality and the effort devoted to the organization of 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.

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

With a view to concluding negotiations on the agreement by December 2017, the Committee will meet periodically in both face-to-face and virtual formats, on the following dates:

- January 2017: intersessional meeting of the negotiating committee (virtual)
- March 2017: intersessional meeting of the negotiating committee (virtual)
- March 2017: sixth meeting of the negotiating committee (face-to-face) (Brazil)
- June 2017: intersessional meeting of the negotiating committee (virtual)
- July 2017: intersessional meeting of the negotiating committee (virtual)
- 2017: seventh meeting of the negotiating committee (place and date to be determined)