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Eighth 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, 27 November-1 December 2017

ARTICLE 10
CAPACITY-BUILDING AND COOPERATION (REV 1)*

**Proposal of Costa Rica and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
as coordinators of the Contact Group on Article 10**

* This document has not undergone formal editing.

ARTICLE 10**Capacity-building**

1. In order to contribute to the implementation of the provisions of the present Agreement, each Party undertakes to create and strengthen national and subregional capacities, when necessary, based on its national priorities and the needs of the beneficiaries.
2. Each Party, in line with its capacities, may take the following measures, inter alia:
 - (a) Train authorities and civil servants on environmental access rights;
 - (b) Develop environmental law and access rights awareness-raising and capacity-building programmes for, inter alia, the public, judicial and administrative officials, national human rights institutions and other jurists;
 - (c) Provide the competent institutions and bodies with adequate equipment and resources;
 - (d) Promote education on and public awareness of environmental matters, including basic educational modules on access rights for students at all levels of education;
 - (e) Adopt specific measures for persons and/or groups in vulnerable situations such as providing interpreters or translators of indigenous languages;
 - (f) Promote associations, organizations or groups that train the public on and raise public awareness of access rights;
 - (g) Train workers, scientists, educators and technical and management personnel; and,
 - (h) Evaluate, on an ongoing basis, the collection of environmental information and make improvements in line with those evaluations.

ARTICLE 10 BIS**Cooperation**

1. The Parties shall cooperate with each other to apply the present Agreement in an effective manner, particularly with those Parties that are least developed countries or Caribbean small island developing States.
2. For the purposes of implementing the previous paragraph, the Parties shall promote activities and mechanisms such as:
 - (a) discussions, workshops, expert exchanges, technical assistance, education and observatories;
 - (b) developing, sharing and implementing educational, training and awareness-raising materials and programmes at the national and international level;
 - (c) sharing experiences of voluntary codes of conduct, guidelines, good practices and/or standards;
 - (d) committees, councils and forums of multisectoral development stakeholders to address cooperation priorities and activities.

3. The Parties shall encourage partnerships with third States from other regions, intergovernmental, non-governmental, academic and private organizations or other relevant stakeholders to implement the provisions of the present Agreement.

4. The Parties shall promote regional cooperation in Latin American and Caribbean to investigate, prosecute and punish crimes that may have an impact on the environment.

ARTICLE 10 TER

Clearing house

The Parties shall establish a virtual and universally accessible clearing house on access rights in environmental matters. The clearing house will be managed by the secretariat with the purpose of promoting synergies and capacity-building, which may include, inter alia:

- (a) legislative, administrative and policy measures on access rights;
- (b) information on the national focal points for the Agreement and the national competent authorities; and
- (c) codes of conduct and good practices.