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Ninth 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

San José, 28 February–4 March 2018

## FINAL ACT

*The representatives of the countries participating in the ninth 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 San José from 28 February to 4 March 2018,*

1. *Adopt* the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (hereinafter referred to as “the Agreement”), as contained in annex 1;
2. *Request* the member countries that served as the Presiding Officers of the negotiating committee to continue to steer and conduct the necessary work in the period between the date on which the Agreement will be opened for signature, as established in article 21, and the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, with signatory countries, significant participation by the public and the support of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as technical secretariat;
3. *Decide* to apply *mutatis mutandis* 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* (LC/L.4163) until the first Conference of the Parties;
4. *Agree* to report on the adoption of the Agreement at the thirty-seventh session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Havana from 7 to 11 May 2018, and request the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to agree to undertake the secretariat functions set out in article 17 of the Agreement;
5. *Request* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to take the necessary steps to deposit the final text of the Agreement, as contained in annex 1, with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in accordance with article 25 of the Agreement;
6. *Also request* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to translate the text of the Agreement into Portuguese;

7. *Invite* all Latin American and Caribbean States to sign the Agreement, in accordance with article 21 thereof, and to ratify, accept, approve or accede to it, as appropriate, as soon as possible;

8. *Thank* the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean for its support as technical secretariat during the negotiation process, including the preparatory phase, and for its willingness to continue to serve as the secretariat of the Agreement;

9. *Also thank* the public and its representatives for their meaningful participation in the meetings of the negotiating committee and for their contributions;

10. *Further thank* the experts and the regional and international organizations that have participated in the process for their valuable contributions;

11. *Express their gratitude* to the co-Chairs, the Presiding Officers of the negotiating committee and all the delegations for their dedication and commitment;

12. *Express their satisfaction* at the outcome and welcome the adoption of an ambitious and unprecedented agreement, which is the result of the extensive efforts made by all the delegations and persons that have been involved in this process since the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Conference);

13. *Thank* the people and the Government of Costa Rica for their hospitality and the effort devoted to the organization of the ninth meeting of the negotiating committee.