



Conclusions of the first Pre COP of the Civil Society of the Escazú Agreement

Santiago, April 20, 2024.

On April 19 and 20 in Santiago, Chile, citizens from all over Latin America and the Caribbean met to develop the first Pre COP of the Civil Society of the Escazú Agreement. At this meeting, there was a regional exchange of knowledge and experiences on the urgent promotion of democracy based on the rights of access to information, participation in decision-making and justice in environmental matters, the urgent protection of the human rights of environmental defenders and the fundamental role of indigenous peoples in environmental protection.

More than 45 activities were promoted by individuals, civil society organizations and indigenous peoples from countries such as Costa Rica, Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, Mexico, Ecuador, Argentina, Brazil and Chile, among others, gathering more than 500 people in person -in addition to those who followed the event through online transmission-. Some of the topics addressed were: gender, children, adolescents and youth, indigenous peoples, human rights, climate crisis, energy transition, gaps in access rights, and violence against environmental defenders in Latin America, among others, reflecting the interest of civil society and indigenous peoples in the need to promote a full and effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement.

Valuing the great impact of having a treaty such as the Escazú Agreement and the will of all the Parties to continue advancing in the exchange of capacities, as well as in environmental justice, the call from the public is to continue deepening its implementation in a collaborative manner between States, multilateral bodies, civil society and the private world.

As a closing activity, the attendees convened in a plenary assembly that brought together the main reflections of the Pre COP and agreed on the present document with 13 points so that the Parties to the Escazú Agreement, which will meet between April 22 and 24 of this year at COP3 of the Escazú Agreement, pay special attention to the following:

N°	Topic
1	<p>Guarantee of the rights of human rights defenders.</p> <p>The implementation of the Plan of Action should strengthen national legislation and the creation of adequate and competent institutions, with public oversight systems, to address situations of violence, harassment and threats against human rights defenders. It will be key to recognize their contributions to sustainable development and democracy through the establishment of mechanisms for reparations, compensation for damages and effective</p>



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	<p>protection. The Plan of Action should safeguard the rights of human rights defenders and their families to carry out their activities in safe and enabling environments and ensure collective rights. The Plan of Action should be established as the minimum floor of national legislation and not subtract standards.</p>
2	<p>Continue and strengthen the Forum on Human Rights Defenders and Defenders</p> <p>We call on the parties to continue and strengthen the Forum on Defenders and to hold it on an annual basis to ensure continuous learning and capacity transfer among the parties and the development of accountability schemes. Also, to ensure regional and cross-border articulation of civil society, defenders and their networks.</p>
3	<p>Continue and generate a new mandate for the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group.</p> <p>Given the regional situation in relation to the vital risk faced by environmental defenders, we urge the permanence of this group, incorporating a new mandate with mandatory participation in decision-making by environmental defenders, with emphasis on representatives of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples, in order to encourage reflection for the improvement of the Plan, its implementation and its follow-up with the effective participation of defenders.</p>
4	<p>Participation of Indigenous Peoples</p> <p>To have an Indigenous Caucus as its own space of (and for) indigenous defenders integrated within the framework of the COP, with technical and financial support for its operation.</p> <p>To have a Rapporteurship on Indigenous Peoples, to centralize all the needs of the defenders.</p>
5	<p>Strengthening the public's role in decision making</p> <p>It is crucial that transparent and fluid communication mechanisms are generated to ensure equitable participation in the spaces for dialogue between the country Parties, the bodies of the Agreement and the representatives of the public.</p> <p>Likewise, the Compliance Committee should have working modalities that ensure support and follow-up for the correct implementation of the Agreement in Latin America and the Caribbean with the participation of the Public.</p> <p>Establish a protocol that ensures access to information and effective participation of organizations, indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples, and rural communities, that goes</p>



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	beyond virtual instances and initiatives and recognizes the means and mechanisms of the peoples and communities at the territorial level.
6	<p>Inclusive, adequate and meaningful participation at every stage of the process</p> <p>For the effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement and the Action Plan for human rights defenders, mechanisms must be established to guarantee and ensure the right to participation, particularly of vulnerable persons or groups. That is, to ensure access to information in a timely manner, as well as instances for full and effective participation in the design, execution and evaluation of the activities proposed for the implementation of the Agreement.</p> <p>Likewise, given the relevance of the Agreement and the growing interest, it is essential that the process for participation in the COPs be carried out in a timely and appropriate manner, i.e. with sufficient time for registration, in places that have sufficient space to accommodate a large group of people, and based on the principle of maximum publicity and high standards of transparency.</p>
7	<p>Gender Action Plan</p> <p>It is key to recognize the differentiated effects and impacts of women in terms of the fulfillment of access rights, and to this end, it is essential that the countries agree on the construction of guidelines for effective gender mainstreaming in their implementation plans of the Agreement at the national level.</p> <p>We reiterate the importance of the Escazú Agreement having its own Gender Action Plan in the short term.</p>
8	<p>Forcibly displaced persons, migrants and climate and environmental refugees</p> <p>Define the concept of forcibly displaced persons, migrants and climate and environmental refugees to establish them as one of the persons or groups in situations of vulnerability that are a priority for the purposes of access to information and environmental justice.</p> <p>Its application should be materialized through recommendations to the Parties for the effective fulfillment of the implementation plans..</p>
9	<p>Children, adolescents and youths</p> <p>The effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement must consider an intergenerational approach to involve new generations in the promotion of environmental justice.</p>
10	<p>Broad perspective and strengthening the understanding of the term "environmental defender"</p>



N°	Topic
	The Action Plan must take into account a broad vision and conceptualization of the term environmental defender in order to include people and groups whose functions or work, actions and/or activities are related to the defense of nature.
11	<p>Commitment to a society in harmony with nature and the people</p> <p>The implementation of the Escazú Agreement must be applied in decision-making processes related to mitigation and adaptation to the climate and ecological crisis, with special attention to the energy transition, obeying a broad criterion of justice.</p> <p>The Escazú Agreement should contribute to climate empowerment and the generation of an informed and active citizenry and a society with adequate justice systems in order to strengthen environmental democracy.</p>
12	<p>Access to environmental justice</p> <p>That the States Parties include in their national implementation plans of the Escazú Agreement the commitment to establish material means to ensure access to justice. To this end, they should facilitate empowerment and provide advice to communities, indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples, and others in vulnerable situations, in accordance with their needs and decisions. This will guarantee respect for environmental human rights.</p>
13	<p>Financing the Escazú Agreement</p> <p>It is imperative that the States Parties demonstrate their commitment to the implementation of the Escazú Agreement through significant financial contributions to the Voluntary Financing Fund.</p>

Organizations and communities:

1. 350.org
2. Agrupación ecofeminista Mestizas de Castro Chiloé
3. Agrupación Mapuche Huilliche Mapunewenche
4. Agrupación vecinal las lengas
5. Alerta Isla Riesco (AIR)
6. Alianza Escazú Guatemala
7. Alianza Intergeneracional Boliviana por el Acuerdo de Escazú
8. Alianza Mesoamericana de Pueblos y Bosques
9. Alianza para la Acción Climática Venezuela
10. Alternativa Terrazul
11. Ambiente y sociedad
12. Amnistía Internacional
13. Artyc
14. Asociación Ciudadana por los derechos humanos



15. Asociación de Guías y Scouts de Chile
16. Asociación Educativa y de Incidencia Pública Otros Cruces
17. Asociación Generaciones de Paz
18. Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente (AIDA)
19. Asociación para la educación y el desarrollo
20. Asociación red de recicladores rehobot
21. Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
22. Central Unitaria de Trabajadores de Chile
23. Centro Boliviano de Derecho Ambiental y Clima
24. Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS)
25. Centro de Derechos Humanos Universidad Diego Portales
26. Centro de Desarrollo Humano. CDH-Honduras
27. Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental (CEMDA)
28. Ciedur
29. Climate Action Network America Latina
30. Colectivo CASA
31. Comité Agua Potable Rural Newen ko
32. Comité Campesino del Altiplano (CCDA)
33. Comité Chico Mendes
34. Comité Mundial de Seguimiento a ODS e Instituto Boliviano de Urbanismo
35. Comunicación y Educación Ambiental SC
36. Comunidad Amack tambillos
37. Comunidad indígena diaguita Amack tambillos
38. Comunidad indígena Kamau
39. Comunidad Q'eqchi' y Poqomchi
40. Comunidad Mapu-Ko
41. Comunidad Kamëntša
42. Comunidad San josema
43. Consejo Ciudad Puerto San Antonio
44. Coordinadora de las Organizaciones Indígenas de la Cuenca Amazónica (COICA)
45. Corporación Motum
46. Corporación Programa Poblacional de Servicios La Caleta
47. Cultura Ecológica
48. Defensoría Ambiental
49. Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (DAR)
50. Ecosistemas
51. Fundação Esquel Brasil
52. Fundación CAUCE: Cultura Ambiental, Causa
53. Fundación Chile Sustentable
54. Fundación Ciudadanos y Clima
55. Fundación Colectivo Hombres XX, A. C.
56. Fundación Ecosur
57. Fundación Escazú Ahora
58. Fundación Gaia Pacha



59. Fundación LIBERA
60. Fundación Ojos de Mar
61. Fundación Ruta de la Paz
62. Fundación Terram
63. Fundación Territorio Costero
64. Fundeps
65. GEEMA - Grupo de Estudos em Educação e Meio Ambiente
66. Greenpeace
67. Instituto de Abogados para la Protección del Medio Ambiente, INSAPROMA
68. Instituto Perifa Sustentável
69. Instituto SustentAção
70. Instituto Zé Claudio e Maria
71. Jóvenes por el Clima
72. Junta de vecinos 14 "Seminario" de Providencia
73. Liga de Defensa del Medio Ambiente
74. Modatima Punta Arenas
75. Movimiento Ciudadano Salvemos el Lago Nongüen
76. Movimiento ciudadano Chao Pescao
77. Movimiento Movilizándonos por una cultura de derechos de NNAJ en Chile
78. Mujeres Amazonía y Paz
79. Mujeres de Zona de Sacrificio en Resistencia
80. Mujeres en Resistencia Chile
81. Mujeres Modatima / Modatima Provincia de Petorca
82. Mujeres por el Buen Vivir
83. Network of Rural Women Producers Trinidad and Tobago
84. Nuevo Comité Ambiental Comunal del Tabo (CAC)
85. Observatorio del Acuerdo de Escazú - Bolivia
86. ONG CEUS Chile
87. ONG FIMA
88. ONG Verde Urbano
89. Organización Regional de mujeres indígenas chiquitanas ORMICH
90. Oxfam
91. Plataforma Boliviana Frente al Cambio Climático; Bolivia
92. Plataforma Chilena de la Sociedad Civil Sobre Derechos Humanos y Empresas
93. Plataforma de acción y educación para el resguardo ambiental y social PLAYERAS
94. Plataforma de Defensoras y Defensores de la Tierra y el Territorio - ILC LAC
95. Plataforma Internacional contra la Impunidad
96. Protege Los Molles
97. Reacción Climática
98. Red de Adolescentes y Jóvenes Indígenas de Amazonas
99. Red de defensoras del ambiente y el Buen Vivir
100. Red de Humedales de Chile
101. Red Ecofeminista Latinoamericana y del Caribe; Latinoamérica y Caribe
102. Red Nacional del Agua



103. Red Nacional por la Soberanía Alimentaria en Guatemala-REDSAG-|Alianza Escazú Guatemala
104. RedAfros
105. Rede de Mulheres Ambientalistas da América Latina
106. RENAMAT
107. SCAC Magallanes
108. Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental
109. Somos Humedal Córdova
110. Sustenta Honduras; Champion de Escazú
111. Universidad Alberto Hurtado
112. Centro de Estudios y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos de la Universidad de La Frontera (CDH-UFRO)
113. Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (FARN)
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