

PRECOP SIDE EVENT**ENSURING HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED CLIMATE ACTION THROUGH PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ESCAZÚ AGREEMENT.**

SALON GUANACASTE

WEDNESDAY 9TH OF OCTOBER, 15:00 TO 16:30

Concept Note:**Motive:**

Ensuring effective public participation in environmental decisions enhances the effectiveness and legitimacy of the decision-making process while guaranteeing that policies respect and promote human rights. The implementation of the Paris Agreement offers several opportunities to implement effectively this principle. The NDC review process will set in motion the structure of the Paris Agreement guiding how climate action will transform our cities, economies, and lifestyles. Additionally, international cooperation through carbon trading mechanisms offers an opportunity for states to reaffirm their commitment to the right of local communities and indigenous peoples to have a say in decision impacting them. In this context, a multilevel governance process with the effective participation of the public is essential. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the Escazú Agreement sets the correct approach for climate actions to enhance participation and lower emissions while safeguarding human rights.

Context:

As reaffirmed in the Paris Agreement, the integration of human rights in climate action is essential for good governance placing people at the heart of climate action. The right to Public Participation is recognized as an essential part of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. Moreover, the IPCC 1.5c Report has mentioned that multilevel governance is essential to enable the transformation our society needs to undertake.

In Latin America the signed and soon to enter into force Escazú Agreement provides the needed guidance for participatory processes related to climate action.

A human rights approach in environmental decision-making including NDC planning has to be implemented and guaranteed by countries of the region. The Pre-COP25 is an opportunity to revisit this commitment and discuss the relevance that human rights and public participation have on the success of climate actions. At pre-COP, such discussions could be most timely if they inform upcoming negotiations and domestic processes under the Paris Agreement.

Firstly, all countries must submit a new or revised version of the NDCs in 2020 and continue to do so every 5 years. NDCs are the heart of the Paris Agreement and are essential to comply with the collective long term goal to prevent global warming beyond 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial levels. This process will set the degree of ambition for climate action nationally and globally. The Paris Agreement Rulebook established that the NDC planning process should consider public participation.

Secondly, governments are set to finalize at the COP-25 the main guidelines for international cooperative action under article 6 of the Paris Agreement. The experience of previous carbon trading mechanisms has demonstrated the critical importance of ensuring that such rules fully embrace the importance of the participation of local communities and indigenous peoples in decisions.

Objectives:

- Increase awareness regarding the interplay between human rights and climate action and how both are complementary
- Discuss specific opportunities for governments and civil society to guarantee effective public participation in the design of NDCs
- Inform the pre-COP discussions related to the modalities for the operationalization of Article 6

Key Messages:

- Human rights – including procedural rights provided under binding international agreements such as the Escazu Agreement – are not an impediment to effective climate action but leverage for more ambition.
- The 2020 NDC review and enhancement process must consider public participation as an element of legitimacy and efficiency.
- COP-25 offers a critical opportunity for parties to further promote these rights including in the context of article 6.

Panel:***The Role of Public Participation in Enhancing Climate Governance***

- Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- Sra. Gladys Martinez, Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense, AIDA
- Sr. Adrián Martinez, La Ruta del Clima
- Ms. Carole Excell, Access Initiative, World Resources Institute
- Ms. Fiona Marshall, Aarhus Convention Secretariat, UN Economic Commission for Europe
- Mr. David. R. Boyd, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Obligations related to the Environment

Expectations for the pre-COP and COP-25

- Mr. Sébastien Duyck, Center for International Environmental Law
- Mr. Benjamin Schachter, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Methodology:

The panel will be divided into two sections: during the first part of the event, the panelists will discuss the role of public participation in strengthening climate action. The panelists will also address how binding international agreements related to access rights can support the integration of human rights in climate governance (6 mins each).

This session will be complemented by a couple of additional reflections on how the preCOP and the COP-25 can contribute to the recognition of the importance of procedural rights in the implementation of the Paris Agreement (2 mins each).

Finally, a Q&A session will enable the audience to interact with the panelists.

Moderator:

- Ing. Rosa Vásquez

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Program:
Wednesday 9th of October, 15:00 to 16:30

No.	Time	Activity
1	15:00	Opening and welcome of the panelist
2		Opening remarks
	15:10	• Alicia Bárcena, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
3		Panel: The Role of Public Participation in Enhancing Climate Governance
	15:16	• Sra. Gladys Martinez, AIDA
	15:22	• Sr. Adrián Martinez, La Ruta del Clima
	15:28	• Sra. Carole Excell, WRI
	15:34	• Mrs. Fiona Marshall, UN Economic Commission for Europe
	15:40	• Mr. David. R. Boyd, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Obligations related to the Environment
4		Expectations for the pre-COP and COP-25
	15:46	• Mr. Benjamin Schachter, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
	15:52	• Mr. Sébastien Duyck, CIEL
5		Q&A
	15:58	Questions from the audience

Side Event

Ensuring Human Rights-Based Climate Action Through Public Participation and the Implementation of the Escazú Agreement

Wednesday October 9

15:00 - 16:30 in Guanacaste Room - Precop

LaRutadelClima



Escazú Ahora!

