



## #Sign4theEnvironment ESCAZÚ AGREEMENT

Dear Presidents,

On 27 September 2018, countries in Latin America and the Caribbean will have the opportunity to put in place a new instrument to protect the environment: The Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice on Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (the Escazú Agreement).

Your governments can make history and become leaders in environmental protection by signing the agreement during the opening for signature ceremony which will be held in the context of the Annual General Debate of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The Escazú Agreement is a key tool that will allow for a more participatory approach to decision-making, policymaking and projects relating to the environment and decreasing and mitigating conflicts driven by a lack of effective participation of affected communities. The Agreement delves into the human rights obligations that the countries in the region previously acquired through other international instruments with regard to the right of access to public information; participation in decision-making, including the adoption of inclusive, participatory and representative decisions at all levels; the right to a healthy environment; equal access to justice with regard to environmental rights; and the protection of human and environmental rights defenders, among others.

These obligations acquired by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, together with the commitments made within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals and other international agreements, reflect a commitment to environmentally friendly development that respect human rights and future generations.

In addition, at the 48<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) in June this year, your governments welcomed the signing of the Escazú Agreement with the acknowledgment that the human person is the central subject of sustainable development and should be an active participant in this. You also acknowledged that the Agreement is a means to guarantee a safe environment in which individuals, groups and organizations that promote and defend human rights related to the environment can act without facing threats, restrictions, attacks or danger.

Signing the Escazú Agreement is the first step required to include environmental access rights into the government agenda. It represents a historic opportunity for your governments to send a clear message to your citizens and the international community regarding your firm commitment to this global agenda for the protection of human rights associated with a healthy and sustainable environment. A global agenda that will benefit everyone in the region and around the world.

We call on your governments to sign the Escazú Agreement on 27 September 2018 and submit it to the competent national bodies for its immediate ratification. Now is the time to deliver real steps for real change. Latin America and the Caribbean need you to make the promise of the Escazú Agreement a reality for millions of people in the region. We also urge your governments to adopt rapid and effective measures to implement the provisions of the Agreement.

Yours sincerely,

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| Acceso a la Justicia  | Venezuela  | Centro de Derechos y Desarrollo (CEDAL)  | Perú                 |
| Acción Ecológica  | Ecuador    | Centro de Documentación en Derechos Humanos "Segundo Montes Mozo S.J." (CSMM)  | Ecuador              |
| Amazon Watch  | Américas   |  |                      |
| Amigos del Río San Rodrigo                                      | México     | Centro de Estudios Antropológicos de la Universidad Católica   | Paraguay             |
| Amnesty International   | Global     |  |                      |
| Andhes  | Argentina  | Centro de Iniciativas en Políticas Ambientales   | Nicaragua            |
| Article 19  | Global     | Centro de los Derechos del Campesino   | Nicaragua            |
| Asociación ALDES  | Perú       | Centro de Políticas Públicas y Derechos Humanos - Perú EQUIDAD   | Perú                 |
| Asociación Ambiente y Sociedad                                  | Colombia   |  |                      |
| Asociación Chilena de Voluntarios ACHV                          | Chile      | Centro Internacional de Investigaciones sobre Ambiente y Territorio (CIAT)   | Ecuador              |
| Asociación Civil Mujeres en Línea                               | Venezuela  | Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental, CEMDA  | México               |
| Asociación Civil por la Igualdad y la Justicia (ACIJ)           | Argentina  | Centro Regional de Empresas y Emprendimientos Responsables (CREER) - Regional Representation of the Institute for Human and Business Rights (IHRB) | Américas             |
| Asociación Costa Rica Íntegra                                   | Costa Rica |  |                      |
| Asociación de Abogados Mayas de Guatemala                       | Guatemala  | CIEDUR   | Uruguay              |
| Asociación de Ambientalistas del Paraguay                       | Paraguay   | CIVICUS  | Global               |
| Asociación GENTE, AMBIENTE Y TERRITORIO (GAT)                   | Paraguay   | Coalición Clima21  | Venezuela            |
| Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente (AIDA)   | Américas   | Coalición Nacional de Redes Ambientales de Honduras (CONROA)   | Honduras             |
| Asociación por la Democracia y los Derechos Humanos (ASOPODEHU) | Américas   | Colectivo Árbol  | Bolivia              |
| Asociación Servicios Educativos Rurales - SER                   | Perú       | Colectivo de Abogados José Alvear Restrepo de Colombia   | Colombia             |
| Asociadas por lo Justo (JASS)                                   | Américas   | Colectivo Profesionales para la Ciudadanía   | Costa Rica           |
| Associação de Combate aos Poluentes (ACPO)                      | Brasil     | Comisión Cubana de DD.HH. y Reconciliación Nacional  | Cuba                 |
| Associação de Saúde Socioambiental (ASSA)                       | Brasil     | Comisión Ecueménica de Derechos Humanos  | Ecuador              |
| Association for Progressive Communications (APC)                | Global     | Comisión Nacional de los Derechos Humanos (CNDH-RD) de la República Dominicana   | República Dominicana |
| Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)            | Global     | Comité de Familiares de Detenidos-Desaparecidos en Honduras (COFADEH)  | Honduras             |
| Both Ends   | Global     | Cómo Vamos La Paz, AC  | México               |
| Business & Human Rights Resource Centre                         | Global     | Comunicación y Educación Ambiental SC  | México               |
| CartoCrítica  | México     | Conectas Direitos Humanos  | Brasil               |
| Casa Cem- Vías Verdes A.C.                                      | México     | Conferencia de Religiosos de Honduras (CONFEREH)   | Honduras             |
| CausaNatura   | México     |  |                      |
| CEDIB   | Bolivia    | Consejo Regional Indígena y Popular de Xpujil  | México               |
| Center for Business and Human Rights                            | Global     | Conservación Humana AC   | México               |
| Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)               | Global     | ControlaTuGobierno   | México               |
| Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL)                | Américas   | Coordinadora Civil   | Nicaragua            |
| Centro de Archivo y Acceso a la Información Pública (CAinfo)    | Uruguay    | Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos  | Perú                 |

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| Cultura Ecológica   | México    | Greenpeace   | Global      |
| Datasketch  | Colombia  | Grupo de Acciones Públicas - GAP,  | Colombia    |
| DECIDAMOS   | Paraguay  | Universidad del Rosario  |             |
| Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (DAR)                            | Perú      | Grupo Social CESAP   | Venezuela   |
| Directorio Legislativo  | Argentina | Human Rights Watch   | Global      |
| Due Process of Law Foundation   | Global    | IM-Defensoras  | Américas    |
| Earth Rights International  | Global    | Iniciativa Social para la Democracia (ISD)                                     | El Salvador |
| ECOLEX, Corporación de Gestión y Derecho Ambiental                      | Ecuador   | INREDH   | Ecuador     |
| Enfoque Territorial   | Paraguay  | Instituto de Defensa Legal del Ambiente y el Desarrollo Sostenible IDLADS PERÚ | Perú        |
| Epikieia, Observatorio Universitario de Derechos Humanos                | Venezuela | Instituto de Derecho Ambiental de Honduras                                     | Honduras    |
| Equipo de Proyectos y Asesoría Social A.C.                              | Venezuela | Instituto Latinoamericano para un Derecho y Sociedad Alternativos - ILSA       | Colombia    |
| Espacio Público   | Venezuela | Instituto Socioambiental del Sur, Escuela de la Sustentabilidad                | Paraguay    |
| FARN  | Argentina | International Accountability Project   | Global      |
| Federación Internacional de Derechos Humanos                            | Global    | International Civil Society Centre   | Global      |
| Federación por la Autodeterminación de los Pueblos Indígenas (FAPI)     | Paraguay  | International Corporate Accountability Roundtable (ICAR)                       | Global      |
| FIMA  | Chile     | International Land Coalition - América Latina y el Caribe                      | Global      |
| Foro Ecológico del Perú   | Perú      | International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)                                  | Global      |
| FOS – Socialist Solidarity  | Global    | Jamaica Environment Trust  | Jamaica     |
| Fraternidad Laical Dominicana de Barquisimeto "Santo Domingo De Guzmán" | Venezuela | Jamaicans for Justice (JJI)  | Jamaica     |
| Freedom House   | Global    | Justicia para la Naturaleza (JPN)  | Américas    |
| Front Line Defenders  | Global    | Kolol Qnan Tx'otx' (Defensores de la Madre Tierra)                             | Guatemala   |
| Fronteras Comunes A.C   | México    | La Comisión de Derechos Humanos de El Salvador (CDHES)                         | El Salvador |
| Fund for Global Human Rights  | Global    | Low Carbon City  | Global      |
| Fundación Ciudadanía y Desarrollo                                       | Ecuador   | Mandela International Center for Human Rights and Peace                        | Global      |
| Fundación Ciudadano Inteligente   | Américas  | Mesa Nacional de Gestión del Riesgo (MNGR)                                     | Honduras    |
| Fundación Construir   | Bolivia   | NAMATI   | Global      |
| Fundación Desarrollo y Ambiente   | Honduras  | O Movimento Nacional de Direitos Humanos - MNDH                                | Brasil      |
| Fundación Multitudes  | Chile     | Observatorio Ciudadano Chile   | Chile       |
| Fundación Pachamama   | Ecuador   | Observatorio de Derechos Humanos de la Universidad de Los Andes                | Venezuela   |
| Fundación para el Desarrollo de Políticas Sustentables (FUNDEPS)        | Argentina | Observatorio de Gobierno Abierto (OGA)   | El Salvador |
| Fundación T.E.A. Trabajo Educación Ambiente                             | Argentina | Organización de Mujeres Campesinas e Indígenas CONAMURI                        | Paraguay    |
| FUNDAR, CENTRO DE ANÁLISIS E INVESTIGACIÓN, A.C                         | México    | Paz y Esperanza  | Perú        |
| Geografía Viva  | Venezuela | Peace Brigades International   | Global      |
| Global Peace and Development Organization                               | Liberia   |  |             |
| Global Witness  | Global    |  |             |

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| People in Need   | Global      | Sinergia, Red Venezolana de OSC   | Venezuela |
| Phynatura A.C.   | Venezuela   | SOBREVIVENCIA Amigos de la Tierra                                       | Paraguay  |
| Plataforma Internacional contra la Impunidad   | Global      | PARAGUAY  |           |
| Plataforma por el medio ambiente y la vida   | Bolivia     | Sociedad de Ciencias Naturales La Salle                                 | Venezuela |
| Prensa Comunitaria   | Guatemala   | Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental, SPDA                             | Perú      |
| Proética - Capítulo Peruano de Transparency International  | Perú        | Sociedad Peruana de Ecodesarrollo-SPDE                                  | Perú      |
| Programa Estudiantil Juventud Siglo XXI, A.C.  | México      | TEDIC   | Paraguay  |
| Project on Organizing, Development, Education, and Research (PODER)  | Américas    | Terra Mater   | Ecuador   |
| Promoción Educación Defensa en DDHH - PROMEDEHUM   | Venezuela   | The Access Initiative   | Global    |
| Protection International   | Global      | The World Organization Against Torture (OMCT)                           | Global    |
| Reacción Climática   | Bolivia     | Themis  | Brasil    |
| Red de Acción sobre Plaguicidas y sus Alternativa en México (RAPAM) A.C.   | México      | Um TETO para meu País - Brasil  | Brasil    |
| Red de Justicia Ambiental en Bolivia   | Bolivia     | UnaVentana a la Libertad  | Venezuela |
| Red de Organizaciones Ambientalistas de Venezuela ARA  | Venezuela   | Unidad de Protección a Defensoras y Defensores de Derechos Humanos      | Guatemala |
| Red de Organizaciones de Managua   | Nicaragua   | Unión de Usuarios y Consumidores, Argentina                             | Argentina |
| Red Nacional de Organismos Civiles de Derechos Humanos (conformada por 84 organizaciones en 23 estados de la República mexicana) | México      | Unión Nacional de Instituciones para el Trabajo de Acción Social-UNITAS | Bolivia   |
| Reforestemos México  | México      | Unión Sindical De Trabajadores de Guatemala -Unsitragua Histórica       | Guatemala |
| Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights   | Global      | Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo                        | México    |
| Saint Lucia National Trust   | Saint Lucia | Vacuna contra la Corrupción   | Global    |
| Servicio Paz y Justicia Paraguay (Serpaj-Py)   | Paraguay    | Vida Silvestre Uruguay  | Uruguay   |
| Servicios y Asesoría para la Paz A.C.  | México      | Vo.Bo. Asesores Integrales  | México    |
| Silvia Flores Mosquera CAPTE Uruguay   | Uruguay     | Washington Office on Latin America                                      | Américas  |
|  |             | World Resources Institute   | Global    |
|  |             | WWF Colombia  | Colombia  |