Building Bridges between Regions

Interregional cooperation on the implementation of Principle 10 of Rio Declaration and Article 6 of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in the Caribbean region

(UN ECLAC – UN ECE)

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1/ Executive summary

Access rights are instrumental for inclusive sustainable development and should set the baseline approach in addressing the complex challenges of our times. Some of the most pronounced are the immediate threats relevant to climate change and human-induced activities. Well-informed, proactive and constant involvement of all stakeholders guarantees tackling these challenges in a transparent and efficient manner. Thus access to information, public participation in decision-making and environmental justice imbedded in the Rio Declaration Principle 10 set important mechanisms to this end.

Consequently, the project will address both important commitments of states: Principle 10 of Rio Declaration and Article 6 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Article 6 defines activities in six priority areas that are determined by the UNFCCC as essential for involving all levels of society in the climate change process. Therein, the parties are obligated to demonstrate and should "promote and facilitate at the national and, as appropriate, sub-regional and regional, level..." climate change—related public awareness campaigns; public access to relevant information; public participation; the training of experts; and the enhancement of international cooperation.

Following the Aarhus Convention - first example of a regional convention to implement Principle 10 (P10) in the UNECE region - 10 countries launched the process of the development of regional instrument for Latin American and Caribbean (LAC). The project will support the regional efforts to implement Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, in particular the 2012

Declaration on the Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, the initiative of the Latin America and Caribbean countries launched at the Rio+20 Conference. Currently already 21 LAC countries are signatories of the 2012 Declaration on Principle 10 that have embarked on negotiating a regional instrument on "access rights" (please see more below).

The project will facilitate the inter-regional cooperation between UN ECE and UN ECLAC regions and more specifically the Caribbean sub-region on Principle 10, the transfer of lessons learned, sharing practical experience and approaches in ensuring access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters, on the basis of the experience in the UNECE region, and more specifically, the Aarhus Convention's negotiations and implementation.

The project will focus on the 7 countries from the Caribbean region, signatories of the Declaration on Principle 10: Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada (signed in April 2016). It will aim at further promotion of the P10 regional instrument and will strive to involve other countries in the process. The Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Caribbean face unique challenges, considering in particular the environmental fragility and vulnerability to the effects of climate change and natural disasters, and require special attention. There are only few Caribbean countries which have joined so far the process, and therefore it would be important to reach out and involve more, to create a truly regional instrument covering the LAC region.

The Caribbean states are at different levels of implementation and development of access rights, however, important progress has been made recently in the sub-region that should be recognized. Many Caribbean countries are creating their legal framework for access to information or already have such laws and have already legal obligations in place on public participation especially in EIA and planning. Access to justice in environmental matters, despite some outstanding good examples in some countries, is still lagging behind. Several of the Caribbean countries are very active and progressive in their approaches in the P10 instrument negotiations. Nevertheless, as many belong to the Small Island States, or to those with the lack of financial resources, they may have some reservations on how some pillars of the future P10 instrument could be applied in practice, especially regarding the establishment of the necessary institutional background and practical operational systems regarding public access to information and access to justice environmental matters.

The project builds on the results of the seed project "Building Bridges between Regions", which was funded by Abu Dhabi Environmental Agency for the period of December 2013 - December 2014 by 75,000 USD and implemented by the REC, as well as on the results of the project "Building Bridges between Regions on Implementation of Principle 10 of Rio Declaration" funded by the Ministry of Environment and Infrastructure, The Netherlands (October 2014 - October 2015). (For more information please consult the projects website www.building-bridges.rec.org.)

2/ Background

The regional agreement on Principle 10 that will emerge from the negotiations will support the implementation of Sustainable Development Post-2015 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, creating opportunities for collective action. In addition, while furthering the implementation of specific environmental-related goals, the P10 agreement will contribute to

the fulfilment of broader goals such as the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 (promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions) and SDG 17 (means of implementation, particularly in multistakeholder partnerships and data, monitoring and accountability). The Principle 10 agreement will also assist countries in complying with Multilateral Environmental Agreements (Article 6 of the UNFCCC on access to information and public participation on climate change matters, and the Lima Ministerial Declaration on Education and Awareness-raising).

The EU-CELAC ACTION PLAN 2013-2015 dated January 27th, 2013, indicates several actions and expected results in environmental matters. One of the expected result is "Improved knowledge on problems and consequences of climate change including vulnerability and risk assessment, biodiversity loss and environment issues in its widest meaning, and integration of these issues into sustainable development and climate adaptation strategies and other adaptation activities".

2.1. About LAC P10 Process

The Rio+20 Conference in 2012 renewed the commitment of heads of states and governments to sustainable development, reaffirmed all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the commitment to fully implement the Rio Declaration and the Agenda 21. At Rio+20 Conference, 10 Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC) countries signed a declaration "Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development". They agreed to work towards a regional instrument on access to information, participation and justice regarding environmental issues in the LAC region. Since then, the signatories of the declaration have increased to 20 countries. There are ongoing discussions with other countries to join in the declaration and work together towards the elaboration of a regional instrument for the implementation of Principle 10 in the LAC region.

With the support of ECLAC as technical secretariat, a regional dialogue has started through regular meetings of governmental Focal Points, and through meetings of two working groups (Working Group on Capacity-Building and Cooperation and Working Group on Access Rights and the Regional Instrument), with the involvement of the CSOs. In this context, the rich experience gained in the UNECE region on the development and implementation the Aarhus Convention proved to be of interest to those engaged in the development of a similar regional instrument.

At the 4th Focal Points (FP) meeting in LAC Principle 10 Declaration 2014 in Santiago de Chile, Chile, the signatory countries launched the negotiations to create a regional instrument on Principle 10. Thus, the Negotiation Committee was created.

On May 5-7, 2015, 201 signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration gathered at the headquarters of ECLAC in Santiago, Chile in Santiago for their first Negotiating Committee Meeting of the regional instrument on Principle 10. During the meeting, delegates agreed to begin a process of internal national consultations on the preliminary document, prepared by ECLAC, at the request of the signatory countries, regarding the creation of the regional instrument, and provide comments. The document serves as the

¹ Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay have all signed the Declaration. Nicaragua, and Saint Lucia attended and participated in the meetings, but representatives have yet to sign the agreement.

basis for forging a future regional agreement, which should be completed by December 2016, at the latest. However judging from the paste of negotiations it likely that the negotiations will be extended in time.

In March 2015, through an open web-based elections, the LAC CSOs elected 2 representatives of the public for the LAC P10 process and 4 substitutes. Andrea Sanhueza and Danielle Andrade are the current public representatives.

The second Negotiating Committee Meeting (NCM) took place in Panama City on October 27-29, 2015. The negotiations focused on the preamble and articles 1 to 10 of the preliminary document prepared by ECLAC.

Third meeting of the Negotiating Committee took place on 5-8 of April 2016, Montevideo, Uruguay. During the meeting Grenada became the 21 state to join the LAC P10 Declaration. The aim of the meeting was to continue the negotiation of the regional agreement on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean. A Workshop on Public Participation in Environmental Decision-Making: Trends, Challenges and Lessons Learnt took place on 4 April 2016. For more information please consult ECLAC website: http://www.cepal.org/en/topics/principle-10.

2.2 REC, the Climate Change Convention and LAC P10 process (Article 6)

The REC is actively engaged and supports the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol (KP). It endorses efforts to respond to the challenges of climate change by estimating greenhouse gas mitigation potential and identifying the best options for adaptation. Among others, the REC supports stakeholder involvement in shaping national climate policies; facilitates dialogue among stakeholders; and disseminates climate-related information in order to raise awareness and increase public participation. Its experience and knowledge are transferred within and beyond the REC's beneficiary areas.

Since 2004, the REC got appointed as the Regional Focal point for Article 6 playing ever since a vital role in the implementation of its stipulations in their respective countries, taking into consideration each country's specific conditions and characteristics. Article 6 of UNFCCC stipulates the promotion of education, training and public awareness on climate change. As mentioned above, Article 6 defines activities in six priority areas that are determined by the UNFCCC as essential for involving all levels of society in the climate change process.

2.3 REC, the Aarhus Convention and LAC P10 process

The REC, as one of the important actors and stakeholders of the Environment for Europe process, also played a significant role in developing and negotiating the Aarhus Convention. Its experts actively contributed to the negotiations, and later on assisted in the ratification and implementation of the agreement. The REC has been also active in the different bodies under the Convention such as MoPs, Working Group meetings, different Task Forces and expert groups. The REC has cooperated with governmental, CSO and others actors and provided assistance through numerous projects implemented in different regions of Europe, in assessing the needs and barriers for the implementation of the Convention, developing and implementing

legislation, building up institutional framework, promoting multi-stakeholder dialogue, designing and providing capacity building programs for the effective application of the Convention at the national and local levels. The rich experience of REC has been offered for consideration of the LAC stakeholders, and within this project will be offered in a more targeted way for the Caribbean P10 signatory countries, along with those of other important players in the UNECE region.

The ongoing involvement of the REC in facilitating interregional cooperation on Principle 10, as well as in providing assistance and capacity building to different stakeholders in this process, has been highly valued and recognised. The LAC P10 process has gained a momentum and is going through a very intense phase where donor support and technical assistance is of great demand.

The REC has been involved to support the P10 process and ECLAC, the key governmental and CSO stakeholders since 2013 by offering virtual and face-to-face experience sharing and expertise, enabling via capacity building the key players of the P10 process. During the 4th Focal Points meeting the REC has organize Side event on CSO involvement in international negotiations and the enforcement of international agreements and during the first Negotiating Committee Meeting, a Side event on the perspectives for implementing the current draft regional instrument in the LAC region. The REC has also supported the key actors by advice and comments on the preliminary document prepares by ECLAC.

During the Second Negotiating Committee Meeting (NCM) which took place in Panama City on October 27-29, 2015, the REC contributed to the organisation of a targeted workshop for LAC CSOs and legal professionals (on October 26), sharing its experience on the CSOs participation in international negotiations on environmental matters. Thus the REC is committed to continue supporting the process and maintaining cooperation bridges between these two UN regions.

2.4 Core group of stakeholders

Within the "Building Bridges" project, a core group of key stakeholders has been formed as an ad hoc coordination committee, which has participated in the design of the project activities and has ensured that the LAC priorities and needs are considered, accordingly.

This body includes:

- UN ECLAC representatives Secretariat of LAC P10 process²;
- Representatives from ministries in Chile and Costa Rica, steering the LAC P10 process;
- The elected public representatives of the LAC P10 process;
- Representatives of key CSO networks involved in the LAC P10 process, including the leaders of the two work groups established within the LAC P10 process;

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² UN ECLAC LAC P10 Secretariat

 Representatives of key UNECE stakeholders and the UNECE Aarhus Convention Secretariat (as an observer).

This body proved to be an excellent platform for cooperation and will be involved in the implementation of the current project. The ongoing communication with the core coordination group will ensure that the project addresses current priorities of the LAC process in the most efficient and timely manner.

Within the LAC P10 process, an informal network of LAC stakeholders has been established which currently encompasses altogether more than 500 organizations and individuals. It is an active platform for cooperation and exchange, which will ensure that all projects results will be made available for further use by this network.

It is crucial to note that a lot of UNECE stakeholders have voluntary contributed (pro-bono) to the Building Bridges project and are committed to continue cooperating with its framework with their peers in LAC region. This cooperation has evolved into a 'good will' cooperation process with the REC being in the role of secretariat, facilitator, and often - a center of intelligence.

3/ Goals and objectives

The proposed project will have as a main goal: to further support the regional cooperation efforts on implementation of Principle 10 of Rio Declaration and development of a LAC regional instrument on environmental democracy and access rights (Principle 10 of Rio Declaration), within the context of international climate change agenda, and more specifically, Article 6 of the UNCCC.

The main objectives will include:

- Support the negotiation process on a regional LAC instrument on Principle 10;
- Facilitate the cooperation and interregional experience sharing (between the UN ECLAC and the UNECE stakeholders) on Principle 10 and the Aarhus Convention;
- Empower the stakeholders for better engagement in the LAC P10 process;
 - Promote access rights within Principle 10 and Article 6 of the UNFCCC.

4/ Target Group

The direct beneficiaries are the LAC governments, the CSOs community engaged in promotion and securing access rights and environmental democracy, and ultimately, the LAC public at large. The focus will be put on the Caribbean countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. However promotions will reach out other non-signatory countries of the region.

Main target groups:

- The LAC CSOs' public representatives and the CSO network from Caribbean, active in the P10 negotiation process;
- Other LAC stakeholders involved in Principle 10 process, including ECLAC Secretariat.

5/ Activities

Activity 1 (July - December 2016): National consultations and P10 promotion activities

All countries committed within the negotiation process to ensure broad national consultations, but a few of them did not have the necessary financial resources and experience to undertake them in a satisfactory manner. These consultations are instrumental for the proper involvement of the relevant national stakeholders in the regional P10 process, which will have major national impact. The stakeholders need to get properly informed and be given the opportunity to provide their opinion and voice their concerns. 3-4 countries will be selected for the organisation of national consultations to take place in period September-November 2016. The proposed countries are: Trinidad and Tobago, St Vincent and Grenadine and Jamaica.

A brief methodology will be developed to ensure efficient and inclusive consultations, taking into account the Aarhus experience and Caribbean sub-regional specifics. At the same time these consultations will be used as promotion events, aiming to 'translating' the legal language of the draft regional instrument into understandable concepts for the nationals stakeholders (following Antigua and Barbuda's experience). The project will train local experts in participatory governance and stakeholder engagement to enable them to promote P10, and generate constructive dialogue, reaching out also to unprivileged, marginalised or remote communities in local languages. Additional promotion activities and campaigns can be organised in signatories and non-signatory Caribbean countries to promote Principle 10 process.

The REC, in partnership with national CSOs and with the consent of the governments will carry out national consultations and promotional activities on the key elements of the draft regional instrument on P10 (the latest text after the 4th NCM planned for 9-12 August 2016), and the potential implications of the instrument on the stakeholders in the countries.

Tasks related to this activity will consist of:

- Develop methodology of the national consultations/promotional activity (1 day events);
- Contact and contract of hosting CSOs and local experts;
- Draft consultations/promotion agenda;
- Prepare summary of the outcomes of the 3rd Negotiating Committee meeting on Principle 10 LAC to be communicated to the public;
- Identify and invite participants;
- Ensuring the logistics;
- Draft reports, news and press releases;
- Promote the outcomes of the consultations to other countries;
- Communicate with the governments and UN ECLAC, the secretariat of the LAC P10 process;
- Use modern communication means to reach out to the wide public (web, social media, e-platforms etc.).

Activity 2 (July $2016 - \text{May } 2017^3$): Preparation and participation in the 4th and 5th Negotiating Committee meetings (NCM) and tentatively in the 6th NCM. The 4rd meeting is planned for 9-12 August 2016 in Dominican Republic, while the 5th and 6th meetings are tentatively planned for October 2016 and April 2017.

The signatory countries, the civil society and other stakeholders will be engaged in the preparation of the Negotiation Committee meetings, in the intersessional periods. A number of actions are needed to ensure efficient negotiations, including national consultations, promotional campaigns, advocacy, lobbying, development of negotiation skills, regional and sub-regional coordination efforts, etc. In this context, the project will support the ECLAC in its function of the LAC P10 Secretariat, the presiding officers, the elected CSO representatives and the CSO network, with ongoing distant assistance and support, prior to the Negotiation Committee meetings. This support will be offered in the shape of distant consultations and webinars on topics of interest, while during the NCMs, the selected UNECE region representatives will offer ongoing assistance and guidance.

Tasks related to this activity will consist of:

- Provide expert input and consultations on the preparation of the 4th, 5th and if applicable
 of the 6th NCMs engaging UNECE stakeholders;
 - Secure participation of CSOs and UNECE representatives to take part in the negotiation meetings, through provision of financial support;
 - Organise webinars on key issues of concern to the negotiations process;
 - Maintain the project website and update it with relevant information.

Activity 3 (September 2016 – May 2018) Sub-regional CSO coordination meeting and capacity building for civil society organizations and other stakeholders.

Principle 10 in the LAC process should become a model for a transparent, inclusive and collaborative regional initiative, with the active and equal engagement of civil society, the public and all the relevant stakeholders. To this end, the CSOs should be well- prepared and equipped with knowledge, skills and tools to be equal partners in the negotiation and implementation process. Thus, this activity will focus on enhancement of the CSOs' capacities, role and participation in the negotiation process of the regional LAC instrument. The coordination meeting, combined with capacity building, will give the opportunity to the Caribbean stakeholders to prepare a consolidated opinion on the draft text of the regional instrument, and develop their negotiation strategy prior to the NCM. This approach was very efficient and successful in the Aarhus Convention negotiation process. It is proposed that the regional meeting takes place in Trinidad and Tobago, due to best accessibility from the region.

The project will consider to organise promotion activities at the sub-regional level. Due to high travel costs within the region and with the aim to reach out policy makers and high officials from the region, the promotional activity will be organised back to back with a major Caribbean event. We are considering the upcoming meeting of Environmental Ministers within the

³ It is expected that the negotiations continue beyond the original commitment of completing them by the end of 2016 and there will be a 6th NCM during early 2017, therefore these activity may extended to 2017.

Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), or meetings to be organized by the Small islands Development States (SIDS) or Caribbean Community (CARICOM). The project team is in contact with their representatives and will follow the 2017 events planning so that the event is incorporated appropriately.

Tasks related to this activity will consist of:

- Develop the concept and agenda (2 day event);
- Coordinate with UN ECLAC, signatory governments and CSOs the preparation of the meeting;
- Provide expert input to the sub-regional consultations;
- Secure funding and logistics for the participation of CSOs from the 7 signatory countries and other interested countries from the sub-region (eg. Guyana, Saint Lucia, Grenada).
- Organise a promotional event back-to-back with a major Caribbean meeting of high officials

6/ Communication activities

- The website http://building-bridges.rec.org/ to be maintained and used as information exchange platform;
- Print and distribute promotional cards, advertising the project website;
- Use UN ECLAC communication channels to reach out to governmental stakeholders;
- Cooperate with the existing CSO cooperation networks on P10, having at the moment more than 500 member organisations, using online CSO channels and platforms for networking and provision if information for CSOs and the public.
- Support online promotional activities organised by Caribbean CSOs

7/ Types of services

- Capacity building training (virtual and in person);
- Provision of advice and consultations experience sharing;
- Cooperation, facilitation and dialogue between the UNECE and UN ECLAC, as well as within the LAC region (sub-regional and national level).

8/ Results

- Organised sub-regional CSO consultation, national consultations between CSOs and governmental authorities, and promotional events in the Caribbean on Principle 10;
- Participation of UNECE stakeholders (Aarhus experts) in the 4th and 5th L and if applicable to the 6th LAC P10 Negotiation Committee meeting;
- Support to LAC CSOs to participate in the 5th Negotiation Committee meetings;
- The website http://building-bridges.rec.org/ kept active, containing new information on the project activities and all the interventions between ECLAC and UNECE region, regarding the preparation for a new instrument;
- Delivered advice and capacity building events.

9/Impacts

- Increased capacities of CSOs in the Caribbean sub-region enabling them to take actively
 part in the negotiations on the international instrument drafting process, advocate and
 lobby for CSOs' interest through workshop focusing on the P10 negotiations;
- Progress in the development of CSO capacity to be equal partners at the national level in the preparatory process, work with governments and cooperate in dialogue;
- Cooperation between the UNECE and the LAC regions on environmental democracy issues is strengthened, and the key UNECE stakeholders' participation and contribution to the LAC regional instrument on P10, will assist in the drafting process.

10/ Indicators

- Number of CSOs reached out and trained :
- Number of meetings and web-based exchanges/consultations;
- Number of events organised;
- Numbers of visits to the website;
- Number of stakeholders beneficiaries of the project;
- Reports on events, including comments on draft instrument;
- Audio records on webinars and events for further use and dissemination.

11/ Project Timeline 1889 OZO snilho snizu zaousemagno redirem coe nasti entre

Activity 1. (July - December 2016)

Activity 2. (July 2016 - May 2017)

Activity 3. (September 2016 - May 2018)

Project management, kick off and reporting (July, 2016 - June, 2018)

11/Budget

	Total
Activity 1	in surviviales
REC expertise	15000
Travel costs UNECE- Caribbean	5000
Direct costs for national consultations	10000
UNECE region experts fees	4000
Local expert/CSOs - Caribbean	6000
Promotion materials	3000
Subtotal Activity 1	43000
Activity 2	
REC expertise	30000
Travel costs UNECE- Caribbean	15000
Travel costs Caribbean CSOs	24000
UNECE region experts fees	10000
Direct costs	686
Website, media and communication	4800
Subtotal Activity 2	84486
Activity 3	
REC expertise	15000
Travel costs UNECE- Caribbean	7500
Travel costs Caribbean CSOs/experts	30000
UNECE region experts fees	2500
Promotion materials and event direct costs	1000
Subtotal Activity 3	56000
Sub-total Sub-total	183486
REC management fee 9%	16,514
Total	200,000

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Building Bridges between Regions

Interregional cooperation on Principle 10 of Rio Declaration and Article 6 of UNFCCC in the Caribbean region

Budget Init wire Notes	Total	Ilaite	Unit price	Notes
Activity 1				
REC expertise	15000	30	200	WD rate average
Travel costs UNECE- Caribbean	2000	2	2500.	travel accommodation perdiem local transfers
Direct costs for national consultations	10000	4	2500	incl room breaks lunch accomm local travel of local part's
UNECE region experts fees	4000	8	500	
Local expert/CSOs	0009	4	1500	lumpsum per expert/CSOs
Promotion materials	3000	9	200	lumsum per country
Subtotal Activity 1	43000			
Activity 2				
REC expertise	30000	09	200	WD rate average
Travel costs UNECE- Caribbean	15000	9	2500	travel accommodation perdiem local transfers
Travel costs Caribbean CSOs	24000	12	2000	travel accommodation perdiem local transfers
UNECE region experts fees	10000	20	200	
Direct costs	989	1	989	translation
Website, media and communication	4800	24	200	
Subtotal Activity 2	84486			
Activity 3				
REC expertise	15000	30	200	WD rate average
Travel costs UNECE- Caribbean	7500	3	2500	travel accommodation perdiem local transfers
Travel costs Caribbean CSOs/experts	30000	20	1500	travel accommodation perdiem local transfers
UNECE region experts fees	2500	5	200	
Promotion materials and event direct costs	1000	1	1000	lumpsum for the sub-regional event
Subtotal Activity 3	26000			
Sub-total	183,486			
REC management fee 9%	16,514			
Total	200,000			