

18. REGIONAL AGREEMENT ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Escazú, 4 March 2018

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 22 April 2021, in accordance with article 22(1) , the present Agreement shall enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of the eleventh instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.

REGISTRATION: 22 April 2021, No. 56654.

STATUS: Signatories: 24. Parties: 17.

TEXT: United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3388C.N.195.2018.TREATIES-XXVII.18 of 9 April 2018 (Opening for signature) and C.N.196.2018.TREATIES-XXVII.18 of 9 April 2018 (Issuance of Certified True Copies).

Note: The Agreement was adopted on 4 March 2018 at 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 Escazú, Costa Rica, from 28 February to 4 March 2018. It shall be open for signature at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 27 September 2018 to 26 September 2020 by any of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean included in annex 1 of the Agreement.

<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification, Acceptance(A), Approval(AA), Accession(a)</i>	<i>Participant</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Ratification, Acceptance(A), Approval(AA), Accession(a)</i>
Antigua and Barbuda.....	27 Sep 2018	4 Mar 2020	Guyana.....	27 Sep 2018	18 Apr 2019
Argentina	27 Sep 2018	22 Jan 2021	Haiti	27 Sep 2018	
Belize	24 Sep 2020	7 Mar 2023	Jamaica	26 Sep 2019	
Bolivia (Plurinational State of).....	2 Nov 2018	26 Sep 2019	Mexico	27 Sep 2018	22 Jan 2021
Brazil	27 Sep 2018		Nicaragua.....	27 Sep 2019	9 Mar 2020
Chile.....		13 Jun 2022 a	Panama.....	27 Sep 2018	10 Mar 2020
Colombia	11 Dec 2019	25 Sep 2024	Paraguay	28 Sep 2018	
Costa Rica.....	27 Sep 2018		Peru.....	27 Sep 2018	
Dominica	26 Sep 2020	22 Apr 2024	St. Kitts and Nevis	26 Sep 2019	26 Sep 2019
Dominican Republic	27 Sep 2018		St. Lucia.....	27 Sep 2018	1 Dec 2020
Ecuador.....	27 Sep 2018	21 May 2020	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	12 Jul 2019	26 Sep 2019
Grenada.....	26 Sep 2019	20 Mar 2023	Uruguay	27 Sep 2018	26 Sep 2019
Guatemala ¹	27 Sep 2018				

CHILE

1. The Republic of Chile declares that, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 3, the requirements set out in the Agreement are addressed, to a significant degree, in Chilean law, in particular in Law No. 19.300 on the general environmental framework; Law No. 20.500 on associations and community participation in public administration; Law No. 20.285 on access to public information; and Law No. 20.600 establishing environmental courts, among others.

2. The Republic of Chile declares that article 11, paragraph 2, shall be understood as referring to

cooperation within the ambit of the Agreement for the purposes of implementing it in the countries in question.

3. The Republic of Chile declares that it shall, in line with article 13, to the extent of its ability and in accordance with its national priorities, carry out the national activities that are needed to fulfil the obligations derived from the Agreement, in particular in relation to articles 5, 6, 7 and 8, using whichever means it deems appropriate.

4. The Republic of Chile declares that, unless and until it declares otherwise in writing, it does not accept as compulsory the means of dispute settlement indicated in

article 19, paragraph 2, for a dispute not resolved in

accordance with paragraph 1 of that article.

Notes:

¹ In a communication received on 20 December 2022, the Government of Guatemala informed the Secretary-General of the following:

I have the honour to write to you in reference to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, also known as the Escazú Agreement, adopted in Escazú on 4 March 2018 and signed by the Republic of Guatemala on 27 September 2018.

The Republic of Guatemala officially informs you, as depositary of the Escazú Agreement, that it does not intend to become a party to the Agreement. Its signing of the Agreement shall not, therefore, give rise to any legal obligations for the Republic of Guatemala, in accordance with international law.

