



**DAY 1: Monday 25 – September 2023**

**14:00 – 15:30 (GMT-5)**

**HUMAN RIGHT TO A CLEAN, HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT**

*First Session within the framework of the Regional Consultation of the V Montevideo Programme for the LAC region*

---

**Brief introduction**

On July 28, 2022, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 76/300, recognizing the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment for all people worldwide. This resolution followed the recognition of this right by the Human Rights Council in October 2017<sup>1</sup>, and marked an unprecedented decision with 161 votes in favor, 0 against, and only 8 abstentions. The resolution provides strong global support for this right, which is already legally recognized in 156 of the 193 United Nations member states.

Following international efforts on the issue, the Committee on the Rights of the Child has recently published the General comment No. 26 (23 August 2023) on children's rights and the environment with a special focus on climate change, highlighting that children have right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment and the full consideration of all children's rights under the Convention on the Right of the Child<sup>2</sup>.

Our region has been a pioneer in recognizing the right to a healthy environment and protecting access rights in environmental matters in national constitutions and regulations, as well as at the regional level through the ratification of the first regional agreement on environmental matters: 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<sup>3</sup>.

The main objective of this session is to discuss the urgent regional action needed to protect and restore the environment through an analysis of the right to a healthy environment, its elements, and the key role played by states and other actors, such as national human rights institutions, civil

---

<sup>1</sup> More information: <https://news.un.org/es/story/2021/10/1498132>

<sup>2</sup> General comment No. 26 (2023) on children's rights and the environment with a special focus on climate change: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/general-comments-and-recommendations/general-comment-no-26-2023-childrens-rights-and#:~:text=Summary,environmental%20harm%20and%20climate%20change>

<sup>3</sup> Access to the Escazú Agreement: <https://repositorio.cepal.org/items/86cae662-f81c-4b45-a04a-058e8d26143c>



society organizations, academia, the judiciary, and especially human rights defenders in environmental matters who strongly advocate for its respect and protection.

### Objectives

The session, organized by the United Nations Environment Programme, within the framework of the Regional Conference of Focal Points of the Fifth Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo V), with the support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme, and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, aims to further strengthen this issue at the regional level through the following objectives:

- 1) Promote and advance the implementation of the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment in the region.
- 2) Inform about the progress made in the protection of environmental human rights defenders in the region, specifically within the framework of the Escazú Agreement, and considering the celebration of the Second Annual Forum on Environmental Human Rights Defenders.
- 3) Open dialogue with regional experts on best practices, opportunities, and challenges.
- 4) Short presentation of the informational note published this year in collaboration between the three agencies, titled "What is the right to a healthy environment?"<sup>4</sup>.
- 5) Short presentation of the main outcomes<sup>5</sup> of the first regional session on the Right to a Healthy Environment, held in April 2023, within the framework of the Second Conference of the Parties of the Escazú Agreement.

### Agenda

Session Run Sheet	
Session	Human Right to a Healthy, Clean and Sustainable Environment
Date and Time	14:00 - 15:30 (Panama Time GMT -5), 25 September 2023
Platform	In-person and online (Zoom)

<sup>4</sup> Access the informational note: <https://www.unep.org/es/resources/publicaciones/que-es-el-derecho-un-medio-ambiente-saludable-nota-informativa>

<sup>5</sup> Access the document summarizing the main comments and conclusions of the session:  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FXsqJViuHSqzTZxKZ0jFYgoPOQTzxpK/view?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FXsqJViuHSqzTZxKZ0jFYgoPOQTzxpK/view?usp=drive_link)



Language			Spanish<->English, with simultaneous Interpretation		
Time			Action/Task	Responsibility	
Start	Finish	Duration			
14:00	14:10	10 min	<b>Introduction and Welcome</b>  Presentation of the Global Information Note on the HRHE and of the regional conclusions resulting from the regional side event on the HRHE in the Conference of the Parties of the Escazú Agreement	<b><u>Moderator</u></b>  <b>María Candela Zaffiro Tacchetti</b> , Regional Consultant, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)  <b><u>Panelists</u></b> (3 min each)  <b>Andrea Brusco</b> , United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)  <b>Ignacio Roncagliolo</b> , United Nations Human Rights Office (OHCHR)  <b>María Eugenia Di Paola or Jessica Young</b> , United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (TBC)	
14:10	14:30	20 min	<b>Panel: Reflections on the HRHE in Latin America and the Caribbean</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Civil society perspective</li> <li>- Academic perspective</li> <li>- Judicial perspective</li> </ul>	<b><u>Panelists</u></b> (6 min each)  <b>Mijael Kaufman</b> , Public Representative to the Escazú Agreement, Argentina  <b>Félix Wing Solís</b> , International and Environmental Law Specialist, Panama	



				<p><b>Alejandra Rabasa</b>, Chief of the General Unit of Scientific Knowledge and Human Rights, Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation, Mexico</p>
14:30	14:45	15 min	<p><b>Open discussion on the right to a healthy environment in the region: good practices, challenges and opportunities</b></p>	<p><b><u>Moderator</u></b></p> <p><b>Maria Eugenia Di Paola or Jessica Young</b>, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (TBC)</p>
14:45	15:05	20 min	<p><b>The Escazú Agreement and Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters</b></p> <p>The role of the Escazú Agreement in the recognition of the HRHE and progress made for the protection of Environmental Human Rights Defenders in Latin America and the Caribbean.</p>	<p><b><u>Moderator</u></b></p> <p><b>Natalia Labbe</b>, United Nations Human Rights Office (OHCHR)</p> <p><b><u>Speakers</u></b> (6 min each)</p> <p><b>Kate Wilson</b>, Montevideo National Focal Point of Saint Lucia</p> <p><b>Constance Agnes Nalegach</b>, Ministry of Environment of Chile</p> <p><b>Claudia Ituarte-Lima</b>, Leader of Human Rights and Environment Thematic Area &amp; Senior Researcher, The Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law</p>



15:05	15:25	20 min	<p><b>Open discussion on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Contribution of the Forum to the advancement of the implementation of the HRHE.</li><li>- Expected results by the Second Forum of the HRHE which will be held on the 27 and 28 September 2023.</li></ul>	<p><b><u>Moderator</u></b></p> <p><b>Natalia Labbe</b>, United Nations Human Rights Office (OHCHR)</p>
15:25	15:30	5 min	<p><b>Closing remarks - Conclusions</b></p>	<p><b>Maureen Hyman-Payne</b>, Montevideo National Focal Point of Trinidad and Tobago</p>