



QUNO
Quaker United Nations Office



*Misión Permanente
de Costa Rica
Ginebra*



SIDE EVENT

Procedural Rights and the Environment: The Principle 10 Negotiations in Latin America and the Caribbean

Friday 4 March, 2016

16:00-17:30

Palais des Nations, **Room XXI**

*Please notify Mihan Borhani (mborhani@quno.ch) if you do not possess a UN grounds pass.

OPENING STATEMENT

- **Ambassador Marta Maurás Perez:** Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations, Geneva

SPEAKERS

- **John Knox:** United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment
- **Ambassador Elayne Whyte Gómez:** Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations, Geneva
- **Marcos A. Orellana:** Director, Human Rights & Environment Program, Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
- **Diane Hendrick:** Representative, Peace and Disarmament, Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)

MODERATOR

- **Laurel Townhead:** Representative, Human Rights and Refugees, QUNO

EVENT OVERVIEW

The Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development was signed at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June 2012, by ten governments from Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), with the goal of advancing the implementation of procedural rights - the rights to information, participation in decision making, and justice with respect to environmental matters - in the region. The number of LAC participating governments has increased to 20, representing millions of people. After two years of intense study, in December 2014 the signatory governments decided to launch formal negotiations toward a regional instrument on environmental democracy and procedural rights.

Bringing together a panel of UN, government and civil society experts, this side event seeks to shed light upon the negotiations process around of the regional instrument on Principle 10. The panel will discuss the significance of a strong negotiated outcome for integrating human rights and environment under the framework of sustainable development and for achieving equitable and peaceful environmental policy outcomes in the LAC region.

Incorporating a peacebuilding perspective, this event will also emphasize the importance of procedural rights in underpinning inclusive and participatory decision-making processes, which have the potential to play a crucial role in preventing destructive conflict around natural resources.

KEY QUESTIONS

- What are the benefits of a strong negotiated outcome from the Principle 10 negotiations and what are the challenges to a strong agreement?
- What is the current state of the negotiations and what are the prospects for concluding them in 2016?
- In which ways can procedural rights help to prevent destructive conflict around environmental matters?
- What can we learn about effective inclusion of civil society from the process to create a regional instrument for the application of Principle 10?
- What innovative elements does the Principle 10 process offer that could be replicated or adapted in similar multilateral processes in the future?