

The regional process on access to information, public participation and justice in environmental matters (Principle 10) in Latin America and the Caribbean

THIRTY-SIXTH SESION OF ECLAC

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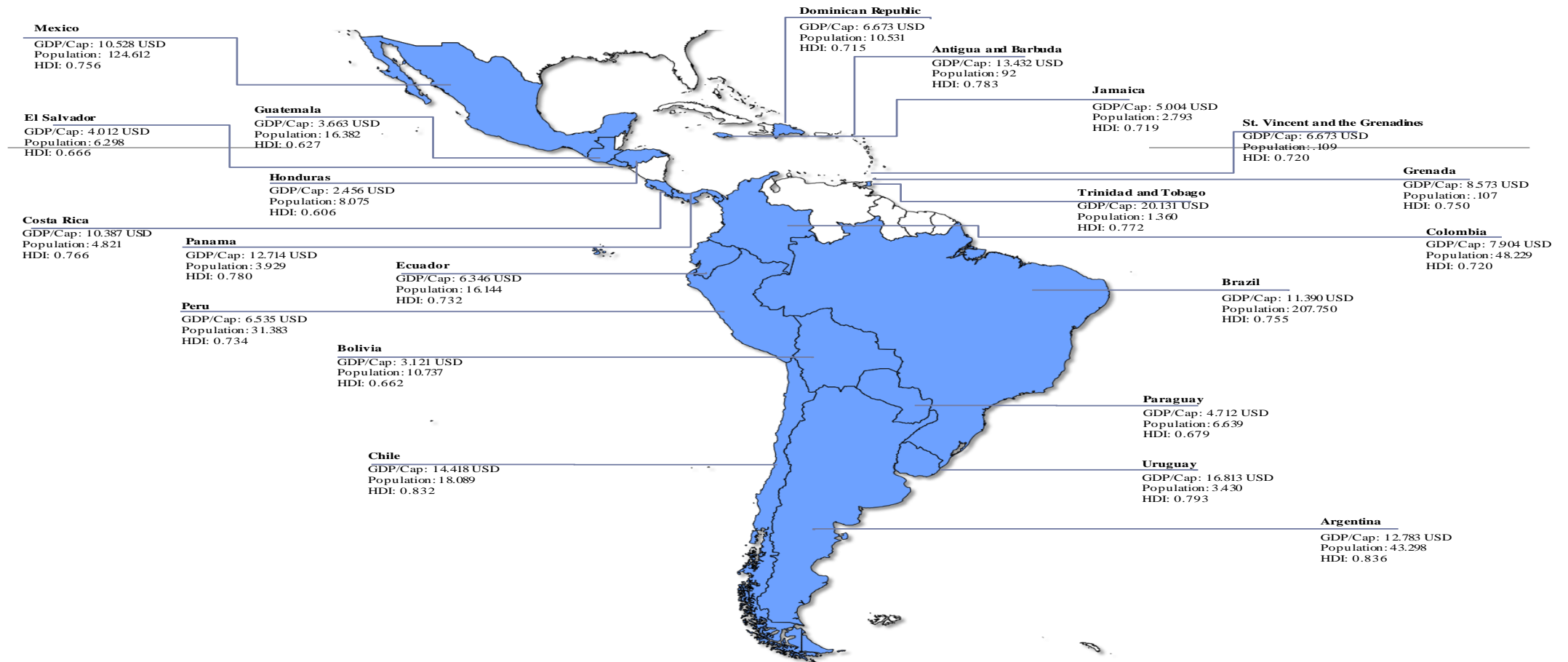
Environmental Equity and Democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean



Principle 10 was adopted at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit) as a key part of the concept of 'sustainable development'.

PRINCIPLE 10: *“Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided”.*

Participation: 21 member countries



Source:
GDP/ Cap (Dollars at current market prices) and total population (Thousands of persons, at mid-year):
ECLAC (2015) Statistical yearbook of Latin America and the Caribbean.
HDI: UNDP, 2015.
Note: The names and boundaries shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.



Activities of the regional process

- A convening process from 10 to 21 signatory countries
- 4 meetings of Focal Points and 5 working groups (online and onsite)
- 10 Intersessional meetings (virtual)
- 3 Meetings of the Negotiation Committee: Chile (May 2015), Panama (October 2015) and Uruguay (April 2016).

*** Compilation text prepared by the Presiding Officers**

Next meeting: Dominican Republic (August 2016)



Principle 10 LAC in other processes



BENEFITS

- Rights of access will facilitate more transparent, inclusive and accountable decision-making in matters affecting the environment and development.
- Rights of access are the fulcrum of the relationship between human rights and the environment.
- Contributes to reduce and / or prevent social conflicts.
- Millions of people in the region would be beneficiated.



BENEFITS

- A legally binding instrument would establish obligations for the States.
- Strengthening of national legislation for the implementation of the rights of access.
- A treaty would establish co-operation mechanisms between nations.
- A legally binding instrument would establish mechanisms for verification and evaluation



CONCLUSION

- The adoption of a regional instrument would contribute greatly to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.
- We extend an invitation to join this process to those countries from Latin America and the Caribbean that have not taken this decision.
- The Co-presidency would like to thank ECLAC for its valuable assistant and heartfelt commitment to this process.



¡Muchas gracias!

