

ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters in Latin America and the Caribbean

Situation, outlook and examples
of good practice



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Summary

This document reviews laws and institutional frameworks that safeguard Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development of 1992, which refers to access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters, in the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition to the information that was collected, a questionnaire on implementation of Principle 10 at the national level was circulated in the first quarter of 2013, which was completed by 16 countries in the region and 10 civil society organizations.

As shown in this document, despite the significant progress made over the past 20 years, many countries of the region have yet to enact legislation to facilitate the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, while others are encountering implementation difficulties. Now, more than ever, the Latin American and Caribbean region must seek the full implementation of Principle 10, given that it provides a clear, pioneering vision of transparency, justice and access to information as a basis for deepening democracy and eliminating global asymmetries. It is widely recognized that deepening democracy as a collective order calls for progress towards providing equal opportunities and rights. This means enforcing the rights of those sectors of society that have historically been marginalized from decision-making to access to information, participation and justice on environmental matters.

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