



Fourth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development 2021




## ONLINE SIDE EVENT

**Rights-Based Sustainable Recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean – placing human rights and the 2030 Agenda at the core of the responses to build forward better**

**16 MARCH 2021**      **1PM - 2PM CST (GMT -6)**

**1pm-2pm** CR, GT, MX  
**2pm-3pm** CO, EC, PA, PE  
**3pm-4pm** DO, GD  
**4pm-5pm** AR, BR, CL



**REGISTER HERE TO ATTEND** <https://www.humanrights.dk/events/evento-paralelo-en-el-cuarto-foro-de-los-paises-de-america-latina-y-el-caribe-sobre-el>

**MORE INFORMATION** <https://foroalc2030.cepal.org/2021/en/node/628>

### SPEAKERS

- **Jan Jarab**, Regional Representative for South America, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- **Freddy Carrión Intriago**, Ombudsman of Ecuador and Chair of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)
- **Jose Luis Samaniego**, Director, Division of Sustainable Development and Human Settlement, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- **Roxie Mc Leish-Hutchinson**, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and CARICOM Affairs, Grenada
- **Milagros De Camps**, Vice Minister of International Cooperation, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Dominican Republic
- **Alicia Abanto**, Deputy on Environment, Public Service and Indigenous Peoples, Defensoría del Pueblo, Perú
- **Nicolas Maennling**, Principal Advisor, MinSus Programme-GIZ
- **Javier Surasky**, Coordinator of the Governance for Development Area, Centro de Pensamiento Estratégico Internacional (CEPEI)

- **Maira Olivo**, Lawyer, Mujeres Indígenas Defensoras del Territorio de México
- Representative from the Ministerio de Planificación Nacional y Política Económica (Mideplan) de Costa Rica
- **Andrea Brusco**, Regional Coordinator of Environmental Governance, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)
- **Birgitte Feiring**, Directora del Departamento de Desarrollo, Instituto Danés de Derechos Humanos.

## MODERATOR

- **Laura Serna**, Youth Escazú Champion

## GENERAL OVERVIEW

Latin America and the Caribbean is currently one of the regions most affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The crisis has also highlighted deep inequalities and structural problems in our region. It has also evidenced as never before that human well-being is intrinsically linked to environmental and ecosystem protection.

In this context, the post-pandemic recovery should be an opportunity to rethink the development model of Latin America and the Caribbean, by prioritizing new ways of doing things, in a way that allows us to be more competitive while being more inclusive and protecting the environment that sustains our economy and our lives.

To this end, safeguarding human rights, reinforcing the rule of law, strengthening a more participatory democracy and preventing social conflicts has proven to be essential. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and international and regional human rights commitments provide guidance towards the achievement of this goal.

As the Secretary-General of the United Nations recently underlined: "This is not a time to neglect human rights; it is a time when, more than ever, human rights are needed to navigate this crisis in a way that will allow us, as soon as possible, to focus again on achieving equitable sustainable development and sustaining peace".

Moving towards the development of the dynamic sectors of the future requires an effort to review the narrative of environmental "additional costs" and strengthen existing environmental legislation. When legislation to protect the environment becomes more flexible, violence against environmental defenders increases, in a region with the highest murder rates targeted at these people in the world. Deregulation is exposing new territories and communities to deforestation, forced displacements, illegal extraction of natural resources and destruction of ecosystems, which is making conflicts and human rights violations more frequent. It is also a political message that the future does not matter, and that future generations do not count.

The region has a valuable tool to strengthen dialogue and sustainable covenants —The Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement). Once the Agreement enters into force on

April 22, 2021 and is subsequently implemented, countries will be better placed to preserve their strategic natural heritage through more inclusive and community-oriented actions.

In this context, this side event intends to generate a space for multi-stakeholder dialogue in order to establish the necessary conditions to place human rights, the 2030 Agenda and the Escazú Agreement at the centre of the countries' responses for post-pandemic recovery. The intention here will be to discuss how sustainable and resilient recovery should be based on human rights, environmental protection and those who defend the environment and the role played by National Human Rights Institutions.

## **PARTICIPANTS AND FORMAT**

This side event is open to all interested participants of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, as well as policy makers and public officers from ECLAC member states, UN entities, civil society, the private sector, and national human rights institutions and their respective regional networks.

The event will be organized in a multi-stakeholder debate format. At the beginning of the session, a brief intervention will be made by ECLAC's Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division. Subsequently, a group of experts will be invited to discuss on the basis of the following questions:

- How can we conceptualize a sustainable human rights-based recovery that adequately addresses the States' obligations in terms of human rights and SDG commitments in recovery programmes and measures?
- What are the specific goals of the SDGs and human rights that appear to be the most relevant —both at regional and global levels— when for the purpose of designing Covid-19 response and recovery plans and programmes?
- How can we ensure that the principle of leaving no one behind is rooted in Covid-19 recovery strategies and plans, while ensuring that the voices of those “left behind” (particularly indigenous peoples) are included?
- How can National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) help make planning and implementing recovery strategies more inclusive and human rights-based?
- How does the Escazú Agreement and its focus on environmental defenders contribute to sustainable recovery?
- What challenges is the mining industry facing in order to build a sustainable recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean in a way that protects human rights, and addresses the climate crisis?
- What are the States doing?

## **SPONSORS**

- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

- Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR)
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- Red de Instituciones Nacionales para la Promoción y Protección de los Derechos Humanos del Continente Americano (RINDHCA)
- Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy (MIDEPLAN) Costa Rica
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH, GIZ (MINSUS program)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Federación Iberoamericana del Ombudman (FIO)
- Centro de Pensamiento Estratégico Internacional (CEPEI)
- Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI).

## USEFUL RESOURCES

- Website [COVID-19 and human rights](#) | The Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR)
- Document [Sustainable recovery: building on human rights and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development](#) | (DIHR)
- Publication [COVID-19 and inequality: guidance and resources for using human rights to build back equal](#) | (DIHR)
- Document [Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean \(Escazú Agreement\):](#) | Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL)
- Website [Observatory of Principle 10 in Latin American and the Caribbean](#) | (CEPAL)
- Website [Follow-up to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean \(Escazú Agreement\) | Observatory of Principle 10](#) (CEPAL)
- Course [Introductory Course on SDG 16 and access rights, the Aarhus Convention, and the Escazú Agreement](#) (CEPAL)
- Document (Spanish only): [Recomendaciones para la incorporación del enfoque de derechos humanos en la evaluación de impacto ambiental de proyectos mineros | Publicación](#) | (CEPAL)
- Executive summary: [Recommendations for incorporating a human rights-based approach in environmental impact assessment of mining projects](#), GIZ (MINSUS)
- Video (Spanish only): [Minería responsable, derechos humanos y sostenibilidad - YouTube](#)
- Report: [Comparative Analysis of LAC VNRs \(2016-2019\)](#) | Centro de Pensamiento Estratégico Internacional (CEPEI)
- Publication (Spanish only) [¿De qué hablan los países de ALC cuando informan sobre sus procesos de implementación de los ODS?](#) | (CEPEI).