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Second meeting of the Conference of the Parties
to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information,
Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters
in Latin America and the Caribbean

Extraordinary meeting

Buenos Aires, 19–21 April 2023

**ROSTER OF CANDIDATES TO THE COMMITTEE
TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE
PREPARED BY THE PRESIDING OFFICERS**



The Secretariat has the honour to submit to the Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, an extraordinary meeting, the roster of the candidates to the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance prepared by the Presiding Officers in consultation with the elected representatives of the public, for consideration.

Note: This document is a translation of a Spanish original which did not undergo formal editing.

I. BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Article 18.1 of the Agreement, the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance is a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties established to promote the implementation of the Agreement and to support the Parties in that regard. Its rules relating to the structure and functions were approved by the Conference of the Parties at its first meeting in decision I/3.

The rules relating to the structure and functions of the Committee provide that the Committee shall be composed of seven members, who shall serve in their personal capacity.

The members of the Committee shall be persons of high moral standing, with recognized competence in access rights or other matters of the Agreement. They shall be nationals of or residents in the countries set out in Annex I to the Agreement and be independent from the executive, legislative or judicial powers of that countries.

In the election of the members of the Committee an equitable geographical distribution of membership, gender parity and legal knowledge and experience shall be considered. No more than one Committee member may be of the same nationality.

According to article II.5 of the aforementioned rules, the procedure to nominate candidates to the Committee is as follows:

- (a) Any person meeting the criteria established in paragraph 2 of the rules may nominate him or herself;
- (b) The Presiding Officers shall prepare a roster of up to 10 candidates, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties. The Presiding Officers shall invite the elected representatives of the public to participate in a meeting and consult them regarding the roster, prior to preparing the roster for consideration by the Conference of the parties;
- (c) From the roster of candidates, the Conference of the Parties shall elect the members of the Committee by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, the Conference of the Parties shall elect such members by simple majority of the Parties present and voting, by secret ballot.

The term of office of the Committee members shall be four years, renewable for another four years. A Committee member's term of office shall begin at the conclusion of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties at which he or she is elected. However, of the members elected at the first election, three shall be chosen by lot to serve a term of six years. Immediately after the first election, the Chair of the Conference of the Parties shall draw by lot these three members.

By virtue of decision I/5, the purpose of the extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in Argentina in April 2023 is to elect the inaugural members of the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance and to consider any other matter decided by the Parties.

II. PREPARATION OF THE ROSTER

To begin the process of electing the inaugural members of the Committee to Support Implementation and Compliance, the Secretariat published the call for nominations to the Committee¹ on 15 September 2022. The same recalled the criteria for submitting candidatures as well as the nomination and election procedures, as set forth in the Committee's rules relating to its structure and functions. The call contained a nomination form and an affidavit.

The period for submitting nominations was three months, ending on 15 December 2022, at 11:59 p.m. Santiago time. A total of 49 nominations were received from 15 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Of these, 48 were admitted and one was not admitted because it was received after the deadline. All nominations were published on 19 January 2023 at the Escazu Agreement's website.

To facilitate the review of the accepted nominations, the Presiding Officers requested the Secretariat to prepare a spreadsheet with the following fields:

- Name
- Nationality
- Country of residence
- Gender
- Age
- Compliance with the independence criteria
- Experience in a public body
- Current position
- Competence in access rights and other matters of the Escazu Agreement
- Legal knowledge and experience
- Academic degrees
- Years of relevant experience
- Compliance with moral integrity criteria
- Time availability
- Languages
- Information on travel and assistance
- Relevant publications

The Presiding Officers undertook a detailed review, based on the criteria required by the rules relating the structure and functions of the Committee (high moral standing; recognized competence in access rights; nationality or residence in countries set out in Annex 1; independence from the executive, legislative and judicial powers of such countries). They also considered having legal experience and knowledge and years of relevant experience, among others, as additional criteria. Special consideration was likewise given to equitable geographical distribution and gender parity. Finally, consideration was given to the limitation established in the rules relating the structure and functions of the Committee, whereby no more than one member of the Committee may be of the same nationality.

¹ See [online]: https://www.cepal.org/sites/default/files/rules_csic_with_annexes.pdf.

In addition, the Presiding Officers invited the elected representatives of the public to participate in a meeting and consulted them regarding the roster, prior to preparing the roster for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

III. ROSTER OF CANDIDATES TO THE COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE

The Presiding Officers agreed on the roster of ten candidates included in annex 1. A brief biographical profile of each candidate is provided in annex 2.

This list is composed of five men and five women of ten nationalities from the countries set out in Annex 1 of the Agreement. There are three representatives from Central America and Mexico, three from the English-speaking Caribbean and four from South America. They currently correspond to five Parties and five non-Parties.

Numbering corresponds to the alphabetical order of surnames.

Annex 1

**ROSTER OF CANDIDATES TO THE COMMITTEE
TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE**

(in alphabetical order)

1. Acuña, Guillermo Eduardo (Chile)
2. Blengio Valdés, Mariana (Uruguay)
3. Born, Rubens Harry (Brazil)
4. Carrillo Fuentes, Juan Carlos (Mexico)
5. Joseph-Olivetti, Rita Leonette (Grenada)
6. Madrigal Cordero, Patricia (Costa Rica)
7. Mitchell, Gavern Sherva (Trinidad and Tobago)
8. Napoli, Andrés María (Argentina)
9. Stephens, Carole Denise Angela (Jamaica)
10. Wing Solís, Félix (Panama)

Annex 2**PROFILE OF NOMINEES TO THE COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION AND COMPLIANCE INCLUDED IN THE ROSTER²**

(in alphabetical order)

1. Acuña, Guillermo Eduardo (Chile)

Lawyer and attorney from the National University of Córdoba, with postgraduate degrees in environment and economic development and environmental law and planning.

He was coordinator for the environment at the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and responsible for different environmental programmes. He served as Director of Institutional Relations of the Environmental Secretariat of the Municipality of Córdoba, Argentina. For 27 years he worked at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) as Legal Assistant in environmental matters (regulation and institutional affairs) of the Sustainable Development Division and, later, as Legal Advisor and Chief of Protocol of the Office of the Executive Secretary.

2. Blengio Valdés, Mariana (Uruguay)

PhD in Law and Social Sciences from the University of the Republic of Uruguay, Master's degree in Law and Bioethics from the University of Barcelona and PhD candidate in Law at the University of Vigo.

She is an assistant professor of law at the University of the Republic of Uruguay in constitutional law, human rights, non-jurisdictional protection and bioethics. Director of the Master's degree in Human Rights. She coordinated the UNESCO Chair in Human Rights at the University of the Republic. She was a member of the Board of Directors of the National Institute of Human Rights and Ombudsman of Uruguay (2017-2022) and President of the institute (2019-2020).

3. Born, Rubens Harry (Brazil)

Law degree from Faculdade Anhanguera de Taboão da Serra, PhD in public and environmental health from the University of São Paulo, civil engineer from Escola Politécnica USP and postgraduate degree in constitutional law.

Since 2013 he has been working pro bono at Fundação Grupo Esquel Brasil as an expert in policies and multilateral agreements on environment, society and citizenship. He was founder and member of the Board of Directors of Fundo Casa Socioambiental. He was a researcher and analyst of multilateral environmental agreements and executive coordinator and coordinator of public policy projects at Vitae Civilis Instituto para o Desenvolvimento, Meio Ambiente e Paz. Between 1987 and 1988 he worked as legislative advisor to the National Constituent Assembly of Brazil.

² Profiles prepared on the basis of the information presented by each candidate in their nomination forms.

4. Carrillo Fuentes, Juan Carlos (Mexico)

Law degree from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). Master's degree in environmental and sustainability law and PhD in environmental law from the University of Alicante.

He has worked at the Mexican Center for Environmental Law since 2001, as an environmental lawyer. Previously, he worked at the Mexican Institute for Justice (IMJUS) and at the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Fisheries (SEMARNAP) of the Government of the United Mexican States. He collaborated with the Madrid College teaching Mexican Positive Law.

5. Joseph-Olivetti, Rita Leonette (Grenada)

Bachelor of Laws (Honors) from Kingston University. Certified by the Council of Legal Education. Certified as a mediator and an arbitrator.

Former judge of the High Court of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court and the Supreme Court of Belize, hearing civil, commercial, family and land law cases. She was partner at Grant, Joseph & Co., and an attorney-at-law at Henry Henry & Bristol. She chaired the General Legal Counsel of Grenada. She has served as Crown Counsel in the British Virgin Islands.

6. Madrigal Cordero, Patricia (Costa Rica)

Law degree from the University of Costa Rica and specialist in public international law. PhD candidate in environmental law at the University of Alicante.

She was Vice Minister of Environment at the Ministry of Environment and Energy of the Republic of Costa Rica. She was Professor of Environmental Law at the Law School of the University of Costa Rica and Director of the Environmental Law Clinic. Founding member and former member of the Cooperativa Autogestionaria de Servicios Profesionales para la Solidaridad Social (Coope SoliDar R.L.). She worked at the Regional Office for Mesoamerica of the World Conservation Union (ORMA-IUCN).

7. Mitchell, Gavern Sherva (Trinidad and Tobago)

Law degree from the University of London. Certified in Legal Education and Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Private practice lawyer. For ten years, she was Legal Officer of the Environmental Management Authority of Trinidad and Tobago. She was also Environmental Regulation and Data Officer of the same authority. As part of her functions, she contributed to the implementation of national rules on access to information and represented government before the Environmental Commission in matters under her purview, including those relating to environmental permits and environmental impact assessments.

8. Napoli, Andrés María (Argentina)

Lawyer from the University of Buenos Aires and Master's degree in Environmental Law from the University of the Basque Country.

Since 2015 he has been Executive Director of the Environment and Natural Resources Foundation (FARN). Previously, he worked for the Government of Tierra del Fuego, the Municipality of Ushuaia, the Municipality of Tandil and the Federal Investment Council. He was environmental legal advisor to the Conservation Land Trust Argentina S.A. and lawyer in civil litigation at Gonzalez Ledo & Asociados Law Firm. He advised the Energy and Environment and Human Development Commissions of the Honorable Senate of Argentina.

9. Stephens, Carole Denise Angela (Jamaica)

Bachelor of Laws (Honors) from the University of the West Indies. Master's degree in environmental law from the University of Aberdeen. Certified in legal education, mediation, and facilitation.

Since June 2022, she has been Director of Strategy at the Waverley Street Foundation. She held various positions on environmental democracy issues at the World Resources Institute, including Practice Director. She coordinated the access to information unit of the Cayman Islands Government. In Jamaica, she worked as a mediation manager for the Dispute Resolution Foundation, representative of the Carter Center and legal services manager and legal officer for the National Environment and Planning Authority/Natural Resources Authority of Jamaica.

10. Wing Solís, Félix (Panama)

Law and Political Science degree from the University of Panama. LL.M. from the American University.

Former Secretary General and Deputy Minister in charge of the Ministry of Environment of Panama. Former Executive and Legal Director of the Environmental Advocacy Center (CIAM). He worked as Assistant Magistrate (Plenary and Third Chamber) of the Supreme Court of Justice of Panama. He served as Vice-Dean and Professor of the Law School of the Universidad Latina de Panama and was Programme Officer of the Regional Office for North America of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).