The REC’s framework programme “Promoting the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration in the Latin America and Caribbean regions (LAC)” provides a forum for cooperation and exchange between stakeholders and parties to the UNECE Aarhus Convention and other regions, primarily LAC. The programme supports the process of developing a regional instrument on Principle 10, launched in the 2012 Declaration on the Application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration put forward by the LAC countries at the Rio+20 conference and supported by the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC).
OBJECTIVES
The programme aims to:

- support the negotiation process for a regional LAC instrument on Principle 10;
- facilitate cooperation and the sharing of experience between UN ECLAC and UNECE stakeholders on Principle 10 and the Aarhus Convention;
- empower stakeholders to engage in the LAC Principle 10 process;
- increase awareness among national governments and civil society of the benefits of Principle 10 implementation, and share good practices and experience from other regions or countries; and
- promote access rights within Principle 10 and Article 6 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

To date, three consecutive projects have been implemented within the framework programme, in cooperation with the European Environmental Bureau, the Aarhus Convention Secretariat, the Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and the Access Initiative/World Resources Institute. Beneficiaries include governments and civil society stakeholders in the countries of the ECLAC region and other regions.

ACTIVITIES

Building Bridges I
The first project supported the initiative and willingness of LAC countries to start drafting a regional instrument on access to information, public participation and access to justice. It supported the exchange of experiences on the Aarhus negotiations in the light of the ECLAC process and contributed to this process in a region where public involvement, openness and opportunities for dialogue with government are new, and where a regional instrument is therefore necessary.

Building Bridges II
The second Building Bridges project provided support to the negotiation process on a regional LAC instrument on Principle 10; facilitated cooperation and interregional experience sharing between UN ECLAC and UNECE stakeholders on Principle 10 and the Aarhus Convention; and empowered stakeholders by building their capacities for better engagement in the LAC Principle 10 process.

Building Bridges III
The third project, which runs until 2018, continues to provide support to the negotiation process. It empowers stakeholders to engage in the LAC Principle 10 process by facilitating cooperation and the exchange of experience, and promotes access rights within Principle 10 and Article 6 of the UNFCCC.