Principles for participation in decision-making in environmental matters:
Considerations for the “Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean” (Principle 10)

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The definition of the “public” should be inclusive while recognising the need for special attention to those most vulnerable.
The definition of “public participation” should reflect that participation is a process that facilitates active and effective participation of all interested stakeholders and facilitates dialogue among all actors.
The definition of “decision-making in environmental matters” should reflect that decision-making includes planning, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
The Agreement should specify that effective participation results in the public having a real voice in the decision-making.
Public participation should ensure equitable engagement through recognising inequities and deliberately supporting the involvement of vulnerable stakeholders.
Building capacity of government and the public to facilitate and engage in participatory processes is essential.
Mechanisms for institutionalising participation through policies, legislation, plans, programmes and practice should be established or strengthened.
Public participation should ensure informed involvement through effectively communicating information to stakeholders so that they can understand the issues, form opinions, and make decisions.
Thank you!

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