In Latin America, environmental activists risk their lives as a consequence of the vital work they do. In a significant step toward their protection, States in Latin America and the Caribbean have adopted a regional agreement known as the Escazú Agreement to fight against the spiral of violence against environmental defenders. The side event aims to bring together civil society representatives, UN bodies and State representatives to discuss their intersecting role in promoting and protecting civic space for environmental defenders. In particular, the event will examine: 1) How the Escazú Agreement, as the first-ever regional treaty to articulate specific obligations to protect environmental defenders, can inform the Human Rights Council discussion on environmental defenders; and 2) How HRC Members can elaborate robust normative standards to protect EHRDs. The event will also discuss two situations: the solidarity Mission report from Guatemala that International Land Coalition and partners conducted in 2018, and a forthcoming report by Human Rights Watch and partners on the right to protest in South Africa.

**SPEAKERS:**

- Leíria Vay, Comité de Desarrollo Campesino, CODECA Guatemala
- Matome Kapa, Attorney, Centre for Environmental Rights, South Africa
- Marcos Orellana, Director Human Rights and Environment Division, HRW
- David Boyd, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment

**Moderator:** Natalia Gomez, Advocacy Officer, CIVICUS

Translation services available

The event will be livestreamed on the @CIVICUS Facebook page

For more information contact: natalia.gomez.pena@civicus.org