

PP10 SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS FORM

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The PP10 Specific Commitments Form (Form) reflects agreements reached at the PP10 meeting in Lisbon April 3-5, 2003. The Form includes 4 Sections and an Annex. For each question, please refer to the attached Examples (follow link from PP10 home page) for general guidance.

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- II: Commitments to improve own institutional performance**
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The Partnership for Principle 10 is built around a set of shared commitments. The commitments set the parameters for the scope of work of the Partnership. All Partners, by joining the Partnership for Principle 10, commit to support the accelerated and enhanced implementation of Principle 10 at the national level and in their own policies and practice related to access to information, public participation, and justice by:

- Encouraging credible and independent assessments of policies and practice using a framework of indicators -- such as those developed by The Access Initiative – to identify strengths and weaknesses in implementation;*
- Collaborating with Partners and other stakeholders to improve policies and practice by prioritizing opportunities and implementing programs to strengthen capacity and enhance performance; and*
- Developing individual specific commitments and being accountable for them.*

Additional information regarding PP10 may be found at <http://www.pp10.org>.

I. GENERAL PP10 PARTNER INFORMATION

1. **Contact information** (*Please see Examples for sample responses*).

Name of PP10 Partner(s): IDEA (Instituto de Derecho y Economía Ambiental)

Individual responsible for submitting the form: Patricia Abed (Institutional Development Coordinator)

2. **Approval of PP10 Commitment** – *Please provide the name and title of the official who approved these PP10 commitments (for example, Minister of the Environment, CEO, Executive Director, etc.).*

IDEA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Sheila R. Abed

3. **Engagement of multiple entities** - *In addition to your own agency, department or organization, please list any other government agencies, organizational departments or NGOs also involved in the formulation and implementation of your PP10 commitments.*

Governmental Agencies:

- Ministry of Agriculture and Stockbreeding.
- Paraguayan Ombudsman Office,

Academic:

- Law School, Asuncion Catholic University

Funding Agencies:

- CIRD (local)
- USAID (international)

4. **Independent Assessments** – *Please indicate the degree to which your PP10 commitments respond to the results of an independent assessment conducted, and if so, when that assessment was conducted and by whom.*

- Since 2003 IDEA joins a local “*Grupo Impulsor de Acceso a la Información*”(Access to Information Promotion Group), together with more than 20 Paraguayan organizations. During 2006, based on the **discussions and conclusions** of this Group, IDEA’s legal staff wrote a draft bill on “Free Access to Information”, which is still not in force.
- IDEA conducted (2005/2006) the **TAI methodology implementation** in Paraguay. Immediately afterwards, our organization submitted a proposal to CIRD/USAID, obtaining funding to address certain specific issues which arose from the study’s conclusions.

II. COMMITMENTS TO IMPROVE OWN PERFORMANCE IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PARTICIPATION, AND JUSTICE
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Each PP10 Partner must report at least one (1) specific commitment in this category. The commitments should be measurable, timebound and additional.

1. Commitment Description - Please briefly describe the primary activities required for each commitment. *(Please see Examples for sample responses).*

Commitment #1: Help implement an “Access to Public Information Centre” in the Paraguayan Ombudsman Office

Commitment #2: Help implement the first “Access to Information Window” in a Ministry (Ministry of Agriculture and Stockbreeding”)

Commitment #3: Train students from the Asuncion Catholic University Law School, to provide advise and legal representation in cases involving the violation of the rights of Access.

Commitment #4: Disseminate at the national level the conclusions of the TAI Methodology implementation in Paraguay

Commitment #5 Collect national jurisprudence on cases involving violation of the rights of access.

Commitment #6: Create an electronic newsletter containing information on relevant news and developments on Access to Information, Access to Justice and Access to Participation in Paraguay.

Commitment #7: Implement an “Access to Information Barometer”, and widely disseminate its results at the national level, and through IDEA’s “Access” newsletter and webpage.

(Please see Examples for sample responses).

Commitment Type: Using the Annex as a reference, please define the type of each of your specific commitments to improve your own institutional performance.	Measurability – Please describe how you will measure progress achieved towards <u>each</u> PP10 commitment	Timeframe - PP10 Partners agreed that commitments should be implemented within a 3 to 5-year timeframe. Please indicate the anticipated start date, and estimated end date for <u>each</u> commitment.	Additionality –If a commitment is additional, describe how it is additional. Partners may also choose to list ongoing activities that support PP10 but are not additional. If a commitment is not additional, fill in “Not additional.”
#1 Help implement an “Access to Public Information Centre” in the Paraguayan Ombudsman Office	Officers trained Centre functioning: Officers of the Paraguayan Ombudsman Office providing permanent	May 2007 – till indefinite date	Ongoing activity (CIRD/USAID funding)

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	legal advise in cases of denegation or delay of the access rights; and representation in at least 2 environmental cases a year seeking for Judicial or Administrative protection before the violation of access rights.		
#2 Help implement the first “Access to Information Window” in a Ministry (Ministry of Agriculture and Stockbreeding”)	Officers trained Centre functioning	July 2007 – till indefinite date	Ongoing activity – just started (CIRD/USAID funding)
#3: Train students from the Asuncion Catholic University Law School, to provide advise and legal representation in cases involving the violation of the rights of Access.	Periodical training	July 2007 – till indefinite date	Ongoing activity – just started (CIRD/USAID funding)
#4 Disseminate at the national level the conclusions of the TAI Methodology implementation in Paraguay	Disseminate through e-lists, “Access” newsletter and IDEA’s webpage.	August 2007 – August 2008.	Completely new
#5 Collect national jurisprudence on cases involving violation of the rights of access.	Disseminate through e-lists, “Access” newsletter and IDEA’s webpage.	August 2007 – August 2008.	Completely new
#6 Create an electronic newsletter containing information on relevant news and developments on Access to Information, Access to Justice and Access to Participation in Paraguay.	Electronic Newsletter ready and widely distributed	Newsletter design: August 2007 Availability: From August 2007 till Indefinite date.	Completely new
#7 Implement an “Access to Information Barometer”, and widely disseminate its results at the national level, and through IDEA’s “Access” newsletter and webpage.	Opinion poll implemented and systematized	Opinion poll: August 2007 Results systematized: October 2008 Results disseminated: October 2008 till indefinite date.	Completely new (CIRD/USAID funding)

III. COMMITMENTS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF PERFORMANCE BY OTHER PP10 PARTNERS

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Each PP10 Partner must report at least one (1) specific commitment in this category. The commitments should be measurable, timebound and additional.

1. Commitment Description - Please briefly describe the primary activities required for each commitment. *(Please see Examples for sample responses).*

Commitment #1: Actively participate in the promotion and implementation of PP10 initiatives and activities at the regional level, establishing contacts and coordinating activities particularly at the Mercosur level.

Commitment #2: Strengthen the Paraguayan GIAI “*Grupo Impulsor de Acceso a la Información*”(Access to Information Promotion Group).

(Please see Examples for sample responses).

<u>Commitment Type:</u> Using the Annex as a reference, please define the type of each of your specific commitments to improve your own institutional performance.	<u>Measurability</u> – Please describe how you will measure progress achieved towards <u>each</u> PP10 commitment	<u>Timeframe</u> - Please indicate the anticipated start date, and estimated end date for <u>each</u> commitment. (PP10 Partners agreed upon a 3 to 5-year timeframe).	<u>Additionality</u> –If a commitment is additional, describe how it is additional. Partners may also choose to list ongoing, non-additional activities that support PP10. If a commitment is not additional, fill in “Not additional.”
#1 Actively participate in the promotion and implementation of PP10 initiatives and activities at the regional level, establishing contacts and coordinating activities particularly at the Mercosur level.	Exchange jurisprudence. Collaborate with legal opinions free of charge.	August 2007 till indefinite date	New activity
#2 Strengthen the Paraguayan GIAI “ <i>Grupo Impulsor de Acceso a la Información</i> ”(Access to Information Promotion Group).	Provide legal advice, talks and presentations whenever needed.	August 2007 till indefinite date	New activity

IV. COMMITMENTS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE COLLECTIVE WORK OF PP10

Each PP10 Partner must report at least one (1) specific commitment in this category. The commitments should be measurable, timebound and additional.

1. Commitment Description: Please briefly describe the PP10 commitment and the primary activities required. *(Please see Examples for sample responses).*

Commitment #1: Maintain an updated report of commitments’ advance and accomplishment.

Commitment #2: Participate and actively collaborate in the definition of strategies of PP10.

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Commitment #3: If funding available, participate in global or regional PP10 meetings

(Please see Examples for sample responses).

<u>Commitment Number</u>	<u>Measurability</u> – Please describe how you will measure progress achieved towards <u>each</u> PP10 commitment	<u>Timeframe</u> - Please indicate the anticipated start date, and estimated end date for <u>each</u> commitment. (PP10 Partners agreed upon a 3 to 5-year timeframe).	<u>Additionality</u> –If a commitment is additional, describe how it is additional. Partners may also choose to list ongoing, non-additional activities that support PP10. If a commitment is not additional, fill in “Not additional.”
#1: Maintain an updated account of commitments’ advance and accomplishment.	Reports available	August 2007 till indefinite date	Completely new
#2: Participate and collaborate in the definition of strategies of PP10.	Active participation when required	August 2007 till indefinite date	Completely new
#3 If funding available, participate in global or regional PP10 meetings	Attending meetings	August 2007 till indefinite date	Completely new
#4 Post links to PP10 and TAI initiatives on the IDEA webpage, as well as dedicate a page on Access related issues.	Links posted and page ready	August 2007 till Indefinite date.	Completely new

Annex I – PP10 Commitment Types

The information from this Annex will be used to facilitate learning (e.g., by establishing smaller groups to work on common issues) and to facilitate matchmaking (e.g., by identifying common interests between a developing country partner and a donor).

The PP10 Secretariat will compile the different responses from the partners and propose collective PP10 targets; from this, a PP10 report will be produced reflecting progress towards the common targets. For example, within three years, five countries will have strengthened their legal frameworks supporting access to information through constitutional reform.

Please mark an “X” next to each type of PP10 commitment reported. This information enables the PP10 Secretariat to group all specific commitments reported according to commitment type.

Access to Information

- ☐ Strengthen general **legal framework supporting access to information**. Our commitments will result in strengthening of Principle 10 implementation through:
- ☐ Constitutional reform
 - ☐ New or improved laws/provisions **XX**
 - ☐ Other (*please explain*) Improving the capacity of public offices. **XX**
- ☐ Strengthen specific **legal requirements to collect and disseminate information**. Our commitments will result in strengthening of Principle 10 implementation through:
- ☐ Clarifying/expanding mandates to disclose specific types of information. **XX**
 - ☐ Limiting or clarifying confidentiality policy
 - ☐ Other (*please explain*) _____
- ☐ Improve **capacity to collect information and monitor** environmental quality by creating or strengthening information systems. Our commitments will result in strengthening of Principle 10 implementation through:
- ☐ Improving quality of environmental information collected
 - ☐ Improving regularity of collection
 - ☐ Ensuring public participation in collection of environmental information
 - ☐ Creating databases **XX (Jurisprudence)**
 - ☐ Other (*please explain*) _____
- ☐ Increase **efforts to disseminate information**. Our commitments will result in strengthening of Principle 10 implementation through:
- ☐ Placing environmental information on the internet (ie compliance reports) **XX**
 - ☐ Producing materials for the press
 - ☐ Reducing or eliminating costs of getting public information
 - ☐ Reducing time to respond to requests **XX**

ف Other (please explain) _____

Access to Public Participation

ف Strengthen the **general legal framework supporting participation in decision-making** affecting the environment. Our commitments will result in strengthening of Principle 10 implementation through:

- ف Constitution
- ف General laws
- ف Expanding types of decisions subject to public notice and comment
- ف Clarifying or expanding mandates **XX**
- ف Other (please explain) _____

ف Strengthen **access to information** about environmental decision-making processes. Our commitments will result in strengthening of Principle 10 implementation through:

- ف Increasing lead time for notification
- ف Improving the quality of information about decisions **XX**
- ف Providing documents supporting decision **XX**
- ف Providing information about decisions to marginalized socioeconomic and cultural groups or affected parties
- ف Other (please explain) _____

ف Expand and strengthen **opportunities to participate**. Our commitments will result in strengthening of Principle 10 implementation through:

- ف Initiating consultation early in the decision-making process
- ف Creating opportunities to participate at different stages of decision-making
- ف Giving more time to the public to provide comments
- ف Creating opportunities to participate in a greater variety of decisions (e.g. policies, strategies, laws, projects, other)
- ف Providing opportunities for participation by marginalized socio-economic and cultural groups or affected parties
- ف Other (please explain) _____

ف Improve outcome of **participation**. Our commitments will result in strengthening of Principle 10 implementation through:

- ف Ensuring that comments are considered and relevant ones incorporated in final decision
- ف Monitoring activities that increase the possibility that public comments will be fully considered **XX**
- ف Other (please explain) _____

Access to Justice

ف Improve **access to justice**. Our commitments will result in strengthening of Principle 10 implementation through:

- ف Diversifying the mechanisms through which conflicts can be solved
- ف Expanding access to court or administrative records **XX**
- ف Improving the timeliness of court or administrative proceedings **XX**
- ف Improving the affordability of seeking justice
- ف Ensuring transparency of judges' dockets (i.e. make all records of claims accessible to the public)

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- ف Expanding scope of standing
- ف Establishing or expanding penalties for non-compliance with provisions relating to access to information, public participation or access to justice in environmental decision-making
- ف Other (*please explain*) _____

Capacity Building

- ف Strengthen **capacity of our staff** to provide information or engage the public in decision-making. Our commitments will result in strengthening of Principle 10 implementation through:
 - ف Increasing staff knowledge of laws and regulations on access to information and participation **XX**
 - ف Expanding training for staff on how to effectively disclose information or engage the public
 - ف Expanding training of judges, mediators and other relevant staff on how to enforce laws and deal with claims **XX**
 - ف Other (*please explain*) _____

- ف Develop **organizational information available to the public**. Our commitments will result in strengthening of Principle 10 implementation through:
 - ف Providing information of mandate and point of contact for public information and participation **XX**
 - ف Providing guidelines for public on: **XX**
 - how to access information
 - how to participate
 - how to bring complaints in administrative and judicial proceedings
 - ف Expanding translation of environmental information (ie by making documents available in the major language in the country)
 - ف Other (*please explain*) _____

- ف Strengthen the **capacity of the public to use information and participate**. Our commitments will result in strengthening of Principle 10 implementation through:
 - ف Increasing availability of resources for the public and its organizations to participate, strengthen awareness, or work on access to information, participation and justice issues **XX**
 - ف Removing barriers for public to organize
 - ف Raising public awareness of opportunities to participate **XX**
 - ف Training teachers and developing teaching materials
 - Other (*please explain*) _____

- ف Strengthen ability to **address critical gaps in access to information, participation and justice**. Our commitments will result in strengthening of Principle 10 implementation through:
 - ف Conducting independent assessments
 - ف Tracking progress against an initial benchmark
 - ف Convening dialogues for priority-setting on actions to improve policy and implementation based on assessment results. **XX**