LAW DIVISION
Environmental Governance

Objective: *Promote policy coherence and strong legal and institutional frameworks to achieve environmental goals and sustainable development goals*

Environmental issues are handled in an inclusive, sustainable and coherent manner, based on integrated policy and effective norms and institutions at all levels of governance *

*(including global, regional, sub-regional, transboundary and national)*

SDGs: 1, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17

The international community increasingly converges on common and integrated approaches to achieve environmental objectives and implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Institutional capacity and policy and legal frameworks enhanced to achieve internationally agreed environmental goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs

The Law Division takes the lead, and works with others, for the environmental governance programme.
Law Division

- IEG 2.0
- MEAs

GoVernance

Paris
SDGs/HLPF

Making environmental law work for citizens around the world

IEG 2.0: Improved coherence in Environmental governance

Pushing the frontiers of environmental law

Helping countries bring MEAs to life for people and the planet

- National
- International

Sendai
Addis Ababa
SDGs/HLPF
A sustainable, healthier, fairer, more just, coherent and prosperous world with legal order

- Environmental Justice
- Environmental Rule of Law
- Human rights and the environment
- Montevideo Programme: Addressing priority issues and closing legal gaps
- Adequate, fair, clear and implementable environmental laws
- Stronger capacities to comply with and enforce environmental obligations
- Environmental crime and illegal exploitation of natural resources
- Environmental law and health: Legal limits for lead in paint
Bringing the environmental governance System and institutions together

- Implementing Rio+20 – paragraphs 88 and 89, UNGA resolution 70/1 (2030 Agenda for SD and SDGs)
- Implementing UNEA resolutions 1/11 & 2/5 on UN system-wide coherence
- Encouraging strategic policies that promote integrated and coherent environmental governance
- Synergies among MEAs
  - Sound management of chemicals and hazardous waste
  - Sustainable management of ecosystems and biodiversity
Strategic Partnerships

- NGOs
- Civil Society
- Private Sector
- Enforcement agencies:
  - Judiciary
  - Prosecution
  - Parliaments
- Academic Institutions
- UN Organizations
- MEA Secretariats
- Governments
- Regional Economic Organizations
- Development banks
- Faith-based organizations

- Green Customs – for trade-related MEAs (plus Interpol and World Customs Organization)
- ECOLEX – Gateway of environmental law database (jointly between UNEP, FAO & IUCN)
- InforMEA and IKM - jointly with over 20 MEAs secretariats, UN agencies and inter. NGOs
- ACP-MEAs – ACP countries, ACP group of states secretariat, FAO, UN environment and donor (EU)
- African Elephant Fund Secretariat – Donors (various) and African elephant range states
International Environmental Law

**Progressive Development of International Environmental Law**

- **Promote Environmental Rule of Law** policy and guidance within the UN system as a cross-cutting issue in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda
- **Encourage normative options** to strengthen environmental law and support the establishment of a Member State led process to review, evaluate and monitor the Montevideo Programme
- **Enhance capacity of key actors** to understand and operationalise linkages between human rights protection and the environment
- **Enhance international cooperation** in the field of environmental crime and develop the knowledge base on its scope and meaning
- **Support the development and implementation** of legal instruments and policies for the sustainable use of freshwater resources

**Strengthened international environmental law frameworks** for the realization of the 2030 Agenda and in response to emerging and progressive issues identified by the Montevideo Programme IV and its mid-term review
National Environmental Law

*Strengthened national laws and institutions to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources in pursuit of the 2030 Agenda and its goals*

- Raise **awareness** on environmental issues and the importance of national environmental legislation
- Develop and strengthen national environmental legislation, including those relating to MEAs
- **Strengthen** institutions and related stakeholders to establish, implement, and enforce those legal frameworks

Development and implementation of national environmental law

- Development of tools and guidance documents
- Legal and technical assistance and advisory services
International Environmental Governance and MEAs

- Promoting environmental sustainability for sustainable development through integration of environmental dimension in international processes and fora
- Supporting Member States in implementing the SDGs through enhanced governance, building efficient institutional frameworks and promoting synergies among MEAs
- Promoting coherence and programmatic synergies in action among MEAS and between MEAS and UNEP
- Deepening cooperation and collaboration frameworks with other UN system bodies on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda
- Strengthening role of UNEP and UNEA as the leading global environmental authority in the post-Rio+20 landscape
Cooperation on Enhanced Implementation and Enforcement of MEAs

Strengthen collaboration between UNEP and MEAs for which it provides administrative and programmatic support

Support alignment of implementation of MEAs goals, policies and action plans with implementation of SDGs

Enhance coherence and synergies among clusters of MEAs (e.g. biodiversity, chemicals, wastes, water, seas, land) including knowledge and information sharing

Compliance, implementation and enforcement of MEAs at national, regional, and global levels (UNEP MEAs and others – UNFCCC, UNCCD, Ramsar)
SHAPING THE AGENDA GOING FORWARD
New Horizons – Where we are going

- Engage the world and cooperate inclusively on delivering environmental justice in the context of the 2030 Agenda
- Promoting societies that are fair, just and govern the world’s natural resources more sustainably
- Consolidate efforts and activities directed at the implementation of the SDGs
- Strengthen governance and environmental rule of law to make societies collectively more fit to meet global environmental challenges for 2030 Agenda
- Improve existing communication strategies to engage business in participating in these efforts and harness resources in pursuit of UNEP’s shared agenda
- Enhance cooperation in implementation System-Wide Framework Strategies on the Environment within UN system
- Development of legal and implementation tools for integrated efficient implementation of SDGs and MEAs goals at global and national levels