International Environmental Governance

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Institutional framework for sustainable development

Before Rio+20 (2012)

• Commission on Sustainable Development
• Millennium Development Goals
• UNEP Governing Council (58 Member States)

After Rio+20

• High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
• Sustainable Development Goals
• UN Environment Assembly (193 UN Member States)

The future we want
• Strengthen and upgrade the UN Environment through:
  (a) Universal membership in the governing body
  (b) Secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources
  (c) Enhanced coordination function in the UN system
  (d) Strong science-policy interface
  (e) Evidence-based environmental information
  (f) Capacity-building and technology access
  (g) Consolidation of headquarters functions in Nairobi and stronger regional presence
  (f) Active participation of relevant stakeholders
UN Environment and UN Environment Assembly fit for purpose

• Is the strengthened UN Environment meeting up to the expectations of the world leaders at the Rio+20?

• Is UN Environment Assembly adequate in raising high political awareness that the today’s environmental problems require?

• How can the UN Environment and the UN Environment Assembly become the driving force in ensuring effective international environmental governance?

Credit: Christabelle Qian Yao Tan, Malaysia
4th Global Prize Winner
21 International Children’s Painting Competition
• High-level dialogue on “Achieving environmental sustainability for sustainable development” (July 2016, New York)

• Experts’ workshop on “Achieving environmental sustainability for sustainable development” (July 2016, New York)

• Planet Unplugged with Maria Ivanova (December 2016, Nairobi)

• Workshop organized by the Government of Switzerland on international environmental governance (June 2017, Glion)

• Proposed side event on international environmental governance (July 2017, New York)
Ideas moving forward: Visibility and effectiveness

- Prioritize the implementation of the UN Environment Assembly resolutions
- Identify environmental nexus issues that would bring development gains in other areas
- Enhance the interface between the UN Environment Assembly and multilateral environmental agreements
- Consider organizing the UN Environment Assembly sessions in other geographical locations
- Play a more active role as environmental norm-setter within the UN system through the Environment Management Group
- Align the membership between the UN Environment Assembly and the Committee of Permanent Representatives (118 members)
- Finalize the new stakeholder engagement policy