



GOVERNMENT OF SAINT LUCIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, INNOVATION, GENDER RELATIONS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Department of Sustainable Development

Country Report: Member State of Saint Lucia

*Consequent to the Second Substantive Session of the UNGA Ad Hoc
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Submitted to: Co-Chairs OEWG

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UNGA Res. 72/277 “Towards A Global Pact For The Environment”

1. Options that can be considered to address possible gaps or challenges related to **principles of International Environmental Law (IEL) that do not duplicate or undermine existing and ongoing efforts/processes; objectives** of these options and the **methodology** that should be employed to develop them.
2. Options that can be considered to address gaps related to the **governance structure of IEL including challenges in coordination and mutual supportiveness** as well as **risks of incoherence**.
3. Options that can be considered in addressing gaps or challenges relating to the **implementation of existing rules and principles of IEL**.
4. Options that can be considered to address possible gaps related to **specific regulatory regimes or environment-related instruments** with a view to **strengthening the implementation of IEL**.

1.

Options:

Objectives:

Methodology:

**Environmental
Democracy:**

- Strengthen and develop the principle.

- Provide a legal mandate which legitimizes access rights to information, public participation and access to justice on environmental matters.

- Enshrine access rights in the Constitution of countries, making the right to a healthy environment, a basic human right.
- Ratify and put into place the necessary laws, procedures and institutions to give effect to the Regional “Escazu” Agreement.
- Make an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) a necessary part of every

		<p>legislation that governs or regulates conservation and environmental matters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information sharing and greater collaboration between national agencies dealing with environmental matters to avoid duplication. Also greater collaboration between cross border agencies such as Customs (ASSYCUDA World) and Immigration, Air and Sea Ports/ Marine Police (alien species, marine
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		<p>pollution).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish a special Court or division to deal with environmental matters.• Judgments and decisions of these Courts or Tribunals to be made available on the National Information Systems or Open Data Portals or other Data Collection systems.• Broaden the concept of “legal standing” and reduce legal costs (legal aid/ mandatory pro bono by lawyers)• Explicit provisions should be
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		<p>included in legislation dealing with protection for environmental defenders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greater consultations, town hall meetings and inclusion of civil society and NGOs in decision making at all levels.• Find ways to develop meaningful metrics to benchmark progress in establishing and protecting environmental democracy at the national and sub national levels (Jesse <u>Walker Dec. 23, 2014</u>).
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To better understand the relationship between 	<p>Essentially formulating targeted actionable indicators that help prioritize reforms to enhance the principle such as timely and proactive information release, the removal of barriers to accessibility and the establishment of an Environmental Index to serve as a baseline to evaluate the measures by individual countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in better research • Experiment with qualitative
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	<p>environmental democracy, poverty alleviation and environmental outcomes</p>	<p>and quantitative methods to evaluate impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocates and practitioners should work with Governments, MEAs and civil society to ensure environmental commitments are created and enforced past the post 2030 development agenda.

2. The Right to a Healthy Environment:

Options

Objectives

Methodology

Re-define the threshold in International Treaties that has to be violated or the extent of the environmental breach necessary for a violation of the basic human right of a right to a healthy environment to be claimed.	To determine when one's right to a healthy environment is infringed upon or breached. To provide a baseline.	Provide a legal standard and penalties where the standard is not adhered to.

3. The Principle of Sustainable Development:

Options	Objectives	Methodology
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate the principle at a global level ; re-defining the concept to make it less broad and synergize with everyday issues • Codifying the SD principle into 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So the principle is understood as cross cutting, but relevant to all aspects of development. To encourage a paradigm shift in attitudes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate the concept of sustainability into all aspects of the UN work program e.g. the 2030 Agenda, and the Samoa Pathway. • Greater public

<p>mainstream IEL in a way that does not undermine its dynamic nature using the help of the European Court of Justice and the International Court of Justice.</p>	<p>from the ground up, so that sustainability is practiced in all aspects of life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the principle part of the everyday dialogue and practice. 	<p>awareness on the SDGs and the concept of sustainable development defined and tailored to suit the needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the principle part of the school curriculum from early learning right up to tertiary level. For disciplines like Engineering, Law, Biodiversity etc, sustainability issues should be incorporated into the foundation courses.
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4. The Principle of Cooperation:

Options	Objectives	Methodology
<p>Synergize efforts locally, nationally and across borders regionally and internationally, to strengthen the principle; make the principle more actionable.</p>	<p>To get countries engaging more on substantive issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To incorporate into the principle the recognized duty to assist each other especially in disaster mitigation. 	<p>Draft provisions that can be easily be incorporated into domestic law about early warning systems especially notification and assistance in emergency situations to mitigate the effects of hurricanes and other natural disasters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that a duty to assist is incorporated into legislation dealing with disaster and response emergency situations. • Strengthen provisions for the protection of persons in the event of

		<p>disasters by building on what is already in place in the 1990 London Convention, and the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, tailoring such provisions to suit the needs of small, poor and vulnerable countries.</p>
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5. The Principle of Prevention:

Options	Objectives	Methodology
<p>Develop the principle by synergizing the efforts undertaken regarding similar principles like cooperation, sustainable development, the right to a clean</p>	<p>Avoid duplication and utilize limited resources optimally to ensure that States are engaged in dialogue with each other while they exercise their sovereignty over natural resources in a</p>	<p>Better delineation of borders. Greater use of geospatial mapping and planning together with more EIAs for rivers, marine ecosystems and oceans.</p>

<p>environment, which are all interdependent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the principle is balanced with due diligence obligations. 	<p>manner that does not pose harm to the environment within their jurisdiction or control or beyond their territorial boundaries.</p>	

6. **The Precautionary Principle:**

Options	Objectives	Methodology
<p>Encourage a gradual evolution of that principle</p>	<p>To encourage States to take a precautionary approach when making decisions especially about potential harmful emissions from manufacturing industry, vehicles etc.</p>	<p>Establish facilities for more scientific data collection so that there are evidential linkages to the cause of the problem in the hope that the requisite solution is found.</p> <p>Allocate resources sufficient to assess environmental damage properly and establish legal precedents proportionate to the</p>

		<p>desired result.</p> <p>Scholars and other researchers should examine further how the principle manifests itself and takes practical effect in various countries. Document trends and patterns so that there is a scientific basis for the decisions taken, allowing for a conceptual evolution of the principle.</p> <p>National standards and flexible time periods are needed; these should also be brought in sync with international standards to improve the principle.</p>
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7. The Principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities:

Options	Objectives	Methodology
<p>Re-define the concept of causation.</p> <p>Improve on the process of</p>	<p>To encourage countries to take responsibility for their actions and</p>	<p>Stricter compliance mechanisms be established. A liability regime that</p>

<p>differentiation , encouraging States to recognize that addressing environmental issues requires coordinated efforts. Make the conditions in the MEAs more streamlined to address the specific issues of developing States and that of developed States.</p>	<p>where they have endangered the environs and its biodiversity, that they are prepared to provide adequate compensation aimed not only at compensating for the damage done, but also restoration towards a sustainable stage of development. To establish less onerous obligations on countries whose activities have little or no causative effects. Encourage greater implementation of the principle.</p>	<p>apportions fines according to the severity of the risk and that has fines that are grave enough to serve as viable deterrents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of stricter self regulatory measures at a national and global level • Establishment of sustainable financing measures to deposit the fines paid by major polluters (such as a National Conservation Fund). • Use innovative indicators like whether a State is typically an importer or an exporter; the extent to which
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		the State is affected by the resultant change and its capability to engage in cost effective mitigation and adaptive measures .

8. Principle of Non-Regression:

Options	Objectives	Methodology
Make the concept more widely revered. Greater synergy between the principle of non-regression and the principle of progression .	So that countries do not back track regarding any sustainable actions they have taken on conservation and environmental protection issues.	Greater dialogue especially at the decision-making levels involving all stakeholders. More effective reviewing, monitoring and reporting mechanisms. More updated, detailed and accurate National Determined Contributions (NDCs) ; the latest

		being the most ambitions for the island.

9. **The Principle of Progression:**

Options	Objectives	Methodology
Increasing the level of protection for States through more accurate and current scientific evidential data.	Synergize more fully the principles of non-regression and progression with the actual established practice of States. Encourage States to be more accountable and transparent in the use of such data.	The establishment of self regulatory measures at the national level. More State of the Environment Reports need to be commissioned. Establishment of more monitoring , evaluation and assessment tools to assist States in self regulation.

10. **The Polluter Pays Principle**

Options	Objectives	Methodology
Establish stricter	To encourage States to cooperate on	Have firms and major corporations

<p>compliance mechanisms. Increase the corporate responsibilities of major corporations which contribute significantly to pollution. Establish synergy with the Common but Differentiated Responsibility Principle, so that liability is apportioned according to blame.</p>	<p>liability regimes and put in place effective measures against environmental pollution. To reduce the regulatory burden by getting countries to achieve pollution control objectives.</p>	<p>“sponsor” a community campaign to beautify a community. Use fines and penalties towards an environment or conservation fund. Establish more effective monitoring, evaluation and assessment tools</p>

2. Governance Structure of IEL

Coordination	Mutual Supportiveness	Incoherence Risks
<p>New and emerging MEAs should explicitly recognize the interconnectedness and interdependence of the earth’s ecosystems in their</p>	<p>More avenues created for information sharing between MEAs and Academia, researchers and other scientific bodies that support their work. The scope of</p>	<p>Create clusters between Conventions to ensure greater sharing of best practices and lessons learnt. Innovation ways of integrative reporting</p>

<p>provisions. Guidelines should be developed for the work of MEAs and to allow for greater cross referencing between those MEAs. National, Regional and Global Action plans need to be reviewed to determine their scope and identify linkages. Women, Youth, the Elderly, Disabled Persons, Trade Unions, The Private Sector and various other stakeholders, should be invited to the negotiating table with clear and effective rules for their optimal participation.</p> <p>The Judiciary, legal scholars and other researchers and practitioners in IEL</p>	<p>governance structures like the Environmental Management Group (EMG) and the Interagency for Sustainable Development needs to be expanded and given a more authoritative mandate Expand on the lead set by the Aarhus Convention and Escazu Agreement in recognizing the critical role of Civil society in environmental sustainability.</p>	<p>should be developed to reduce duplication, especially in reporting, monitoring and verification measures. Devise a more robust regime for conflict management.</p>
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<p>should be allowed maximum participation in the discussion surrounding the creation of a viable governance structure to drive the development of IEL.</p>		
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3. Options to address gaps in **Implementation** of Existing Rules and Principles of IEL.

- National governments should create and effect laws that are in sync with the requirements of IEL.
- Greater political will to make environmental matters a priority.
- Allocation of adequate funding, appropriate resources, qualified personnel and current technology towards the realization of environmental goals.
- Enhance such initiatives as “ **A Decade of Innovation and Research**”, to get the schools and the overall society to incorporate environmental concerns into their lifestyles.
- Greater synergy between Government Ministries and Departments on the compliance, enforcement, monitoring and verification of MEAs.
- Strengthen the **means of implementation** such as exploring various forms of sustainable financing.
- Greater investments in new, advanced and environmentally sound technology.
- More equipped labs for scientific research and data analysis.

- More information systems and online portals for virtual exchange of information.
- Where Developing countries are assisted by Developed countries with technical support and capacity building, great care must be taken to ensure its appropriateness and sensitivity to the needs of the region.
- Any tools and technology transferred, must come with adequate support for their transfer and use locally.
- Stricter guidelines for the format, content and timelines for reports with a stricter regime of penalties to discourage their breach.
- Greater incentives to countries to encourage them to complete reports on time, (emphasis more on reward rather than punitive).
- Dispute Settlement, Compliance and Enforcement Mechanisms must be strengthened at the local, national, regional and international levels.
- Particular attention should be placed on the enforcement of rights and obligations regarding shared resources and global commons such as outer space and the high seas.
- Establish a stricter regime of liability and redress for transboundary environmental damage and in so doing, expand the concept of State responsibility to ensure that due diligence obligations, consider both the conduct and the result.
- More measures aimed at swift and adequate compensation to victims as well as for the preservation, restoration and reinstatement of the environment, should be included in new and emerging IEL regimes on liability.
- Rules regarding civil liability for transboundary damage should be developed further, with greater coordinated efforts by States

to ensure that that civil liability instruments are entered into force.

- An agreed international standard for the de minimis threshold for environmental damage should be established and tested for efficiency and accountability.
- Expand the compensation regime for environmental damage to make compensation amounts more flexible as well as to include damage which occurs outside of national jurisdictional borders.
- Establish a global right to petition on environmental matters for IEL bodies, placing the organization of debates on the Conference of Parties (COP) agenda.
- Develop a framework that allows civil society to make referrals to the Compliance Committees, as is done under the Aarhus Convention and increase the use of their recommendations; essentially, let them take ownership of IEL through greater procedural, judicial and written guarantees.
- Clarify and make the accreditation criteria for NGOs in environmental negotiations more transparent and authoritative.
- Broaden access to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to private individuals especially regarding infringement procedures against Member States.
- Give greater support and a legal mandate to organizations like **UNEP, ECLAC, the Montevideo Programme, The UNGA OEWG (Res. 72/277)** among others, so that they can lead the process towards review and development of IEL and environment-related instruments.
- The UN should serve as a force to propel the dialogue and action forward and should form competent committees which can meet at prescribed periods to review the progress in IEL and make recommendations as to the direction for growth.

- UNEP and the UN should also meet regularly with the Judiciary, Universities and institutions that conduct legal research to ensure there is synergy in the work being undertaken, to pool resources and to avoid duplication.
- Provide practical guidance, innovative and flexible tools and resources, including model laws and approaches to Member States for effective implementation and enforcement frameworks.
- Follow the lead of countries like India in improving access to justice through the **New Green Tribunal (NGT)** and the USA in the establishment of a **Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) or Toxic Release Inventory**.
- Devise a global Development plan and by extension, country programs to ensure more efficient access to funds especially for developing countries.
- Financing efforts must be tailored to suit the needs of the most vulnerable as they are the ones greatly affected.

4 (a) Options to address possible gaps related to **Specific Regulatory Regimes** or **Environmental-Related Instruments** with a view to strengthening their implementation.

Regulatory Regimes

Options

Soil Protection and Land Degradation:	Effect the proposals outlined in the UNCCD Brief entitled “ Land Matters For Climate: Reducing The Gap and Approaching The Target ” namely to establish
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policies and incentives that promote sustainable land management and enhanced carbon stocks through ecosystems restoration and land rehabilitation. Climate smart land management practices like low-emissions agriculture and the restoration of high carbon value ecosystems like peat lands and forests, through sectoral coordination and fresh approaches to integrated land use planning is critical. The development of an evidence-based accounting framework for carbon debits and credits and which covers all land use and land use changes, must be devised to measure progress in that sector. Lessons should be learnt from the **Kenya Agricultural Carbon Project** which supports more productive, sustainable and climate friendly farming. Additionally, the **Integrated Silvopastoral Approaches** utilized in Latin America should be reviewed to see the merits of possible duplication.

	<p>Negotiate a legally binding instrument dealing with soil protection and land degradation.</p> <p>Countries should establish national action programs which complement the provisions in the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought/and or Desertification. Expand the model used in the African and ASEAN Agreements to other parts of the world like Australia, New Zealand, Latin America and the Caribbean.</p>
<p>Protection of Fresh Water Resources</p>	<p>Revise the 1997 Convention on the Law of Non-Navigational Uses of International Water Courses (The Water Courses Convention) by providing more binding directives on pollution of fresh water by vessels as well as the uses of international fresh water courses for navigation.</p> <p>A list of factors to be assessed should be devised by States to enable them to reach consensus easier on issues applicable to their</p>

	<p>use of shared water resources. Riparian States should refocus their approach to Cooperation Agreements, making their provisions less ambiguous, and allowing for a greater coordinated approach to protection of these resources.</p>
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Regulatory Regimes

Options

<p>Protection of Oceans and Seas</p>	<p>Both the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) need to be revised to reflect a more integrated ecosystems approach to marine protection and development. The current zonal and sectoral approach is too limiting.</p> <p>A centralized system of governance should be devised for the regional seas framework to encourage greater coordination</p>
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	<p>and cooperation between global MEAs. Initiatives like UN-Oceans should be expanded and more detailed reviews of ocean affairs and the Law of the Sea should be undertaken to handle new and emerging challenges.</p> <p>Introduce a mandatory duty of precaution to deal with destructive fishing practices and environmental pollution from abandoned, discarded or lost fishing gear and other marine debris.</p> <p>Strict standards for EIAs should be included in projects and activities involving the seas and oceans.</p> <p>Cross sectoral approach to dealing with the use of marine debris, plastics and micro-plastics.</p> <p>More formal Multilateral Compliance Committees aimed at ensuring a higher level of response and follow up data from States should be established.</p>
Biodiversity	More national strategies and action plans which implement the

provisions of the **1993 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** should be effected.

Obligations under the **Aichi Targets** should be made more mandatory and legally binding. Where binding obligations cannot be imposed, greater voluntary action coupled with more stringent monitoring, reporting and verification procedures are recommended.

The **CBD** should be revised to include measures that address biodiversity across borders. Greater synergy and policy coherence is necessary regarding invasive alien species, synthetic biology, digital sequencing, climate change, protection of watercourses and hazardous waste.

Disclosure rules similar to those found in the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) regime of the **Nagoya Protocol** needs to be devised for the International Patent System of the **World Intellectual Property**

Organization (WIPO). More mechanisms for cooperation between these two regimes should be established.

More legally binding range State Agreements dealing with species that suffer from unfavorable conservation status are needed.

Re-vamp the **Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services** making its institutional arrangements stronger with more authoritative mandates to encourage a wider recognition of the Platform's work and to avoid duplication.

The **CBD**, the **Fish Stocks Agreement** and the **Convention on the Law of the Sea** should coordinate better especially on the management of commercial fishing, endangered and potentially endangered species.

The **Convention on Wetlands of International Importance** should be incorporated into the United Nations system so that it is included in its work programs thus enhancing the profile of the

	<p>Convention.</p> <p>The contribution of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to the attainment of the 2030 Agenda and the SDG goals should be highlighted and sufficient resources allocated at the national, regional and international level to ensure implementation and enforcement of the Convention.</p> <p>Knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values functioning status and the consequences of its loss, should be improved, widely shared and transferred. All efforts should be made to effectively implement the Ramsar Strategic Plan (4th.) 2016-2024.</p>
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Climate change	<p>Introduce binding individual quantified emission reduction targets and timetables in the UNFCCC. The NDC of the Paris Agreement should contain more</p>
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	<p>current information and be the best information that a country can offer.</p>
<p>Protection of the Stratospheric Ozone layer.</p>	<p>Regarding the Climate change regime: the UNFCCC should be revised to include clauses containing binding qualified emissions reduction targets and timetables. The main feature of the Paris Agreement namely the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) should contain more current data and information. Also liability and compensation provisions should be included in the Paris Agreement. This regime can be further enhanced by the formation of multilateral committees to improve implementation and encourage a more integrated approach to reporting and verification. Enforcement and compliance mechanisms should also be strengthened.</p> <p>The scope of the Montreal Protocol should be expanded to include nitrous oxide and short-lived chemical pollutants. Control</p>

and regulation measures need to be devised for specific uses of controlled substances in quarantine, pre-shipment and feedstock (among others).

Further, the disposal of controlled substances in foam, equipment and other banks need to be regulated.

Ongoing scientific monitoring of the ozone layer should be accompanied by transparent and accountable procedures at the national and regional level.

Explicit investigative and verification measures to control illegal trade in ozone-depleting substances are advised. The **Implementation Committee** under the **Non-Compliance** procedure of the **Montreal Protocol** should be given a stronger mandate to verify the data received from Member States.

Regarding Mercury, A **chemicals planning policy** and an **interagency committee** to deal with measures that implement the provisions of the **Minamata**

Convention are critical. A coordinated approach to addressing the supply and demand of mercury products is needed. The Trade and Commerce Department, Environmental health, the private sector and other stake holders, should work closely to identify known and potential sources of mercury emissions and releases , updating guidance on best available techniques and practices and exploring innovative and cross-cutting media to manage mercury. The Department of Trade and Commerce should assist in the collection and compilation of better import and export data, as is required under the trade provisions of the **Minamata Convention**. Since reducing mercury levels mitigates climate change and transboundary waste, greater synergy with the **Stockholm** and **Basel Conventions** as well as the **UNFCCC**, the **Kyoto** and **Paris Agreements** are crucial. The **1979 Convention on Long**

Range Transboundary Air Pollution and its supplementary **Protocols**, as well as the **2001 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)** and the **2002 Association of Asian Nations (ASEAN) Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution** need to be better coordinated and regulated. The scope of the **1979 Convention** should be expanded to include Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific and the Caribbean and Latin America. It should also be amended to provide specific limits on emissions of industrial pollutants, targets and timetables. The **Implementation Committees** under the Protocol to the Convention need to encourage more States to sign on, so that all Protocols are entered into force and their scope widened. The text of these Protocols also needs to be widened to include liability provisions. The **ASEAN Agreement** also should be expanded beyond the

<p>Hazardous Substances, Activities and Transboundary Waste:</p>	<p>scope of forest and land fire pollution, to include household, industrial, solid fuel combustion and combustion engine pollution. Further, it should be amended to provide more specific obligations on States regarding their compensation measures for transboundary haze pollution. More model legislation such as the draft Integrated Chemicals Management Bill and the draft Bill on Lead Paint is required are needed.</p> <p>IEL standards on accident prevention, preparedness and response, exposure at the workplace, control of production and use, labeling, packaging, classification, registration, transportation and transboundary requirements, need to be tailored to suit the unique circumstances of the Caribbean and Latin America and not only that of North America and Europe. The international standards governing the transport of hazardous materials especially</p>
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the varied modes of transport need to be broadened. Greater binding guidelines on the regulation of trade in chemicals and pesticides are needed. At the national level, the Bureau of Standards need to work closely with **the International Labor Organization (ILO)** to synergize and develop explicit guidelines on hazardous substances in the workplace.

To facilitate the safe transport of dangerous goods by air, greater coordination is needed between the **Convention on International Civil Aviation**, and the **International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution by Ships** and other such regimes.

Most international efforts to regulate and control **hazardous activities** have focused mainly on nuclear and atomic activities. That should be expanded to include other activities such as non-military operations and more explicit guidelines on safety requirements, design and operations especially of plants to

reduce accidents. Countries need to be more proactive in creating competent early notification, emergency and disaster response mechanisms.

While a lot is being done under the Basel Convention through the quantitative targets set by the European Union on the categorization of **transboundary waste**, much more advocacy, legislation and capacity building is needed to ensure the entry into force of its liability and enforcement measures. Greater coordination of local, national and global efforts is needed to minimize waste generation at its source. Waste from mining operations such as deep sea bed mining should be regulated. The use of solid waste policies, legislation and action plans to deal with plastics and microplastics both at land and sea as well as the recovery, recycling and re-use of waste is essential. The synergy which began in 2008/2009 aimed at greater cooperation between the **Basel**

	<p>Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions need to be updated and strengthened and their provisions incorporated into domestic policy and law.</p>
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4(b) Environmental-related Instruments:

<p>Trade Instruments:</p>	<p>The World Trade Organization, (WTO) as the main body addressing issues of trade internationally, should be more proactive on matters where environmental principles do not complement trade. The Organization needs to find creative ways to reach consensus on how the environment and trade can mutually support each other. States, through the WTO negotiation process, need to agitate more for stricter control over trade measures that</p>
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	negatively impact the environment.
Human Rights Instruments:	<p>States should fully integrate human rights principles and standards in their rules for implementation of the Paris Handbook. The right to a healthy environment should become a basic human right by becoming enshrined into the Constitution of countries.</p> <p>Domestic, regional and international legislation should make the connection between a healthy and safe environment, as a precursor to the enjoyment of basic human rights.</p> <p>The lead taken by the Aarhus Convention and the Escazu Agreement should be followed to ensure that the public is given appropriate access and allowed maximum participation and justice in environmental matters. Rights based, gender responsive approach is needed to ensure food security, protection for migrants and peace from armed conflict and civil unrest. These should be adapted into the</p>

	<p>modalities for tools such the NDCs, adaptation communications and the Enhanced Transparency Framework.</p> <p>The views and perspectives of indigenous persons and local communities on the environment should be encouraged through the strengthening of the Local Communities and Indigenous People’s Platform. Further, the COP24 proposal for a Solidarity and Just Transition Silesia Declaration, promoting just transition and social dialogue in the workplace should be supported by all.</p>
<p>Investment Instruments:</p>	<p>More environmentally sustainable clauses should be inserted into the text of investment instruments particularly the Citizen by Investment Program (CIP) undertaken by national Governments. Sustainable financing and insurance measures need to be created for Biodiversity and ABS, climate</p>

	<p>adaptation and mitigation. These measures should be tailored to suit the most vulnerable as they are the ones most likely to be greatly impacted. Creative measures to regulate off shore investments are also critical.</p>
<p>Intellectual Property Instruments:</p>	<p>Measures to find common ground between the regimes of Trade -related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, need to be explored. The protection of private property rights against the need to innovate and explore must be balanced and as such, strict guidelines on the creation of new biological varieties and genetically modified organisms must be created. Local communities and indigenous peoples must be consulted in streamlining mechanisms to safeguard traditional knowledge and biological resources and to provide a more equitable method of dealing with</p>

	ownership of these matters.