

STATEMENT OF THE INSTITUTE FOR PLANETARY SYNTHESIS FOR UNEA 5(1)

Read by Lisinka Ulatowska at the Closing Plenary, 23 February 2021

Never before have more lives and livelihoods depended *as much* on the implementation of environmental law at all levels, backed by the political will of all UN(EP) Member States and Intergovernmental agencies. Action cannot wait until 2022. We must start NOW.

The following proposals will, we hope, be adopted at UNEA 5 (2), but preparations within governments must begin as soon as possible.

GA Resolution A/RES/73/333 is an important tool. It recommends that Member States, UN Agencies and all involved in governance and administering the MEAs close the gaps between these.

But this is hard to achieve, given the time constraints and that there are some 250 MEAs, each with different parties and quite diverse, even contradictory provisions.

But a computer could establish the gaps and also recommend best practices to close these. UNEP's computer portal already contains all MEAs. To upgrade its computing power to the necessary level, a Hackathon can be held. Here dedicated enthusiastic IT professionals hold 24-hour brainstorming sessions to develop new forms of software.

But MEAs are useful only to the degree they are implemented and this requires they are supported by governments and people worldwide also implementing environmental law from local to global levels. These can be mobilized to participate by *A Day of Action to Implement Environmental Law at all levels*". This Day can annually commemorate the adoption of Montevideo 5 (mentioned in para 17) and highlight innovative practices and achievements. People can be reached via all UN and Major Group mailing lists, including through schools and local authorities.

To further motivate participation, Voluntary National Reviews during UNEA can highlight both the achievements of Governments and their peoples and all relevant achievements can be added to improve UNEP's computer portal. These three measures can also lead to the recognition that we must have strong enforcement machinery, including at the global level and that it is crucial that we all work together in cooperation and solidarity, as stressed by UNEP's Executive Director.

A strong Min Decl is needed to come out of UNEA 5 (2). But only the actual implementation of 73/333 can salvage peoples lives and livelihoods.

Here each single person and every action counts when it comes to regenerating and living in harmony with Nature.

The Institute for Planetary Synthesis and fellow NGOs will be in touch with UNEP Member States to get your advice on how to move the above proposals forward.

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