Montevideo Programme: a decade of action on environmental law

Fifth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme V)

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What is it?

- Intergovernmental programme to promote development and implementation of environmental rule of law, strengthen capacities in countries, and implement the SDGs

- 10-year programme: 2020-2030

- Adopted by UNEA 4 under resolution 4/20

- Member States have ‘National Focal Points’ who are senior government officials expert in environmental law

- Steering Committee for Implementation

- Delivery through partnerships
Montevideo V Programme

1. Vision
2. Objectives
3. Strategic Activities
4. Implementation Guidelines
5. Institutional Arrangements and Monitoring
Vision

to promote the development and implementation of environmental rule of law, strengthen the related capacities in countries, and contribute to the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
| 1. | To support the development of adequate and effective environmental **legislation** and **legal frameworks** at all levels to address environmental issues; |
| 2. | To strengthen the **effective implementation** of environmental law at the national level; |
| 3. | To support the **enhanced capacity-building** for increased effectiveness of environmental law for all stakeholders at all levels; |
| 4. | To support national Governments, upon their request, in the **development and implementation of environmental rule of law**; |
6 objectives — Cont’d

5. To Promote the role of environmental law in the context of **effective environmental governance**;

6. **Enhance the responsiveness and effectiveness** of the Montevideo Programme;
9 strategic activities

1. **Guidance tools**: Provide practical guidance, tools, innovative approaches and resources, including effective law models and approaches, as well as best practices and model indicators to countries for the effective and inclusive development and implementation of environmental law in a manner consistent with decision 27/9 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;

2. **Information and data exchange**: Develop and promote information and data exchange among legal stakeholders involved in the development and implementation of environmental law;

3. **Access rights**: Promote public participation, access to information and access to justice in environmental matters;

4. **UN Charter**: Promote the recognition of the mutually reinforcing relationship between environmental law and the three pillars of the Charter of the United Nations;
5. **Partnerships**: Support collaboration and promotion of partnerships across the United Nations and with other relevant entities, including civil society organizations, in the field of environmental law;

6. **Education**: Encourage and facilitate education on environmental law, with a view to empowering people and communities and strengthening institutional capacity of countries to address environmental issues;

7. **Awareness-raising**: Support environmental law awareness-raising initiatives at different levels;

8. **Research**: Encourage research, including studies and reports, on emerging environmental issues and the relationship between environmental law and other, related legal fields;

9. **Training**: Promote training in the field of environmental law, especially for legal professionals such as judges and prosecutors and other enforcement officials.
Institutional arrangements

• UNEP (Law Division) – serves as secretariat of the Programme

• National focal points - identifies priority areas; reviews progress on implementation and; provides the secretariat with available national data in the field of environmental law

• Steering committee for implementation

• Partnerships to assist in implementation - including Academics and eminent experts in the field of environmental law, relevant civil-society organizations and the private sector
UNEP Law and Environment Assistance Platform – (UNEP-LEAP)
Sections of UNEP-LEAP

3 main sections;
- Technical Assistance section
- Knowledge base
- Country Profiles
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Thank you

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