



Information Note for Meeting Participants

First Global Meeting of National Focal Points for the Fifth Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Meeting)

23-25 March 2020

Welcome

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) looks forward to welcoming you to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to participate in the First Global Meeting of National Focal Points for the Fifth Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Meeting) from 23 to 25 March 2020.

The Montevideo meeting will be held back-to-back with the 2nd World Congress on Environmental Law from 25-27 March 2020 (World Congress Meeting), being organized by the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL) in partnership with UNEP and the Organization of American States (OAS), amongst others.

National Focal Points to the Montevideo Programme have also been invited to participate in the World Congress Meeting and should therefore plan to be in Rio de Janeiro from 9am Monday 23 March to 5pm Friday 27 March 2020.

The information in this note covers only the Montevideo Meeting. All documentation relating to the World Congress Meeting, together with other related environmental law meetings occurring in the week of 23-27 March 2020¹, is available here: <https://www.iucn.org/commissions/world-commission-environmental-law/events-wcel/upcoming-events/2nd-iucn-world-environmental-law-congress>.

Background

The Montevideo Meeting is being organized pursuant to resolution 4/20 of the United Nations Environment Assembly that adopted the Fifth Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme V) ([UNEA/EA.4/Res.20](https://www.unep.org/press/2019/12/19/2019121901)). The Montevideo Programme V is an intergovernmental programme designed to promote the development and implementation of environmental rule of law, strengthen the related capacity in countries, and contribute to the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda.

Further background and meeting documentation is available here: <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/environmental-rights-and-governance/what-we-do/promoting-environmental-rule-law-1>.

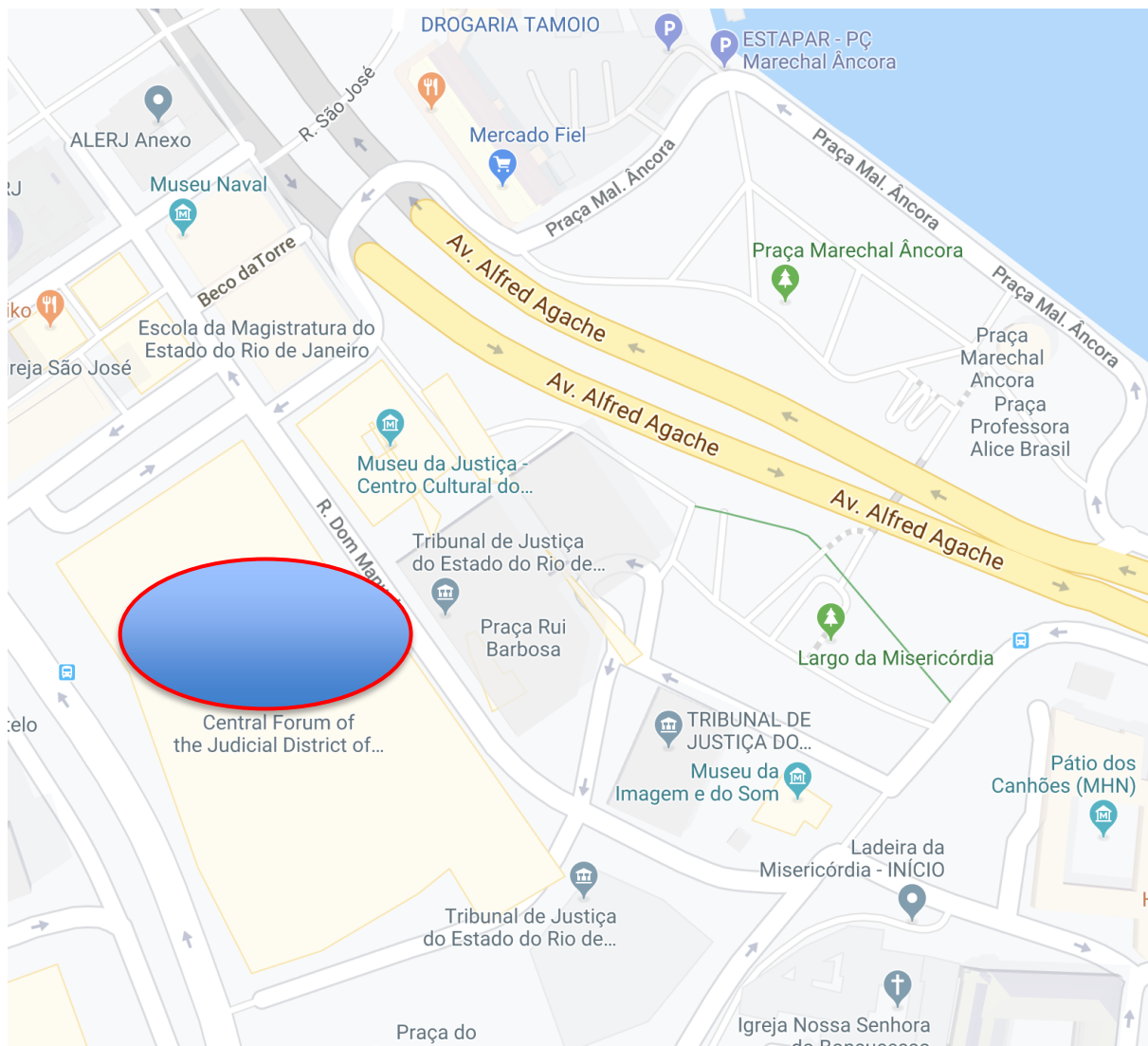
¹ 3rd General Assembly of the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment; International Council of Environmental Law Meeting; 2nd OAS Inter-American Colloquium on the Environmental Rule of Law; WCEL Global Colloquium of Early Career Environmental Law Experts; and WCEL Moot Court.

Venue

The Montevideo Meeting and the World Congress Meeting will take place at the Supreme Court of the State of Rio de Janeiro.

Address:

Supreme Court of the State of Rio de Janeiro (Tribunal de Justiça do Rio de Janeiro): R. Dom Manuel, 37 - Centro, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, 20010-090, Brazil



Registration

All National Focal Points of the Montevideo Programme who have confirmed attendance for the Montevideo Meeting will be registered directly by UNEP to attend the World Congress Meeting. All other participants should register using the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NCQJ3C5>

All participants are requested to obtain meeting badges at the registration counter. There will be clear signage to direct you to the registration counter. Please bring official identification such as your

passport. For identification and security reasons, all participants are requested to wear their meeting badges at all times during meetings, social functions and in the venue.

Accommodation

Participants are advised to reserve and pay for their accommodation directly and as early as possible. When making your booking, mention the event codes: **GM Montevideo** and **2nd WELC**. Reservations are subject to availability at the time of the booking.

Below is a list of suggested hotels within fifteen minutes walking distance of the Supreme Court Complex:

Hotel	Rate (Single)*	Rate (Double)*	Booking Contact
Ibis Rio de Janeiro Santos Dumont Hotel	R\$222.00+5%	R\$255.00+5%	h5691-re@accor.com.br
Novotel RJ Santos Dumont Hotel	R\$299.00+5%	R\$319.00+5%	h6522-re@accor.com.br
Prodigy Hotel Santos Dumont Airport	R\$355.00+5%	R\$435.00+5%	reservas@prodigysantosdumont.com.br

* Prices are in Brazilian Reais and include breakfast.

While these are the most convenient hotels, participants who are booking their own rooms are free to choose other hotels in Rio de Janeiro.

Visa arrangements

Participants are responsible for obtaining any required visa for Brazil. Please check the [visa requirements](#) for your nationality to enter Brazil.

Participants who may need further assistance from UNEP on their visa application should contact the meeting organizer for necessary actions at the earliest possible time.

The organizer accepts no responsibility for any consequences of failure to comply with the necessary health, passport and visa requirements.

Health Requirements and Medical Services

Medical costs incurred in Brazil will be directly borne by the Participant. It is therefore strongly recommended that you arrange for your own travel health insurance prior to departure from your country and arrival in Brazil.

For a number of countries, Brazil requires proof of the yellow fever vaccine. Please make sure that you verify the requirements.

Daily subsistence allowance (only if applicable)

UNEP sponsored participants will be provided with Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) at prevailing United Nations DSA rates. This allowance will cater for your accommodation, meals and transfers.

DSA for sponsored meeting participants will be paid through SwissCards in US Dollars in the course of the meeting. When confirming your participation, please confirm whether you have a SwissCard and the PIN, provided to you during previous UNEP meetings which we may use to disburse the DSA. Kindly bring with you the SwissCard to the meeting venue. Participants who do not have SwissCards will be provided with one while signing the DSA sheet at the meeting venue. Please note that the funding may not be accessible for the first two days due to the time needed to load the money. Sponsored participants are therefore requested to carry extra cash to cater for accommodation and meals while DSA is being processed. In addition, it will not be possible to transfer money to the SwissCards until the boarding passes have been received, so please retain these and bring to the first day of the meeting. Sponsored participants who are unable to stay for the entire duration of the meetings are requested to inform the organizer as soon as possible after their arrival, so that their subsistence allowance can be adjusted accordingly.

Should sponsored participants have any questions they may contact Emma Maungu at emma.maungu@un.org.

Transportation to and from the Airport

Participants are expected to make their own travel arrangements to and from the airport. There are two major airports in Rio de Janeiro:

Rio de Janeiro-Antonio Carlos Jobim International Airport (GIG), popularly known by its original name Galeão International Airport is the main airport serving Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It is located 20 km from the city center of Rio de Janeiro. Detailed information about Rio de Janeiro-Antonio Carlos Jobim International Airport can be found at <http://www.aerportogaleao.net/en/>

The information desk, and tourist information (RioTur), are located on the 2nd floor at arrivals ([map](#)).

The airport offers free WI-FI service: net Free Wi-Fi: RIOgaleao.

The trip from the airport to the venue takes around 30 minutes in light traffic but can take an hour or more during rush hour.

We recommend you take a pre-paid taxi (Taxi Especial) to your destination. There are five different companies (Coopatur, Cootramo, Coopertramo, Transcopass and Transcootour) offering this service in the arrivals hall. Credit cards are accepted, and the fare is around R\$130.00. Yellow cabs are available outside the airport, but the level of service may not be as comfortable as the pre-paid services. Rideshare services, such as Uber, Cabify and Taxi99 operate at the airport and all over Rio city.

Rio de Janeiro-Santos Dumont Airport is the second major airport serving Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The airport is located adjacent to downtown Rio de Janeiro and within a few blocks of the recommended hotels.

Getting around

Participants are personally responsible for their movements outside the venue. Rio de Janeiro is spread across a concentrated area and all amenities are readily accessible, including a range of hotels, cafes,

restaurants, bars and shops, all within easy walking distance or a short taxi or shuttle ride from the venue.

The locations of the meetings are scheduled conveniently so that Participants may walk between the three recommended hotels and the Supreme Court Complex. Special transportation will be provided for special events. Otherwise, participants are responsible for their own transportation. Rideshare services, such as Uber, Cabify and Taxi99 operate at the airport and all over Rio de Janeiro.

Security

Whereas you should not feel worried about safety in Rio, it is important to always take precaution. For your own safety while outside the venue, take note of the tips below:

- Know where you are and where you are going
- Keep your cell phone, camera and wallet secure
- Never leave any valuables out and alone
- Avoid shortcuts in back alleys, keep to the main roads
- Always carry some form of identification and the address and phone number of your hotel
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- Do not carry large sums of money. Avoid carrying credit cards
- While travelling in a taxi keep your windows rolled up
- Ignore street children and people coming up to you in the streets with hard-luck tales. They may be pickpockets or part of an elaborate scam.

According to UN security advisory, security forces sometimes conduct armed operations against drug trafficking factions which are in control of numerous slums (favelas) throughout the city. Visitors are more vulnerable to armed incidents and are advised to avoid the proximity of the favelas. While in Rio de Janeiro, give preference to registered radio taxis as they are considered the safest. In case of assault do not react. Parks, beaches and other recreational areas have experienced violent crimes, mostly at night, to include assault, theft, and sexual assault. Depart from these public areas before sundown. Although assaults can also happen during the day, higher rates occur after dark. Avoid areas where large crowds are gathering, or protests are ongoing.

Useful information

Weather: Expect warm, humid weather with the average low being 73°F (22°C) and the average high hitting 85°F (30°C). Remember to bring your sunblock and a mosquito repellent, umbrella and sunblock.

Currency, payments and banking: Major credit cards are widely accepted. The monetary unit of Brazil is the Brazilian Real (R\$). Participants are advised to exchange their currency for Brazilian Real before landing in Brazil.

Foreign currency can be exchanged at most hotels and commercial banks. Additionally, Bureau de Change are widely available. Exchange offices can be recognized by the “exchange/cambio” sign. View the latest exchange rates: <https://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/>

Electricity supply: Participants must bring their own electricity adapters. The electricity supply is 110 volts. Type C plugs and sockets are widespread, but you may also find type N sockets.

Language: Portuguese is the official language of Brazil. English is spoken in most hotels.

Time Zone: GMT-3 hours

Tipping: It is customary to tip waiters, porters, caddies, and other service providers. In restaurants, a 10% tip is included in the bill.

Tax: There is no tax refund in Brazil.

Touristic information: Visit <http://visit.rio/en/welcome/> for tourist information, sightseeing, and attractions.

Wi-Fi: Wi-Fi facility is available in the hotels (please check for charges). Free Wi-Fi will be available in the venue.

Contact Information in case of emergency when in Rio

Marco Ambrosio at marco.ambrosio@un.org and +55 61 98115-0082.