

**Delivering for People and the Planet: Fifth Montevideo Programme
for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law**



Introduction

1. The Fifth Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme V) is an intergovernmental programme designed to guide the identification and implementation of priority actions in the field of environmental law to be undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with other relevant actors for the decade beginning in 2020. Montevideo Programme V builds on the successes of the past Montevideo programmes and supports the United Nations Environment Programme in the field of environmental law to fulfil its core mandate⁷ and meet the environmental objectives found in United Nations resolutions, in particular those adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly and, as appropriate, reflected in obligations contained in multilateral environmental agreements.

Vision

2. Montevideo Programme V promotes the development and implementation of environmental rule of law, strengthens the related capacity in countries and contributes to the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda.

Objectives

3. Montevideo Programme V will aim to:
 - (a) Support the development of adequate and effective environmental legislation and legal frameworks at all levels to address environmental issues;
 - (b) Strengthen the effective implementation of environmental law at the national level;
 - (c) Support enhanced capacity-building for increased effectiveness of environmental law for all stakeholders at all levels;
 - (d) Support national Governments, upon their request, in the development and implementation of environmental rule of law, consistent with decision 27/9 of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme;
 - (e) Promote the role of environmental law in the context of effective environmental governance;

- (f) Enhance the responsiveness and effectiveness of the Montevideo Programme.

Strategic activities

4. To achieve the objectives listed above, Montevideo Programme V will focus on the following strategic activities:
 - (a) 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;
 - (b) Develop and promote information and data exchange among legal stakeholders involved in the development and implementation of environmental law;
 - (c) Promote public participation, access to information and access to justice in environmental matters;
 - (d) Promote the recognition of the mutually reinforcing relationship between environmental law and the three pillars of the Charter of the United Nations;
 - (e) 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;



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- (f) 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;
- (g) Support environmental law awareness-raising initiatives at different levels;
- (h) Encourage research, including studies and reports, on emerging environmental issues and the relationship between environmental law and other, related legal fields;
- (i) Promote training in the field of environmental law, especially for legal professionals such as judges and prosecutors and other enforcement officials.

Implementation guidelines

5. The implementation of Montevideo Programme V and its activities will:
 - (a) Respond to the needs and priorities of countries;
 - (b) Be achievable, clearly defined, measurable, verifiable and results-oriented;
 - (c) Be developed and implemented in cooperation, coordination or partnership, as appropriate, with relevant stakeholders, promoting public participation;
 - (d) Promote synergies and complementarity and avoid duplication with other initiatives and activities in the field of environmental law;
 - (e) Be grounded in science, best practices and available data;
 - (f) Be consistent with the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations Environment Assembly, as well as having due regard to nationally determined priorities and relevant resolutions and decisions of other United Nations bodies and other multilateral environmental processes, including regional ones;
 - (g) Promote gender equality and active engagement of youth, as well as intra- and intergenerational equity;
 - (h) Promote the application of environmental assessments for the sustainable management and use of natural resources and the protection of the environment.

Institutional arrangements and monitoring

6. The institutional arrangements and monitoring for Montevideo Programme V will include the following:
 - (a) The United Nations Environment Programme is to serve, within its current mandate and within available resources, as the secretariat for Montevideo Programme V and fulfil the following functions:
 - (i) To implement activities under the Montevideo Programme and contribute to the fulfilment of the Montevideo Programme's vision and objectives at the direction of member States through the national focal point.
 - (ii) To cooperate with, respond to, liaise closely with and follow the direction of member States, through the national focal points for the Montevideo Programme, in the implementation of the Programme;
 - (iii) To organize and facilitate meetings of the national focal points and the steering committee under the Montevideo Programme;
 - (iv) To promote the exchange of information, experiences and best practices, as well as the building of capacity, including among the national focal points for the Montevideo Programme.
 - (v) To prepare progress and other relevant reports for the effective implementation of the Montevideo Programme.
 - (vi) To foster the active participation of the relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the Montevideo Programme.



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- (vii) To cooperate, as appropriate, with the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements to ensure the mutual supportiveness of efforts.
 - (viii) To monitor the implementation of the Montevideo Programme.
 - (ix) To maintain a current list of the national focal points for the Montevideo Programme, activities, projects and requests for support by member States made under the Programme.
 - (x) To report on the implementation, activities and funding of the Montevideo Programme on a biennial basis.
 - (xi) To seek to procure appropriate funding for the implementation of activities under the Montevideo Programme and consider establishing a trust fund for management of designated funds, as appropriate, in accordance with relevant Environmental Assembly decisions, and including through other sources of funding such as voluntary contributions from Governments, the private sector, foundations and other organizations.
 - (xii) To ensure measurability, accountability, transparency and results-oriented management of the funds allocated to the Montevideo Programme, as appropriate, and inform the national focal points.
- (b) National focal points: Pursuant to Environmental Assembly resolution 2/19, Governments are invited to designate national focal points for the Montevideo Programme. The national focal points should preferably be senior government officials expert in environmental law. The focal points will:
- (i) Identify the priority areas for the implementation of Montevideo Programme V;
 - (ii) Collaborate with and guide the secretariat in the implementation of Montevideo Programme V;
 - (iii) Review, as appropriate, Montevideo Programme V, including progress reports prepared by the secretariat, and promote its implementation, with the support of the secretariat;
 - (iv) Provide the secretariat with available national data in the field of environmental law development and implementation to fulfil its tasks and identify needs and priorities at all relevant levels;
- (v) Support efforts to liaise and collaborate among other government officials and key stakeholders at all relevant levels appropriate to the implementation of activities under the Montevideo Programme;
 - (vi) Participate in the biennial global and other relevant meetings of the national focal points, which will be held face to face or remotely, as appropriate;
 - (vii) Provide strategic advice, guidance and direction to the secretariat in the delivery of the Montevideo Programme;
 - (viii) Contribute to catalysing action to address emerging environmental issues through the law.
- (c) Steering committee for implementation: The national focal points for the Montevideo Programme will, at the global meetings, designate a steering committee for implementation composed of two to three representatives nominated from each United Nations region, ensuring gender balance to the extent possible. The steering committee for implementation will work with the secretariat in the implementation of the Montevideo Programme, based on recommendations and overall guidance from the meetings of the national focal points. The steering committee for implementation will also work with the secretariat and the other national focal points to prepare for meetings of the national focal points. The secretariat will develop the draft modalities of work for the steering committee for implementation to be presented at the first global meeting for consideration and adoption.
- (d) Assistance in implementation: Academics and eminent experts in the field of environmental law, relevant civil-society organizations and the private sector may be invited to assist in the implementation mechanism of Montevideo Programme V, as appropriate and feasible.

For more information please visit:
[https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/
 environmental-rights-and-governance/](https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/environmental-rights-and-governance/)

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