

Statement by the Institute for Planetary Synthesis,
made during the Wrap Up session of UNEA 5 (1), February 23, 2021.

Read by Lisinka Ulatowska

Thank you, Mr. President,

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 to uphold their obligations and commitments.

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

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 soft ware.

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 an increasingly global recognition of the imperative to *work together in cooperation and solidarity*.

A strong Ministerial Declaration is needed to come out of UNEA 5 (2). But only the actual *implementation* of 73/333 can salvage people's lives and livelihoods. Here *each* single person and *every* action counts when it comes to regenerating and living in harmony with Nature.

Thank you, Mr. President.