

Subcommittee Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives
4 October 2018, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
United Nations Office at Nairobi Gigiri
Conference Room 4

**Background Document for Agenda Item 5:
Briefing from the Secretariat on the Implementation of UNEA Resolution
2/19 on the fourth Programme for the Development and Period Review of
Environmental Law.**

This note serves as a background document for discussions under Agenda Item 5: Briefing from the Secretariat on the Implementation of UNEA Resolution 2/19 on the fourth Programme for the Development and Period Review of Environmental Law.

Implementation of UN Environment Assembly Resolution 2/19 on the fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme IV)

In May 2016, the United Nations Environment Assembly adopted [resolution 2/19](#) which requested UN Environment Programme, in close collaboration with the Montevideo national focal points, to prepare an assessment of [Montevideo Programme IV](#) and proposals for the work of UN Environment Programme in the area of environmental law for a specific period beginning in 2020, for consideration by the UN Environment Assembly in 2019.

In this context, UN Environment Programme organized a series of regional consultations for national focal points to give them an opportunity to contribute to share information on the status of implementation of the Montevideo Programme IV in their countries. The first consultation for the African region took place from 4 to 6 June 2018 in Nairobi. The second consultation for national focal points from Latin America and the Caribbean took place from 20 to 22 June 2018 in Panama City, Panama. The third consultation for West Asia took place from 9 to 10 July 2018 in Amman, Jordan, and the fourth consultation for East Asia and the Pacific took place from 24 to 26 July 2018 in Bangkok, Thailand.

A global meeting of focal points was also organized in Geneva from 12 to 15 September 2018 to (i) provide an opportunity to all national focal points and other stakeholders to contribute to a draft final assessment of Montevideo Programme IV prepared by the Evaluation Office of UN Environment Programme; and (ii) to discuss possible elements of a new programme on environmental law. Meeting participants - which included 66 governments, UN sister organizations and non-governmental organizations as well as independent environmental law experts - agreed that there is a need to continue the efforts undertaken under Montevideo Programme IV in the form of a new programme beyond 2020. The findings of the assessment of Montevideo Programme IV identified significant progress in certain areas but also the existence of gaps and challenges in the development and implementation of environmental law at various levels. A future programme should seek to reduce these gaps and challenges as well as address shortcomings in terms of the Programme's design, such as the lack of an implementation structure.

Going forward, participants of the Geneva meeting agreed that a group of friends of the Co-Chairs (Uruguay and USA) from among the national focal points will come together in Nairobi from 26 to 28 November 2018 to draft a proposal for a new programme on environmental law, with a view to it being considered at the UN Environment Assembly in March 2019. Throughout the process, the Co-Chairs will solicit inputs from relevant stakeholders to ensure a transparent and inclusive process.

All documentation related to the regional consultations as well as the Geneva and Nairobi meetings are available at <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/environmental-governance/what-we-do/strengthening-institutions-0>

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