

# The United Nations Environment Programme

(Governing structure, role in the development of international environmental law)



# The United Nations Environment Programme

## Outline:

### 1. Governing Structure:-

UNEP Governing Council;

UNEA Structure;

### 2. UNEP Role in the Development of International Environmental Law;

# The United Nations Environment Programme

- Established by UN General Assembly Resolution 2997;
- As an outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Environment held in Stockholm 1972;
- Governing Council had 58 members elected for 3 years representing regional balance (16-Africa; 13 Asia; 6-Eastern European; 10-LA; 13-Western European and others.

# The United Nations Environment Programme

- Is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.

# The United Nations Environment Programme

- In 1999 a Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GMEF) was initiated in alternate years as a Special Session of the Governing Council to involve and engage all member states in general environment policy debate.
- UNEA- Universal membership – Outcome of Para 88 of Rio +20- The Future We Want Outcome document. (See UNGA resolution)

# The United Nations Environment Programme

The resolution provides the following;

- Establishment of Governing Council and its main functions;
- Establishment of the Environment Secretariat and its functions;
- Establishment of the Environment Fund;
- Establishment of the Environment Coordination Board.

# Reporting lines and Rules of Procedures of Governing Bodies

- The Governing Council was reporting annually to the UN General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council;
- UNEA – has the same reporting lines;
- Each of the two institutions have their rules of procedure on the convening and conduct of their meetings. Bureaus for Governing body and Committee of Permanent Representatives.

# UN Environment Role in development of International Environmental Law

- Progressive development of international environmental law focusing on emerging issues (ozone hole, regional seas conventions, Basel, CITES, CBD);
- Support negotiations processes of global and regional instruments, undertaking studies, initiating legal technical experts meetings, supporting Intergovernmental Negotiating Committees, interim secretariats ..



# UN Environment Role in development of International Environmental Law

- Responding to scientific reports on emerging environment issues by undertaking studies on how best to regulate and sharing the same with member states;
- Going to the next stage of turning these into norms, guidelines to conventions or protocols;
- Initiating consultations with member states on emerging issues through the governing structure.

# UN Environment Role in development of International Environmental Law

- Implementing governing body resolutions on creating an international negotiation committee (INC) to begin negotiations eg Minamata.
- Consultations in various regions on what the regulations mean on their part eg are they producers? Consumers? How do they see their part on regulation.

# UN Environment Role in development of International Environmental Law

- Negotiations to adoption of final text;
- Setting up interim secretariats;
- Promoting ratification;
- Upon entry into force -Hosting MEA secretariats under the framework of UN Environment;
- Initiating Conferences and Meetings of the Parties;
- Supporting implementation in various aspects

# UN Environment Role in development of International Environmental Law

- In collaboration with MEA secretariats assisting countries to implement MEAs  
NBSAP

Including through financial mechanisms such as GEF projects GCF Multilateral fund etc.

Climate technology centre

Capacity building training and raising awareness dissemination of information etc

# UN Environment Assembly and Governing Council

- It was created in June 2012, when world leaders called for UN Environment to be strengthened and upgraded during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, also referred to as RIO+20.
- It was established due to the culmination of decades of international efforts, initiated at the UN aimed at creating a coherent system of international environmental governance.
- It sets the global environmental agenda in cooperation with UN institutions and Multilateral Environmental Agreements.
- The meetings of the Assembly are governed by its Rules of Procedure.
- The Assembly is the governing body of the UN Environment Programme (UN Environment) and the successor of its Governing Council, which was composed of 58 member States.

# UN Environment Assembly and Governing Council

- The UN Environment Assembly, with a universal membership, is now composed of 193 Member States.
- It is the world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment. It addresses the critical environmental challenges facing the world today. Understanding these challenges and preserving and rehabilitating our environment is at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- It meets biennially to set priorities for global environmental policies and develop international environmental law. Through its resolutions and calls to action, the Assembly provides leadership and catalyses intergovernmental action on the environment. Decision-making requires broad participation, which is why the Assembly provides an opportunity for all peoples to help design solutions for our planet's health.

# UNEA

- The role of the various bodies -
- Committee of Permanent Representatives;
- Open -ended CPRs;
- Plenary
- Committee of the Whole;
- The Bureau;
- Drafting Group;
- Side events, Major Groups, Expos

# Conclusion -UNEA

- UNEA has already done a lot in raising the profile of the agenda of the environment. UNEA 3 on tackling pollution or beating pollution was a galvanization of action that saw a lot of countries take action to renew their anti –pollution laws and policy frameworks. The theme of UNEA 4 of March 2019 is Innovation and Sustainable Production and Consumption.