

Fifth Programme for the Development and
Periodic Review of Environmental Law
(Montevideo Programme V):
delivering for people and the planet

Thirteenth Meeting of the Steering Committee for Implementation
Microsoft Teams (online), 7 May 2026
14:00 – 16:00 (EAT/GMT+3)

Co-chair's Summary

Item 1: Welcome remarks from the secretariat

1. The thirteenth meeting of the Steering Committee for Implementation of the Fifth Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme V) was opened by Mr. Andrea Rizzo, Head of the Environmental Governance Section of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Law Division. Mr. Andrea Rizzo welcomed members to the meeting, expressing appreciation for their continued commitment in serving as members of the Steering Committee for Implementation, and provided guidance on the modalities for participation

Item 2: Introduction of members

2. The Chair of the Steering Committee, Mr. Marcelo J. Cousillas, informed the Steering Committee of the recent changes in National Focal Points nominations and composition of the Steering Committee.
3. Saint Lucia designated Mrs. Anita Montoute, Permanent Secretary, Department of Sustainable Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Sustainable Development, as its new focal point.
4. Colombia designated Ms. Daniela Durán González, Jefe de la Oficina de Asuntos Internacionales, as its new focal point. Colombia's alternate representative, Ms. Alejandra Rodríguez Cortés, attended the meeting.
5. The Chair further confirmed that he was continuing to serve as sole Chair in the absence of a designated Co-chair from a developed country, pending any nomination by the developed-country members currently represented on the Committee. He also reconfirmed the temporary appointment of Ms. Karen Banda of Zambia to conduct the functions of Rapporteur until the Steering Committee elects a successor to serve for the remainder of the term.
6. The Chair reminded members of paragraph 5 of the Modalities of Work for the Steering Committee, which provides that a Member State whose designated national focal point is unable to attend a meeting may appoint an alternate member to serve for that meeting, and that such appointment should be communicated in writing, including electronically, to the Co-chairs with a copy to the secretariat.

Item 3: Adoption of the agenda

7. The Committee adopted the agenda for the meeting, based on the Provisional Agenda ([UNEP/Env.Law/MVP5/SCI.13/1](#)) shared with the members in the secretariat's invitation and made available on the UNEP-LEAP website.

Item 4: Preparations for the Third Global Meeting of National Focal Points

8. Mr. Andrea Rizzo, on behalf of the secretariat, presented an overview of the preparations for the Third Global Meeting of National Focal Points under the Montevideo Programme V, based on the mandate provided under Paragraph 6 of the Montevideo Programme V document.
9. The secretariat updated the Steering Committee on the results of the solicitation of expressions of interest from countries, issued in March 2026 to National Focal Points and Permanent Representatives members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to host the Third Global Meeting and provide financial contributions and in-kind support to support its organization. The secretariat communicated that only the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Climate Change and the Environment responded to the expression of interest and requested further information, which the secretariat provided. However, no confirmation of interest was ultimately received.
10. The secretariat reiterated that it currently lacks the financial resources to host the Third Global Meeting in person, while acknowledging the strategic importance of such meetings. Steering Committee members were informed that, unless additional funding is secured, the meeting would need to be convened virtually in 2026. In view of this option, the Chair and the secretariat highlighted the importance of maintaining regional engagement of National Focal Points and strengthen the connection of the Montevideo Programme V with upcoming regional environmental ministerial fora taking place in 2026 and 2027, on the road to the eighth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-8).
11. UNEA-8 will take place from 6-10 December 2027 (preceded by the 8th Open-Ended Committee of Permanent Representatives taking place from 29 November-3 December 2027) during which the UNEP Executive Director will also present the Mid-term Review report of the Programme as mandated by UNEA resolution 4/20. As such, it represents an important milestone to bring the Montevideo Programme V to the attention of Member States and the global community. In this context, members of the Steering Committee also reflected on how the Montevideo Programme could, in the future, better equip Member States with ideas for possible draft UNEA resolutions on emerging issues related to environmental law and governance. For this, maintaining a connection between the priorities expressed by Member States through environmental ministerial fora and regional positions and the Montevideo Programme V remains an important precondition.
12. In response to the above points, the Steering Committee decided to hold the Third Global Meeting of National Focal Points online in the third quarter of 2026, possibly the last week of September at a date to be confirmed in due course by the secretariat. Furthermore, it decided to hold regional online consultations to maintain regional engagement of National Focal Points in the lead up to the Global Meeting and requested the secretariat to facilitate outreach to the Focal Points to that end. These regional consultations will be led by National Focal Points and regional representatives of the Steering Committee, with the support of the secretariat, and every effort will be made to undertake these consultations by end of July 2026, compatibly with regional needs and availabilities. The feasibility of these regional consultations as well as subsequent other necessary preparations will ultimately inform the date of the Third Global Meeting.

Item 5: UNEP Law Division Workplan

13. The secretariat presented the Law Division's activities and initiatives planned for the 2026–2027 work period under the Montevideo Programme V. Following the presentations, Committee members exchanged views on priorities and opportunities for further collaboration.

Item 6: Date, time, and venue of the next meeting of the Steering Committee for Implementation.

14. The Committee agreed on the dates for the next three Steering Committee meetings:
 - a. The fourteenth meeting would be held in July 2026, for members to be informed of the preparations for the Third Global Meeting and regional online consultations.
 - b. The fifteenth meeting would be held on a date to be determined, compatibly with the date of the Third Global Meeting.

Item 7: Any Other Business

15. The Chair requested the secretariat to circulate the invite for the fourteenth Steering Committee Meeting and provisional agenda with members, and to upload the details on UNEP-LEAP.

Item 8: Closure of Meeting

16. The Chair acknowledged the constructive engagement and reaffirmed the collective responsibility of strengthening the programme's delivery, including by maintaining regional engagement and strengthening linkages with UNEA processes. The Chair thanked members for their participation and closed the meeting.

Annex I: Members of the Steering Committee for Implementation in attendance at the meeting

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ms. Azra Rogović-Grubić
Bhutan, Mrs Nima Om
Burkina Faso, Mr. Gontran Some
Cambodia, H.E. Mr. Vann Monyneath
Colombia, Ms Alejandra Rodríguez Cortés (alternate)
France, Ms. Chloé Godefroy
Maldives, Ms. Fazeela Ahmed Shaheem
Uganda, Ms. Doreen Tumuhaire
Uruguay, Mr. Marcelo J. Cousillas
Zambia, Ms. Karen Banda

Annex II: Agenda for the Thirteenth Meeting of the Steering Committee for Implementation

1. Welcome remarks from the Secretariat
2. Introductions of members
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Preparations for the Third Global Meeting of the National Focal Points
5. UNEP Law Division Workplan
6. Date, time, and venue of the next meeting of the Steering Committee for Implementation.
7. Any other business
8. Closure of the meeting

Annex III: Provisional Agenda for the Fourteenth Meeting of the Steering Committee for Implementation

1. Welcome remarks from the Secretariat
2. Introductions of members
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Preparations for the Third Global Meeting of the National Focal Points, including regional consultations
5. Date, time, and venue of the next meeting of the Steering Committee for Implementation.
6. Any other business
7. Closure of the meeting