

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

Fourteenth Meeting of the Steering Committee for Implementation
Microsoft Teams (online), 31 July 2026
14:00 – 16:00 (EAT/GMT+3)

Co-chair's Summary

Item 1: Welcome remarks by the Secretariat

1. The fourteenth 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 the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Law Division. Mr. 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, including interpretation arrangements.

Item 2: Introduction of members

2. The Chair, Mr. Marcelo J. Cousillas, informed the Steering Committee of recent changes in National Focal Points nominations and composition of the Steering Committee.
3. France designated an alternate representative to attend the meeting, Ms. Ariane Turcq-Bayle, from the French Ministry of Ecological Transition.
4. The Chair further confirmed that he continued 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.

Item 3: Adoption of the agenda

5. The Steering Committee adopted the agenda for the meeting, based on the provisional agenda (UNEP/Env.Law/MTV5/SCI.14/1) shared with the members in the secretariat's invitation and made available on the UNEP-LEAP website.

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

7. The Chair invited the members of the Steering Committee representing each region to report on the outcomes of the regional consultations held in preparation for the Third Global Meeting of National

Focal Points, including expressions of interest for steering committee membership. Representatives of the steering committee from Eastern Europe (Ms. Tanja Pucelj Vidović, Slovenia), Western Europe and Others Groups (Ms. Ariane Turcq-Bayle, France), Asia-Pacific (the secretariat, on behalf of Ms. Fazeela Ahmed Shaheem, Maldives), Africa (Ms. Karen Banda, Zambia) and Latin America and the Caribbean (Mr. Marcelo J. Cousillas, Uruguay), reported on the outcomes of the respective regional consultations and expressions of interest for the Steering Committee meeting. The Chair noted that the information provided by the members would be compiled into a non-attributable report serving as information document to the Third Global Meeting. The Chair also invited other members of the steering committee to intensify efforts to secure expressions of interest for regions where the necessary candidatures are missing.

8. The secretariat presented the annotated agenda and proposed organization of work for the Third Global Meeting, which will be held online on 4 and 5 November 2026, opening at 2 p.m. Nairobi time on 4 November 2026. The Steering Committee took note of the agenda and organization of work, emphasizing the importance of allocating sufficient time for National Focal Points to provide feedback, given the meeting's virtual format.
19. The secretariat presented the progress made with the preparation of the Report on Status of Implementation, Activities and Funding, covering the period from 1 March 2024 to 30 June 2026, for presentation to the Third Global Meeting as an official meeting document. In response to guidance received at the Second Global Meeting and subsequent views expressed by Steering Committee members, the modalities for presenting results have been improved. Results will be presented clustered around three principal areas in line with the Montevideo Programme's nine strategic activities: (i) Development, strengthening and implementation of legal and institutional frameworks; (ii) Research, information, knowledge production and dissemination, including emerging issues, (iii) Awareness-raising, training and capacity-building. Information on partnerships and stakeholder engagement will be embedded within these four indicators, with results presented in an aggregated and disaggregated manner, including per region. The Report will be presented to the Third Global Meeting for any further comments or feedback by national focal points. The Steering Committee agreed with the proposed approach and the improved modalities for presenting the Programme's results.
25. The secretariat also presented a revised draft version of the mid-term review report, with a focus on the main findings. The report will also present the results of the Montevideo Programme V in an improved manner, aligned with the approach introduced for the Report on Status of Implementation, Activities and Funding. An advanced draft of the mid-term review report will be presented to the Third Global Meeting for discussion, guidance and feedback by national focal points. The Steering Committee agreed with the proposed approach for the mid-term review report. Comments from the Steering Committee pointed out the need to ensure the measurability of the proposed indicators and include funding as a standalone reporting component given its impact on implementation of the Programme.

Item 5: Date, time, and modality of the next meeting of the Steering Committee for Implementation

30. The Steering Committee agreed that its fifteenth meeting would be held online on 2 November 2026, back-to-back with the Third Global Meeting.

Item 6: Any other business

32. The secretariat provided an update on the partners and stakeholders consultation in preparation for the Third Global Meeting, to be held on 22 September 2026, from 2 to 4 p.m. (EAT/Nairobi time), in a similar format to the regional consultations, and invited members of the Steering Committee to confirm their participation. The consultation will be open to all partners and stakeholders of the Montevideo

Programme V, beyond non-governmental organizations accredited to UNEP, to maintain an inclusive approach.

33. In response to a request for guidance from the secretariat, the Steering Committee agreed that participation in the Third Global Meeting should also be open to all partners and stakeholders of the Programme, beyond non-governmental organizations accredited to UNEP, to maintain an inclusive approach, noting that participation had similarly been extended broadly to all partners and stakeholders of the Programme at the First and Second Global Meetings.

Item 7: Closure of Meeting

36. The Chair acknowledged the constructive engagement of members and reaffirmed the collective responsibility of strengthening the Programme's delivery in the lead-up to the Third Global Meeting. The Chair thanked members and the secretariat for their work and closed the meeting.

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

Burkina Faso, Mr. Gontran Somé
Cambodia, H.E. Mr. Vann Monyneath
Colombia, Ms. Alejandra Rodríguez Cortés (alternate)
France, Ms. Ariane Turcq-Bayle (alternate)
Maldives, Ms. Fazeela Ahmed Shaheem
Slovenia, Ms. Tanja Pucelj Vidović
Uganda, Ms. Doreen Tumuhairu
Uruguay, Mr. Marcelo J. Cousillas
Zambia, Ms. Karen Banda

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

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

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

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