United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/Env.Law/MTV5/SCI.15/2
02 November 2026

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

Fifteenth meeting of the steering committee for implementation
Microsoft Teams (online), 2 November 2026
14:00 – 16:00 (EAT/GMT+3)

Co-chair's Summary

Item 1: Welcome remarks by the secretariat

1. The fifteenth 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 and provided guidance on the modalities for participation. Mr. Rizzo underscored the timeliness of the meeting, noting that it was being held during the UNEP Environmental Law Week and immediately ahead of the third global meeting of national focal points.

2. The secretariat provided a brief overview on the activities scheduled in the context of the UNEP Environmental Law Week. The first event is titled "Briefing on the Montevideo Programme V: A Decade of Action on Environmental Law" hosted in collaboration with the Geneva Environment Network in a hybrid format on 3 November 11.30 a.m. till 1 p.m. EAT, followed by the third global meeting of national focal points scheduled for 4 and 5 November. In addition, two side events are schedule on the margins of the third global meeting. The first event is titled "Strengthening the Environmental Rule of Law through Environmental Law Clinics Regional Experiences and Global Collaboration under the Montevideo Programme V" and schedule on Friday 6 November 2 p.m. till 3.30 p.m. The second event is titled "Strengthening Enforcement of the Montreal Protocol Addressing Illegal Trade and Crimes that Affect the Environment" and scheduled on Friday 6 November 4 p.m. till 5.30 p.m.

Item 2: Introduction of members

3. The Chair, Mr. Marcelo J. Cousillas, informed the steering committee of recent changes in national focal points nominations and composition of the steering committee.

4. Bhutan designated a new national focal point, after the previous national focal point changed roles and responsibilities. The new national focal point is Mr. Kunzang Rinzin, Deputy Chief Legal Officer, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, Royal Government of Bhutan.

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.15/1) 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

6. 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.

7. The secretariat presented the logistical and housekeeping instructions for the third global meeting, as captured in the Logistical Note, which was made available on the UNEP-LEAP website. The secretariat shared that delegations could join 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting early at 1.30 p.m. EAT, to do a technical internet test and an interpretation test. Meeting will be interpreted in 5 languages, also formal meeting documents translated in 5 languages.

8. The steering committee took note of the provisional agenda and organization of work for the third global meeting of national focal points. The secretariat presented the proposed schedule and modalities for each agenda item of the provisional agenda for the third global meeting, clarifying expected outcomes.

9. One steering committee member expressed concern that discussions under agenda item 4(c) of the third global meeting of national focal points could result in an overly extensive list of priority areas. The steering committee agreed that, considering the duration of the current iteration of the Montevideo Programme V, discussions at the global meeting should focus on commenting on and refining the priority areas identified through regional consultations. It was further understood that these discussions would provide broad guidance on the future implementation of activities under the Programme's existing priority areas, with continued guidance from the steering committee and subject to available resources. The secretariat also clarified that the outcomes of the discussion would be reflected in the annex to the midterm review report.

10. The Chair invited the members of the steering committee representing each region to report at the third global meeting on the outcomes of the regional consultations under agenda item 4 (c), and on the expressions of interest for the next steering committee membership under agenda item 6. A representative of the Western European and Other States Group informed the steering committee that the Group had received an additional nomination request and that the matter would be submitted to the regional group for its consideration and approval.

Item 5: Date, time, and modality of the next meeting of the steering committee for implementation

11. The steering committee agreed that its fifteenth meeting would be held online on 25 January 2027, from 2 p.m. till 4.30 p.m. EAT.

Item 6: Any other business

12. The secretariat informed the steering committee that Mr. Andrea Rizzo will take on a new role in the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. Mr. Rizzo thanked all the members of the steering committee for their active engagement and support to the Montevideo Programme V. Members of the

steering committee thanked Mr. Rizzo for his service and wished him success in his new role. Ms. Georgina Lloyd introduced herself in her new role supporting the secretariat of the Montevideo Programme V. Members of the steering committee also thanked the Chair for his leadership over the past years.

Item 7: Closure of Meeting

13. 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
Bhutan, Mr. Kunzan Rinzin
Cambodia, H.E. Mr. Vann Monyneath
Colombia, Ms. Alejandra Rodríguez Cortés
France, Ms. Chloe Godefroy
Maldives, Ms. Fazeela Ahmed Shaheem
Slovenia, Ms. Tanja Pucelj Vidović
Switzerland, Mr. Vincent Bohnenblust
Uruguay, Mr. Marcelo J. Cousillas
Zambia, Ms. Karen Banda

Annex II: 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

Annex III: Provisional agenda for the sixteenth meeting of the steering committee for implementation

1. Welcome remarks by the Secretariat
2. Introduction of members
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Election of office bearers of the steering committee (Co-chairs and Rapporteur)
5. Outcomes of the third global meeting of national focal points
6. Midterm review of the Montevideo Programme V
7. Planned activities for 2027 to implement the Montevideo Programme V
8. Date, time, and modality of the next meeting of the steering committee for Implementation
9. Any other business
10. Closure of the meeting