

Co-Chairs' Summary
**Third Meeting of the Steering Committee to the Fifth Montevideo Programme for the
Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law**

6 June 2022

Hybrid Meeting

Item 1: Welcome remarks from the secretariat

1. The meeting was opened by Mr Arnold Kreilhuber, Deputy Director of the Law Division, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
2. Mr Timothy Epp, Co-Chair, welcomed members of the steering committee who were participating in person and online, and noted the challenges of a hybrid meeting to ensure equal and full participation of all members. The Co-Chair highlighted the need to face these challenges to ensure full participation of persons participating in-person and through virtual means at the in-person segment of the First Global Meeting of National Focal Points to the Fifth Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (First Global Meeting) to be held from 6 to 9 June 2022.
3. Mr Marcelo Cousillas, Co-Chair, welcomed members of the steering committee to the third meeting, and drew attention to the 40th anniversary of the Montevideo Programme, which was celebrated on 31 May 2022. He underscored the work ahead for the steering committee and all participants to the First Global Meeting in shaping and implementing environmental law for years to come.

Item 2: Introductions of members and adoption of the agenda

4. Mr Epp, Co-Chair, introduced Agenda Item 2 and invited the members of the steering committee in attendance to introduce themselves. It was noted that Mr Jimpson Davila Ordoñez (Peru) had been designated to replace Mr Mariano Castro Sanchez-Moreno on the steering committee effective 29 April 2022 and that Ms Helena Kramar (Slovenia) had been designated to replace Ms Nataša Petrovčič on the steering committee effective 23 May 2022. It was also noted that Mr Debamoy Dewan was participating in the meeting on behalf of Mr Mohammad Abdul Wadud Chowdhury, the national focal point of Bangladesh, in accordance with paragraph 5 of the modalities of work for the steering committee for implementation.
5. The agenda which was circulated by the secretariat prior to the meeting was adopted.

Item 3: Preparations for the in-person segment of the First Global Meeting of National Focal Points

6. Mr Cousillas, Co-Chair, introduced Agenda Item 3 and invited the secretariat to present on the preparatory arrangements and organization of work for the in-person segment of the First Global Meeting. The secretariat presented the general schedule of the in-person segment, including the schedule of side events which are thematically related to the proposed priority areas for implementation of the Programme. The secretariat highlighted that conference services and room

arrangements would be available for regional consultations of national focal points throughout the week if needed. Following the secretariat's presentation, the Co-Chair opened for discussion.

- a) One member requested clarification as to how the discussion and outcomes of the in-person segment of the First Global Meeting will be captured, including discussions on Agenda Item 4 (b) on priority areas for implementation. Other members generally agreed that a Co-Chairs' non-paper could be prepared to reflect the discussions on priority areas and that the Co-Chairs' non-paper will be part of the meeting report prepared for the in-person segment of the First Global Meeting of National Focal Points.
- b) One member highlighted the importance of including stakeholders in the consideration of Agenda Item 5 of the First Global Meeting on partnership and stakeholder engagement. The Co-Chair noted that this item is a new opportunity under the Programme.
- c) One member expressed concern that Agenda Item 4 (c) of the First Global Meeting on emerging issues in environmental law will be deferred for discussion to the Second Global Meeting of National Focal Points and suggested that some intersessional reflection on emerging issues be undertaken prior to the Second Global Meeting.
- d) One member highlighted the importance of presenting the UNEP Law and Environment Assistance Platform (UNEP-LEAP) at the in-person segment of the First Global Meeting, noting that the technical assistance request function of the platform is essential to the implementation of the Programme.

Item 4: Date, time and venue of the next meeting of the Steering Committee for Implementation

7. Mr Cousillas, Co-Chair, introduced Agenda Item 4. The Co-Chair recalled that at its first meeting held on 5 August 2022, the Steering Committee had agreed that it would meet twice in a virtual setting for two-hours each on 26 March 2022 and on 7 October 2022.
8. The Co-Chair proposed to convene the next meeting of the Steering Committee on 7 October 2022, in a virtual format, at 3 PM East Africa Time (EAT). The steering committee agreed with the Co-Chair's proposal.

Item 5: Any other business

9. No other business was discussed.

Item 6: Closure of the meeting

10. The Co-Chairs thanked the members of the steering committee and the secretariat for their continuous support in the organization and implementation of the Programme.
11. Mr Kreilhuber thanked the members of the steering committee for their continued participation and guidance in the implementation of the Programme, after which the Co-Chairs closed the meeting.