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**Fifth Programme for the Development and  
Periodic Review of Environmental Law  
(Montevideo Programme V):  
delivering for people and the planet  
First global meeting of national focal points  
Nairobi, 6–9 June 2022\*  
Agenda item 4 (b)\*\***

**Implementation of the Fifth Programme for the Development  
and Periodic Review of Environmental Law: priority areas for  
implementation**

## Priority areas for implementation

### I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 4/20 of 15 March 2019, the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) adopted the fifth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme V or the Programme).<sup>1</sup> The vision of Montevideo Programme V is to promote the development and implementation of the environmental rule of law, strengthen related capacity at the national level and contribute to the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
2. Paragraph 6 (b) of the Programme requires national focal points to identify priority areas for the implementation of the Programme. During the online segment of the first global meeting of national focal points, held from 2 to 4 June 2021, national focal points were asked to identify a limited number of focused and feasible priority areas for implementation to enable substantive activities under the Programme to begin, on the understanding that more robust discussions and negotiations concerning the priority areas for the Programme would be possible during the resumed first global meeting, to be held in 2022. There was broad consensus among delegations that “legal responses to the air pollution crisis” should be the initial priority area for implementation for the Programme. Accordingly, the meeting adopted the annex to document UNEP/Env.Law/MTV5/GNFP.1/4.<sup>2</sup>
3. The present document sets out possible priority areas for implementation for the remainder of the Programme until 31 December 2029, together with modalities and mechanisms to support countries in their implementation of the Programme. National focal points are invited to provide guidance on priority areas for implementation. The list of priority areas identified in the present document is not fixed; priority areas can be revised and added at future global meetings of national

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\* The first global meeting is being held in two segments – an online segment held from 2 to 4 June 2021 and an in-person segment to be held in Nairobi from 6 to 9 June 2022. The report of the online segment is set out in document UNEP/Env.Law/MTV5/GNFP.1/6.

\*\* UNEP/Env.Law/MTV5/GNFP.1/1.

<sup>1</sup> UNEP/EA.4/19, annex.

<sup>2</sup> UNEP/Env.Law/MTV5/GNFP.1/4, annex, “Initial priority areas for implementation identified at the online segment of the first global meeting of national focal points.” Progress in the implementation of that priority area is set out in document UNEP/Env.Law/MTV5/GNFP.1/2/Rev.1 on the status of implementation, activities and funding.

focal points. In addition, the priority areas for implementation represent only some of the activities to be implemented. Additional activities within the scope of the Programme can and will continue to be undertaken, subject to availability of resources.

4. According to the most recent report in the Global Environment Outlook series published by UNEP, entitled *GEO-6: Healthy Planet, Healthy People*, the global environmental situation is deteriorating and the window for action is closing. Three interconnected crises – climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution – are placing global economic and social well-being at risk, while undermining opportunities to reduce poverty and inequality, realize human rights, and improve lives and livelihoods, as demonstrated by the increase in socioeconomic challenges during the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The three crises are largely driven by human activity, including unsustainable patterns of consumption and production. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was put in place to accelerate urgently needed cooperation and collective action, but today, the world continues on a path that places at risk the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially those relating to the environment.<sup>3</sup>

5. The role of environmental law – and more specifically environmental rule of law – in addressing those challenges is clear. Effective laws and strong institutions provide the enabling environment necessary to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and other relevant environment-related commitments. As is outlined in the UNEP publication *Environmental Rule of Law: First Global Report*, well-designed laws implemented by capable government institutions that are held accountable by an informed and engaged public ensure that environmental goals and commitments can be achieved. At the same time, environmental challenges cannot be effectively addressed with environmental law solutions exclusively. The design and delivery of strategic activities under Montevideo Programme V are focused on areas in which environmental law interventions can have the greatest impact.

6. In its resolution 4/20, the Environment Assembly requested the Executive Director of UNEP to implement Montevideo Programme V through the UNEP programmes of work for the decade beginning in 2020, and in a manner that was fully consistent with the relevant medium-term strategies of UNEP. The UNEP medium-term strategy for the period 2018–2021 identified seven priority areas of focus: climate change; resilience to disasters and conflicts; healthy and productive ecosystems; environmental governance; chemicals, waste and air quality; resource efficiency; and environment under review. The UNEP medium-term strategy for the period 2022–2025 places the focus of the work of UNEP on developing responses and deploying solutions that aspire to achieve three interlinked and mutually reinforcing strategic objectives: “climate stability”, defined as the achievement of net zero greenhouse gas emissions and resilience in the face of climate change; “living in harmony with nature”, meaning that humanity prospers in harmony with nature; and “towards a pollution-free planet”, meaning that pollution is prevented and controlled, while good environmental quality and improved health and well-being are ensured for all. Those three principal areas of action are underpinned by two foundational subprogrammes (science-policy interface and environmental governance) and facilitated by two enabling subprogrammes (finance and economic transformation and digital transformation).<sup>4</sup>

## II. Member State needs assessment survey

7. In January 2021, the secretariat sent an online survey to all national focal points to solicit input on the priority areas for the implementation of the Programme. In the survey, national focal points were asked to identify priority activities under the Programme. They were also asked to suggest up to three initial priority areas for implementation that could be considered at the online segment of their first global meeting. Responses were received from national focal points in 41 Member States and were used to inform the following proposals.

## III. Priority areas for implementation

8. The results of the survey, the requirements of the Programme, consultations with internal and external stakeholders and inputs from national focal points at the online segment of the first global meeting of national focal points have contributed to the identification of the priority areas for

<sup>3</sup> Sustainable Development Goals Report (New York, 2021): [unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2021.pdf](https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2021.pdf). Accessed in March 2021.

<sup>4</sup> More information about the UNEP medium-term strategy for the period 2022–2025 is available at [www.unep.org/resources/policy-and-strategy/people-and-planet-unep-strategy-2022-2025](https://www.unep.org/resources/policy-and-strategy/people-and-planet-unep-strategy-2022-2025). Accessed in February 2022.

implementation. The proposed three core and interlinked priority areas for the implementation of the Programme, which are climate change, biodiversity and pollution, supplemented by relevant cross-cutting activities, contribute to addressing the three core and other objectives and to achieving the vision of the Programme. Relevant cross-cutting activities are those that contribute to addressing all three core priorities. By aligning with the three core pillars of the UNEP medium-term strategy for the period 2022–2025, Montevideo Programme V can serve as the principal delivery mechanism for UNEP to provide environmental rule of law support to countries and in delivering the core priorities and the foundational subprogramme on environmental governance of its medium-term strategy.

9. The priority areas for implementation and cross-cutting activities will be reviewed and amended as necessary at each global meeting of national focal points. During implementation, the prioritization of the activities within each priority area and the cross-cutting activities will be discussed and finalized in consultation with the steering committee for implementation. The identification of priorities and cross-cutting activities is also necessary to enable the secretariat to provide an informed estimate of the resources needed to implement the activities under the Programme. All activities under the Programme will be subject to available resources and will be implemented in accordance with the Programme's implementation guidelines (para. 5 of the Programme) and in consultation and cooperation with the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, as appropriate, to ensure that efforts are mutually supportive.

10. The priority areas for implementation will inform decisions on where the focus of implementation should be placed in accordance with the vision and objectives defined in the Programme, and subject to the relevant policies, rules and procedures of UNEP. Support provided under the Programme will be prioritized towards requests that align with the priority areas and cross-cutting activities, and criteria for assessing requests are outlined in part V of the present note. Nevertheless, in line with its paragraph 5 (a), Montevideo Programme V is required to respond to the needs and priorities of countries. Accordingly, countries may request support on any matter of environmental law that is aligned with the vision and objectives of the Programme (paras. 2 and 3 of the Programme).

## **A. Priority area 1: legal responses to address the pollution crisis**

### **1. Strategy**

11. In collaboration with relevant partners and stakeholders,<sup>5</sup> and in cooperation, as appropriate, with the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements to ensure the mutual supportiveness of efforts, support countries to strengthen, develop or implement appropriate legal instruments and frameworks and build the related capacity to prevent, control and manage pollution of the air and of freshwater, marine, coastal and terrestrial environments that could affect the environment and human health. This may include support for the strengthened implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, taking into account the developments, guidance and tools relating to multilateral environmental agreements and those of other existing frameworks on chemicals and waste.

### **2. Actions**

12. Undertake or update national, regional and global assessments of legal frameworks on pollution, in collaboration with Montevideo national focal points, designated country contacts of the multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant partners and stakeholders, and provide the associated practical guidance for countries on developing or strengthening legal frameworks and their implementation (for example, model legislation and sample approaches, best practices and model indicators, taking into account the diversity of national circumstances), to prevent, control and manage environmental pollution.

13. Support countries in the review and development of adequate and effective subnational, national, regional or international legal and institutional frameworks relating to environmental pollution, taking into account the need to incentivize relevant actors towards circular approaches and zero pollution.

14. Support countries to strengthen the effective implementation of legal and institutional frameworks relating to environmental pollution.

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<sup>5</sup> The partners and stakeholders include national and international governmental and non-governmental entities that align with the vision and objectives of the Programme and that have been collaborating, or may collaborate in the future, with UNEP to maximize synergies in achieving common goals.

15. Support enhanced and sustainable capacity-building for all stakeholders (in particular for judges, prosecutors and other enforcement officials) for the increased effectiveness of legal and institutional frameworks relating to environmental pollution, including through partnership with judicial institutes and networks.

### 3. Outcomes

16. By 2025, at least 20 countries<sup>6</sup> will have been supported to strengthen, develop or implement appropriate legal and institutional frameworks and build the related capacity to prevent, control and manage pollution of the air and of freshwater, marine, coastal and terrestrial environments that could affect the environment and human health, including through support for the strengthened implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other existing frameworks on chemicals and waste.

17. By 2030, significant progress will have been made towards a pollution-free planet as a result of the contribution of Montevideo Programme V, which will have supported at least 25 additional countries to strengthen, develop or implement appropriate legal and institutional frameworks and build related capacity to prevent, control and manage pollution of the air and of freshwater, marine, coastal and terrestrial environments that could affect the environment and human health, including through support for the strengthened implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other existing frameworks on chemicals and waste.

## B. Priority area 2: legal responses to combat the climate crisis

### 1. Strategy

18. In collaboration with relevant partners and stakeholders, support countries to strengthen, develop or implement appropriate legal and institutional frameworks at the subnational or national level and build the related capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change, contributing to the goals of the Paris Agreement and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements.

### 2. Actions

19. Undertake or update national, regional and global assessments of legal and institutional frameworks, in collaboration with Montevideo national focal points, designated country contacts of the multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant partners and stakeholders, and provide associated practical guidance for countries on developing or strengthening subnational or national legal frameworks and their implementation (for example, model legislation and sample approaches, best practices and model indicators, taking into account the diversity of national circumstances), with regard to climate change.

20. Undertake or update, in collaboration with Montevideo national focal points and other relevant partners and stakeholders, the monitoring and dissemination of data and information on climate litigation trends.

21. Support countries in the review and development of adequate and effective subnational or national legal and institutional frameworks relevant to climate change, taking into account the need to incentivize relevant actors towards achieving net zero emissions.

22. Support countries to strengthen the effective implementation of legal and institutional frameworks with regard to climate change.

23. Support enhanced and sustainable capacity-building for all stakeholders (in particular for judges, prosecutors and other enforcement officials) for increased effectiveness of legal and institutional frameworks on climate change, including through partnership with judicial institutes and networks and biennial publications on the global status of climate litigation.

### 3. Outcomes

24. By 2025, at least 20 countries<sup>7</sup> will have been supported to strengthen, develop or implement appropriate legal and institutional frameworks at the subnational or national level and build the related

<sup>6</sup> This estimate is based on the assumption that three thematic priority areas will be chosen during the in-person segment of the first global meeting of national focal points.

<sup>7</sup> See footnote 6.

capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change, contributing to the goals of the Paris Agreement and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements.

25. By 2030, government and non-government development actions will be fully compatible with the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement as a result of the contribution of Montevideo Programme V, which will have supported at least 25 additional countries to strengthen, develop or implement appropriate legal and institutional frameworks at the subnational or national level and build the related capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

## **C. Priority area 3: legal responses to combat the biodiversity crisis**

### **1. Strategy**

26. In collaboration with relevant partners and stakeholders, and in cooperation, as appropriate, with the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, support countries to strengthen, develop or implement appropriate legal and institutional frameworks and build related capacity regarding the implementation of relevant goals and commitments under biodiversity-related conventions and other agreements, including the post-2020 global biodiversity framework that is expected to be adopted in 2022 by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fifteenth meeting.

### **2. Actions**

27. Undertake or update national, regional and global assessments of legal and institutional frameworks, in collaboration with Montevideo national focal points, designated country contacts of the multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant partners and stakeholders, and provide associated practical guidance and tailored technical assistance for countries on developing or strengthening subnational or national legal and institutional frameworks and their implementation (for example, legislative guidance materials, model legislation and sample approaches, best practices and model indicators, taking into account the diversity of national circumstances) with regard to the implementation of relevant goals and commitments under biodiversity-related conventions and other agreements, including the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

28. Support countries in the review and development of adequate and effective subnational or national legal and institutional frameworks relevant to implementation, monitoring and reporting for relevant goals and commitments under biodiversity-related conventions and other agreements, including the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

29. Support countries to strengthen the effective implementation of environmental law and legal frameworks relevant to the implementation of relevant goals and commitments in biodiversity-related conventions and other agreements, within the framework of triangular and South-South cooperation, including the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

30. Support enhanced and sustainable capacity-building for all stakeholders (in particular for judges, prosecutors and other enforcement officials), including through partnership with judicial institutes and networks, for the increased effectiveness of legal and institutional frameworks appropriate for the implementation of relevant goals and commitments under biodiversity-related conventions and other agreements, including the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

### **3. Outcomes**

31. By 2025, at least 20 countries<sup>8</sup> will have been supported to strengthen, develop or implement appropriate legal and institutional frameworks and to build the related capacity for the implementation of relevant goals and commitments under biodiversity-related conventions and other agreements, including the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

32. By 2030, nature will have started to recover and will be contributing positively to ecosystem stability and human well-being through the contribution of Montevideo Programme V, which will have supported at least 25 additional countries to strengthen, develop or implement appropriate legal and institutional frameworks and build the related capacity for the implementation of relevant goals and commitments under biodiversity-related conventions and other agreements, including the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

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<sup>8</sup> See footnote 6.

## **D. Cross-cutting activities: integrated legal responses to address the triple planetary crisis**

### **1. Strategy**

33. In collaboration with relevant partners and stakeholders, support countries to advance environmental rule of law through cross-cutting and integrated activities that help to address the triple planetary crisis, including by providing support to implement multilateral environmental agreements, in cooperation with the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements, as appropriate, to ensure the mutual supportiveness of efforts that are consistent with the vision, objectives and strategic activities of Montevideo Programme V.

### **2. Actions**

#### **(a) Strengthening information and data exchange and raising awareness of the role of environmental law**

34. Taking into account information exchange obligations, mechanisms and tools under multilateral environmental agreements, develop innovative methodologies, including for environmental impact assessments; promote information and data exchange among stakeholders involved in the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental law; and raise awareness of environmental law at different levels, including through the following:

(a) Maintain the UNEP Law and Environment Assistance Platform (UNEP-LEAP) as an information and data exchange platform for Montevideo national focal points;

(b) Undertake triangular and South-South cooperation activities on environmental law relating to information and data exchange, including support for possible mentorship or twinning programmes between courts, legal clinics and Governments;

(c) Provide support to judicial institutes and networks, including by expanding the online UNEP Judicial Portal,<sup>9</sup> created in cooperation with the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment,<sup>10</sup> whose purpose is to facilitate information and data exchange among judges and other legal stakeholders globally;

(d) Develop and support initiatives to break down working silos between different stakeholders, including through the development of multidirectional partnerships in environmental rule of law with United Nations regional commissions and other subregional and regional organizations and by facilitating information-sharing with the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements;

(e) Support initiatives to raise awareness among legal professionals and other key stakeholders of the role of environmental law, including by establishing partnerships and conducting joint training activities with law societies, bar associations and law enforcement authorities (such as customs officials, police and investigators), and by conducting outreach through film and media with children and young people, women, networks of environmental human rights defenders, business and private sector actors, and civil society and faith-based organizations, to disseminate information on key topics of environmental law;

(f) Provide support to Montevideo national focal points to discuss and identify emerging concepts, principles and practices relevant to the development and implementation of environmental law, including by examining commonalities with other fields of law;

(g) Explore and promote the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in advancing environmental rule of law, and create awareness of legal pluralism and of traditional governance and participation practices in environmental matters;

(h) Explore and promote the role of faith-based institutions in advancing environmental rule of law and build on the dialogues and partnerships established by the UNEP Faith for Earth Initiative;<sup>11</sup>

<sup>9</sup> [judicialportal.informea.org](http://judicialportal.informea.org).

<sup>10</sup> [www.iucn.org/commissions/world-commission-environmental-law/our-work/task-forces/global-judicial-institute-environment](http://www.iucn.org/commissions/world-commission-environmental-law/our-work/task-forces/global-judicial-institute-environment).

<sup>11</sup> [www.unep.org/about-un-environment/faith-earth-initiative](http://www.unep.org/about-un-environment/faith-earth-initiative). Accessed in February 2022.

(i) Explore advocacy, awareness and behaviour change strategies to improve the design and implementation of environmental rule of law initiatives and support communication initiatives by partners to raise awareness of environmental law in targeted contexts.

**(b) Enhancing access to environmental information, public participation in environmental decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters**

35. Develop and promote access rights initiatives, including through the following:

(a) Provide support to countries, upon request, in the development and implementation of national, subregional, regional or global legal instruments relevant to access rights, taking into account legal pluralism and the traditional governance and participation practices in environmental matters used by indigenous peoples and local communities;

(b) Develop awareness-raising materials on access rights, including for indigenous peoples, women, children, young people, environmental human rights defenders and faith-based organizations;

(c) Provide support for the establishment and strengthening of environmental courts and tribunals at the subnational, national and regional levels to promote access to justice in environmental matters;

(d) Provide support for the development or strengthening of environmental law legal clinics as a mechanism to promote public participation and access to justice in environmental matters;

(e) Provide support to countries to build awareness-raising and capacity-building programmes for, among other things, law societies and bar associations; public, judicial and administrative officials; policymakers; national human rights institutions and jurists;

(f) Provide support for the subregional, regional and global exchange of information and experiences and for the sharing of good practices on access rights;

(g) Undertake studies on emerging areas in environmental law to enhance access to information on environmental law.

**(c) Strengthening the relationship between environmental law and the three pillars of the Charter of the United Nations**

36. Promote the recognition of the mutually reinforcing relationship between environmental law and the three pillars of the Charter of the United Nations, namely human rights, peace and security, and development, including through the following:

(a) Undertake joint activities with United Nations entities and specialized agencies, including the United Nations Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme and United Nations country teams, on advancing environmental rule of law in countries in crisis and in post-conflict countries;

(b) Support the implementation of the United Nations Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights;<sup>12</sup>

(c) In collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant partners and stakeholders, develop and implement initiatives to promote and protect the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, including through the preparation of practical guides and models of best practices;

(d) Develop and implement initiatives to support countries in building back better and greener from the COVID-19 pandemic.

**(d) Strengthening education and capacity-building in environmental law**

37. Encourage and facilitate action on environmental law, with a view to empowering people and communities and strengthening the institutional capacity of countries to address environmental matters, including through the following:

(a) Partner with universities, academic institutions, legal education boards, research institutes, law networks, law societies, bar associations and other relevant organizations to scale up environmental law education, including by providing support for curriculum development, train-the-trainers programmes, twinning programmes, scholarships and legal clinics;

<sup>12</sup> For more information, see [www.un.org/en/content/action-for-human-rights/index.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/content/action-for-human-rights/index.shtml). Accessed in February 2022.

- (b) Support child and youth education on environmental law through environmental legal education initiatives;
  - (c) Collaborate with technology organizations to scale up initiatives to digitize and disseminate environmental law education materials to reach more people, especially in the global South;
  - (d) Collaborate with judicial training institutes, judicial networks, law academies, law societies, bar associations and other organizations to promote training for legal professionals and enforcement officials;
  - (e) Explore and promote awareness of legal pluralism, traditional governance and participation practices in environmental matters, including alternative dispute resolution techniques and traditional conflict resolution techniques used by indigenous peoples and local communities, and take into account such techniques with regard to environmental legal education initiatives;
  - (f) Support initiatives to train and educate relevant workers in both the formal and informal sectors in environmental law;
  - (g) Support the development of online teaching and learning tools in environmental law, including compliance training on multilateral environmental agreements, within the framework of triangular and South-South cooperation;
  - (h) Support the sharing of good practices and advances in emerging and established areas of environmental law, with a focus on legal approaches to address the pollution, biodiversity and climate crises, through environmental law conferences and symposiums at the national and regional levels.
- (e) **Strengthening regulatory frameworks regarding environmental, social and governance issues and the private sector**
38. Support countries to strengthen legal and institutional frameworks that create incentives towards sustainability across the financial sector, including through the following:
- (a) Undertake or update national, regional and global assessments of legal frameworks, in collaboration with Montevideo national focal points, designated country contacts of multilateral environmental agreements, and other relevant partners and stakeholders, and provide associated practical guidance for countries (for example, model legislation and sample approaches, best practices and model indicators, taking into account the diversity of national circumstances) on developing or strengthening national and institutional frameworks on environmental, social and governance issues;
  - (b) Provide tailored technical assistance to countries to strengthen national legal frameworks and institutional capacity and incorporate environmental, social and governance reporting, disclosure, due diligence, “just transition” and carbon market structures in line with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights of the United Nations, and other governance requirements as they relate to companies, finance institutions and other private sector actors.
- (f) **Enhancing legal frameworks and their implementation on environmental liability**
39. Support countries to strengthen legal frameworks and their implementation as they relate to environmental liability, including through the following:
- (a) Undertake or update national, regional and global assessments of legal frameworks, in collaboration with Montevideo national focal points, designated country contacts of the multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant partners and stakeholders, and provide the associated practical guidance for countries (for example, model legislation and sample approaches, best practices and model indicators, taking into account the diversity of national circumstances) on developing or strengthening subnational or national legal and institutional frameworks and their implementation with regard to environmental liability;
  - (b) Provide tailored technical assistance to countries to strengthen national legal frameworks and institutional capacity relating to environmental liability;
  - (c) Support the development of an expert group on international environmental liability, composed of representatives from government, the private sector, academia and civil society, to share knowledge and experience.

**(g) Preventing and combating environmental crime through the law**

40. Support countries to strengthen legal frameworks and their implementation and enforcement, including those relating to multilateral environmental agreements and other international legal instruments relevant to environmental crime, including through the following:

(a) Undertake research to examine definitional approaches to “environmental crime” and related legal concepts that address serious environmental harm, and develop guidelines for consideration under Montevideo Programme V;

(b) Undertake or update national, regional and global assessments of legal frameworks, in collaboration with Montevideo national focal points, designated country contacts of multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant partners and stakeholders, and provide associated practical guidance for countries (for example, model legislation and sample approaches, best practices and model indicators, taking into account the diversity of national circumstances) on developing or strengthening subnational, national, regional or global legal frameworks and their implementation with regard to environmental crime;

(c) Provide tailored technical assistance to countries to strengthen national legal frameworks and institutional capacity, including their implementation and enforcement, to meet the requirements of multilateral environmental agreements and other international legal instruments relating to environmental crime;

(d) Design and deliver sustainable training courses on environmental crime for national enforcement authorities and other relevant stakeholders that include opportunities for the sharing of knowledge and experience among relevant actors, including through the use of e-learning resources;

(e) Prepare compilations of relevant environmental crime case law to be uploaded to the UNEP Judicial Portal.

## **V. Delivering support using the UNEP Law and Environment Assistance Platform and criteria for assessing requests**

41. UNEP-LEAP is the central delivery and coordination mechanism for information exchange and for the implementation of activities under the Programme. It is an online platform comprising three substantive and interconnected sections: a clearing-house mechanism for technical legal assistance for countries on environmental law, which includes a menu of services connected to the core objectives of the Programme; a knowledge base containing cutting-edge information on environmental law; and country profiles. The platform also provides supporting information on the Programme, including contact details for all national focal points, meeting documents, information on the steering committee for implementation and details of the Programme’s partners. The secretariat launched UNEP-LEAP during the online segment of the first global meeting of national focal points, in June 2021.

42. Requests for support may be made to the secretariat, either by emailing [unepmontevideo@un.org](mailto:unepmontevideo@un.org) or by entering the request directly into the UNEP-LEAP platform at [leap.unep.org](http://leap.unep.org). Once a request has been received, the secretariat will evaluate it in a transparent manner against the objectives of the Programme. In alignment with its paragraph 3, the Programme will deliver technical legal assistance for initiatives across the following broad categories:

(a) Support for the development of adequate and effective environmental legislation and legal frameworks to address environmental issues;

(b) Support to strengthen the effective implementation of environmental law, including support for enhanced capacity-building. Upon receipt of a request for assistance, the secretariat will use the following criteria to assess whether it can be considered under the Programme:

- (i) Alignment with the objectives of the Programme (para. 3 of the Programme);
- (ii) Alignment with the strategic activities of the Programme (para. 4 of the Programme);
- (iii) Alignment with the UNEP medium-term strategy for the period 2022–2025 and with the relevant rules and procedures of UNEP;
- (iv) Any future guidance to be provided by the global meetings of national focal points.

43. If a proposal meets the criteria set out above, the secretariat will apply the following criteria in determining the prioritization of the proposal, meaning whether the proposal should be waitlisted or implemented immediately:

- (a) Alignment with the Programme's priority areas for implementation;
- (b) Supportive feedback from a national focal point;
- (c) The views of the steering committee for implementation and partners, as appropriate;
- (d) The potential innovation, replicability and scalability of the proposal;
- (e) Alignment with the country's United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework;
- (f) The history of collaboration between the requestor and UNEP;
- (g) The comparative advantage of UNEP in the implementation of the request or the availability of an appropriate implementing partner;
- (h) The availability of funding for the activity.

44. The secretariat is committed to applying the above criteria in a transparent manner and providing information thereon to the requesting country.

45. If the request meets the above criteria, it will enter a design phase, which will then be followed by an implementation phase. If consent is given by the requesting country, the request will be shared with relevant partners. An online activity tracker in UNEP-LEAP will then provide information about the nature and progress of the request, if the country consents to such information being shared.

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