

STOP CREATING CONFUSION: JUST ACT !

The Global Pact for the Environment could be a milestone for international environmental law (IEL), significantly enhancing enforcement on all levels, and at a time when we are facing an unprecedented environmental crisis. A Pact could provide crucial support in protecting the environment, in holding polluters accountable and could recognise the fundamental human right to an ecological sound environment, for both present and future generations.

1) Quick fix: implementing the Rule of Law

One of the main objectives of the GPE process is to strengthen existing International Environmental Law, and improve its enforcement. Also to accomplish the need of a improved coordination of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and sustained capacity building programmes.

There are aspects of global environmental governance that could be implemented by UNEP in the interim. For example, clustering of the existing MEAs under their purview, and an examination of all MEAs to determine how their work could be better coordinated.

Other activities could include encouraging review mechanisms and implementation within specific MEAs, as well as more efforts to promote the ratification and implementation of environmental agreements.

Strategic oversight by UNEP could also facilitate a review of best practices in international environmental agreements, and having identified them, examination of how these practices could be adopted by other regimes. Ideas for best practice in monitoring and evaluation could also be included in this analysis. We will approach the new appointed Executive Director of UNEP to ask her to make this task a priority.

2) A Global Pact should be a package of measures

We strongly believe that, to be truly effective, the Global Pact for the Environment should consist of a package of measures, including:

- Agreement on the principles of International Environmental Law.
- Agreement on enhancing the global governance of environmental law by effectively enhancing the coordination of existing MEAs, their secretariats and scientific bodies.
- Encouraging and facilitating capacity building programmes to help support the implementation of environmental law at all levels, focused on governments, legal professionals and civil society.
- Financial and technical support for countries and groups that don't have the resources to implement the Global Pact.
- Effective measures to develop and implement programmes to raise awareness of environmental issues, and environmental law at the national level.

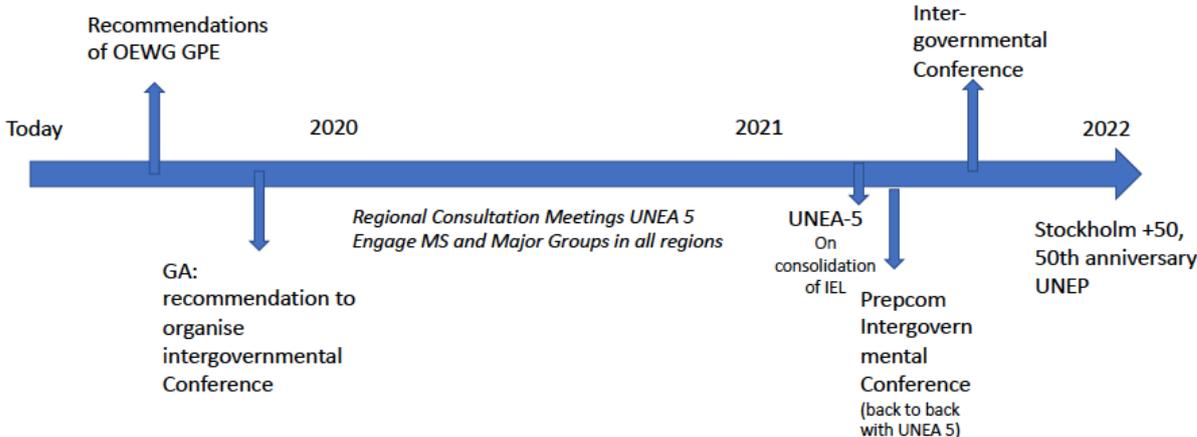
3) Looking beyond: the roadmap towards Stockholm +50

The Global Pact must be an inclusive process to establish a framework in order to allow Member States and all relevant stakeholders to take ownership for the outcome; ownership that will be critical for its effective implementation. We see the Stockholm +50 anniversary as an appropriate date for the high-level launch of a Pact, and for its endorsement by Heads of States.

UNEP’s role is crucial to support the process towards a Pact, a role justified by their mandate and expertise, and which acknowledges the vital role they will play in its eventual implementation. As Stockholm +50 will mark the establishment of UNEP at the 1972 Conference on the Human Environment, it is fitting that we mark the anniversary with a package of measures to radically strengthen the Environmental Rule of Law.

A timeline concluding in 2022 will give Member States and civil society groups sufficient time to agree on a substantive international agreement for strengthening the development and implementation of international environmental law. It will also allow time to design the capacity building and awareness raising programmes that should accompany it. We propose that UNEA 5 be used to focus on and support the process towards its launch in 2022.

ROADMAP



Civil society Organisations present at the 3rd substantive meeting: Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future (facilitator), World Animal Net, CliMates, Commons Cluster NGO Major Group, Global Pact for the Environment, ICEL, IIDMA, Common Home of Humanity, Oceancare, Environment Friends Society, SusWatch Kenya.