SECOND WORKSHOP ON UNGA RESOLUTION 73/333
FOLLOW-UP TO THE REPORT OF THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GORUP ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO GA RESOLUTION 72/277
June 22, 2021.

Statements by the Institute for Planetary Synthesis

Point (ii). What are the benefits of having UNEA as a central collaboration platform that provides overarching policy guidance and sets the global environmental agenda.

When multilateralism is on the wane, much of our UN(EP) work grinds to a halt at the global level. But here UNEA can play a powerful role by fostering dialogue and suggesting solutions, as mentioned by our speaker Izabella Teireira. This is particularly urgent if we are to make headway in the near future with the implementation of 73/333.

To promote work on 73/333 when UNEP Member States are adamant that they will not consider any binding statements or legislation, UNEA can bring together an open Coalition of Member States, that States and others mentioned in the substantive paragraphs of 73/333 can join as they are motivated to do so to look at ways of implementing the whole of 73/333 or to focus on specific paragraphs.

Here are examples:

- Groups of States and representatives of specialized agencies with similar challenges can share ways in which they approach the implementation of 73/333 (14) and (15), or share solutions to challenges encountered in implementing international law at all levels--Montevideo para(17);
  This can at a more auspicious time lead to UNEA adopting a Day on Action on Environmental Law involving the grass roots including Local Authorities and Schools, as mentioned by our colleagues in the NGO MG .

- Groups of States can voluntarily Report back each UNEA providing innovative and inspiring examples of how a country or groups of countries and their peoples have been able to implement specific environmental laws and policies from local to global levels and ***the financial and other***

advantages experienced, as well as ways in which an initiative can be applied by others.

This could in time increase the political will of all Member States to act, thus promoting the implementation of 73/333 as a whole. This process is likely to be speeded up, as problems grow due to human's war on the environment or the perceived need for multilateralism increases due to other causes.

Point (iv). How can UNEP increase its visibility and engagement in international processes?

UNEP can drastically increase its visibility and engagement in international processes, by, continuing to provide services and tools that are not easily located elsewhere and making the availability of those tools, documents and facilities known to all those to whom this is relevant. People are at present looking for ways to end the war on Nature and UNEP has a fount of relevant tools to share. Outreach can be enhanced via the list serves of all of the 9 Major Groups associated with UNEP and also the 19 associated with the UN itself; as well as via educational institutions through the UNESCO national commissions. Social Media is of course the most powerful means for outreach at the moment. All specialized agencies and programmes associated with the UN contend with environmental aspects to their work, UNEP can make use of their list serves when relevant.

One tool that would be extremely useful for all Member States and also civil society would be an upgraded InforMEA, UNEP's computer (financed by the EU). InforMEA is dedicated at present to the MEA s.

It can initially be upgraded to achieve what individuals are unable to do: It can locate the gaps between the several hundred MEAs, and possibly even show ways of closing the gaps between them without undermining their uniqueness. This would make it an invaluable tool for all those associated with the individual MEA s mentioned in 73/333. Experienced programmers possibly already exist, but, if not, professionals wishing to develop new software often hold meetings that last 24 hours to brainstorm together. Such meetings are motivated by the passion for furthering their fields of interest. They are called Hackathons.

InforMEA can be further expanded to embrace myriad approaches to implementing environmental law to support the implementation also of Montevideo 5. UNEP Member States can use those sections allotted by InforMEA to reports by Member States to also mention their own activities and those of their peoples to implement environmental law in general. This would expand InforMEA into a tool that is more relevant to civil society as a whole and further enhance the visibility of UNEP among civil society, as well as governments.

For more information, please contact Lisinka Ulatowska, Coordinator, Commons.Cluster.UNO@gmail.com