Law Division

Orientation session for the members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

Patricia Kameri-Mbote, Director, Law Division
Tuesday, 10 March 2026 | 9:00-17:30 | Conference Room 4

Law Division carries out the functions of UNEP in the field of environmental law and governance

The Law Division supports countries in the **development** and **implementation** of **environmental law** at global, regional and national levels to help respond to existing or emerging environmental issues and internationally agreed environmental commitments and goals.

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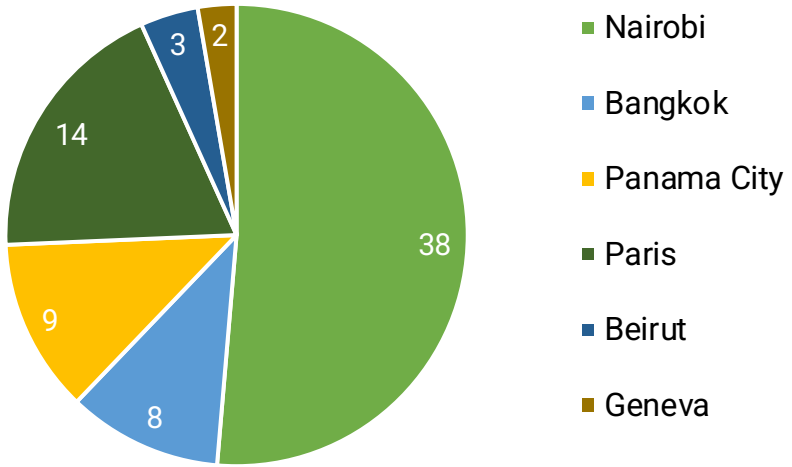
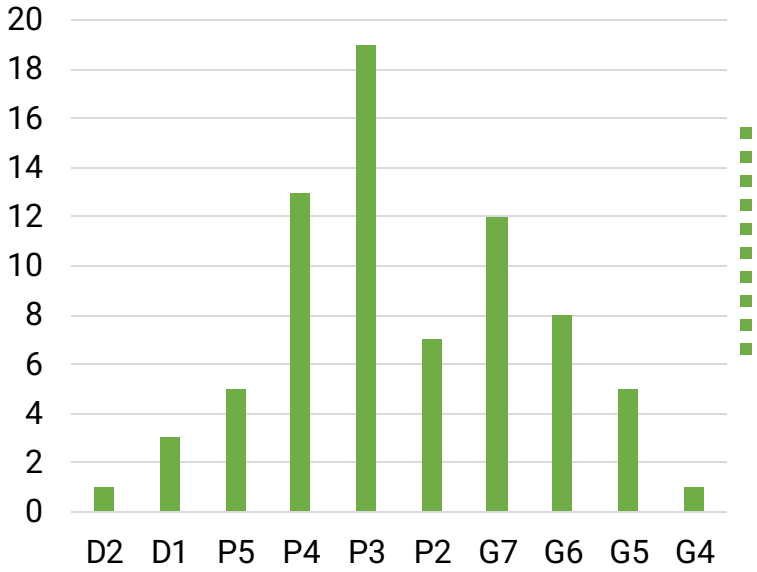
Human Capital

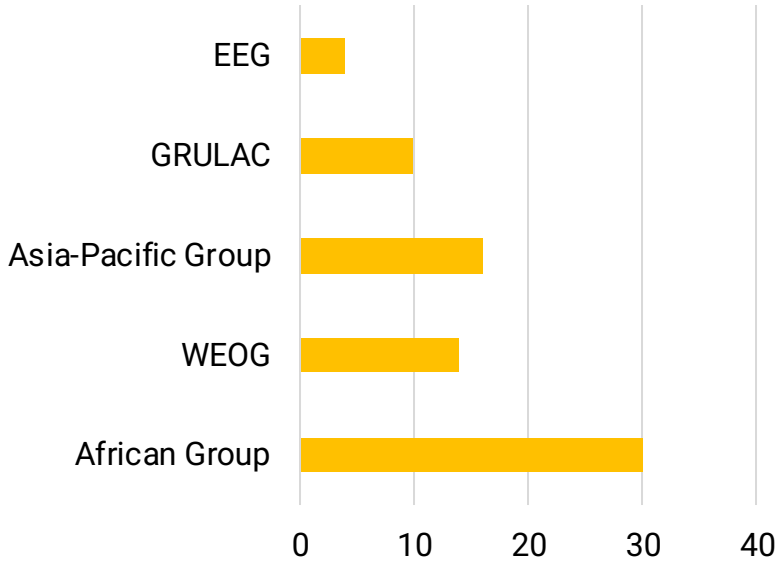
Distribution of **74 staff** through 6 duty stations



Distribution of staff per grade



Distribution of staff per regional group



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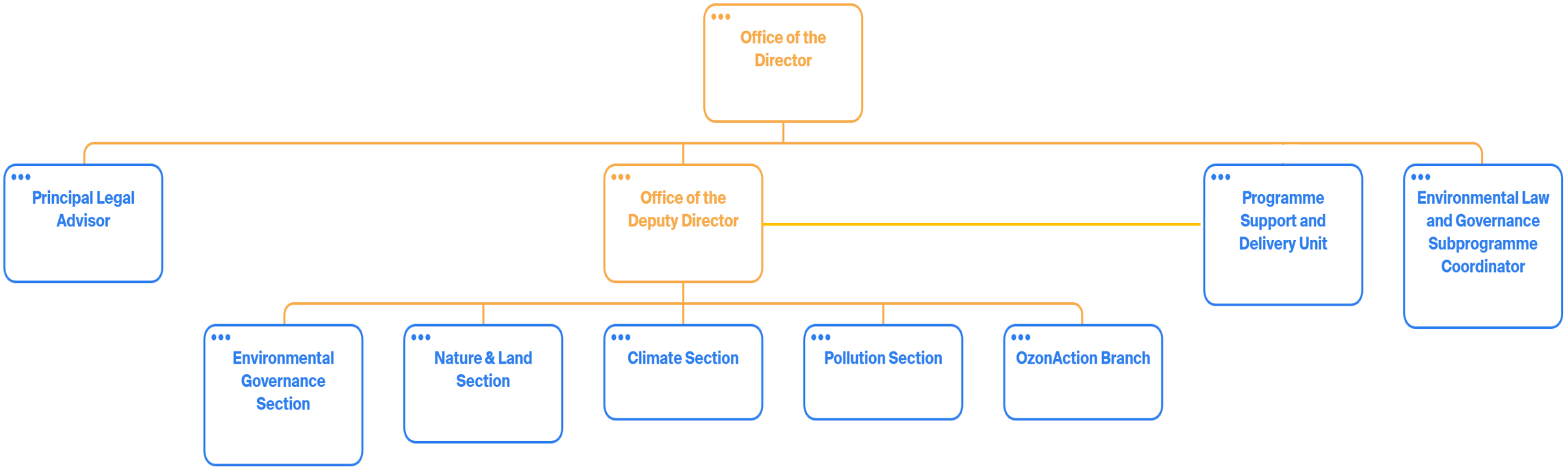
Organigramme



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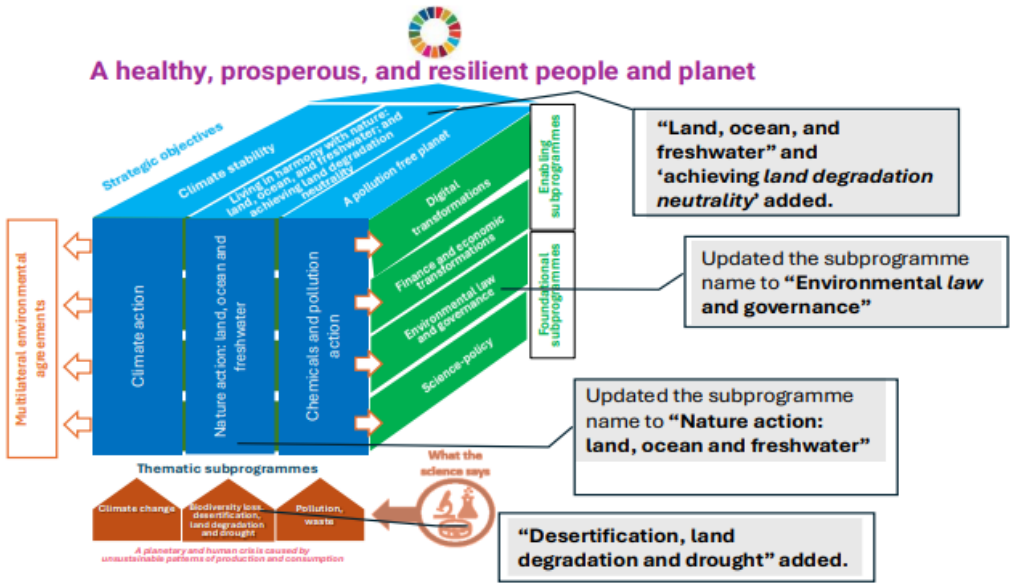
Financial Capital



- Most of the Division's work focuses on delivering the **Environmental Law and Governance foundational sub-programme** within UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy 2026-2029.

- Within the current MTS, the estimated portfolio value is of 99 Million USD.

- The sub-programme also includes:
  - Environment Management Group (EMG)
  - UN sustainability (SUN)

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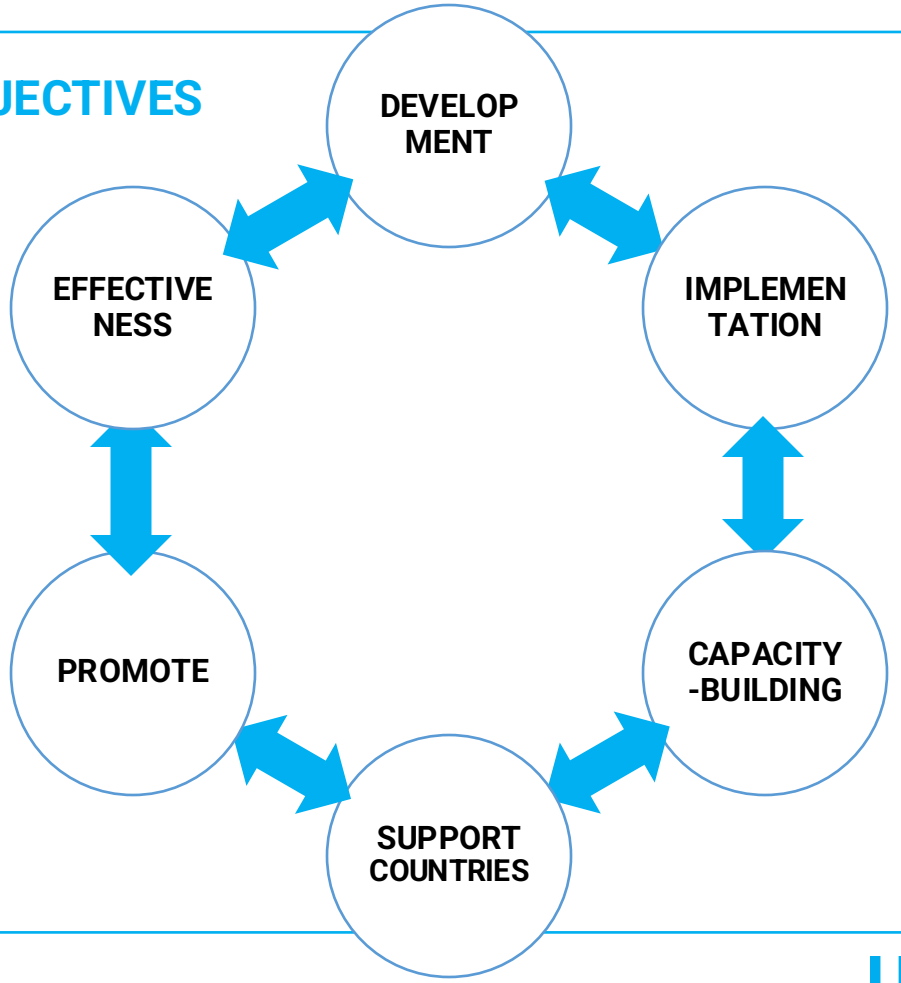
Montevideo Programme as Law Division's foundational delivery platform

UNEA Resolution 4/20: Fifth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (2020-2029)

VISION

Promote the development and implementation of environmental rule of law, strengthen the related capacity in countries and contribute to the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda

OBJECTIVES



The Law Division has three core functions:

01

Technical assistance and capacity building for countries

02

Advisory services to other Divisions/Offices and intergovernmental processes

03

Thought leadership and collective intelligence

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1) Law Division provides technical assistance and capacity building to Member States. For example:

- From July to August 2025, UNEP supported **12 countries** on air quality, chemicals management, plastics, climate change, and biosafety, etc.

- **OzonAction** fulfils UNEP's mandate as an Implementing Agency of the Multilateral Fund of the **Montreal Protocol,** through the Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) and national implementation.

UNEP Toolboxes for Policymakers in Textile Production & Consumption Countries, in close collaboration with Industry and Economy Division

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2) Law Division provides advisory services to other Divisions/Offices/MEAs/Processes

- **Legal and procedural support** to UNEA, CPR, and other subsidiary and intersessional bodies
- **Coordinates** legal and procedural support for various entities
- **Substantive support:** legal, policy and governance support, including to other Divisions/Offices

Legal, procedural and substantive support at UNEA-7

Organization of MEAs Day, 10 December 2025, UNEA-7

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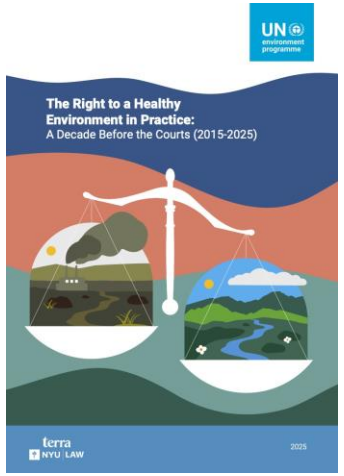
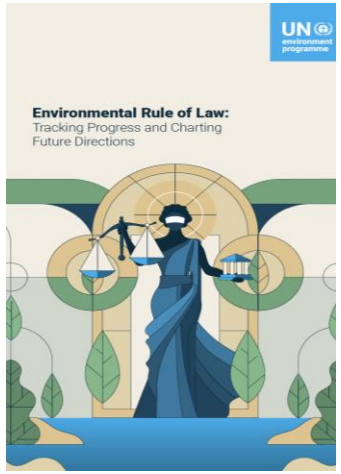
3.1) Law Division provides thought-leadership in environmental law and governance

- Right to a healthy environment
- Emerging and frontier issues
  - Beyond formal law
  - Space sustainability
  - Sustainability litigation
  - Environmental rights
  - Environmental crime
  - Etc.





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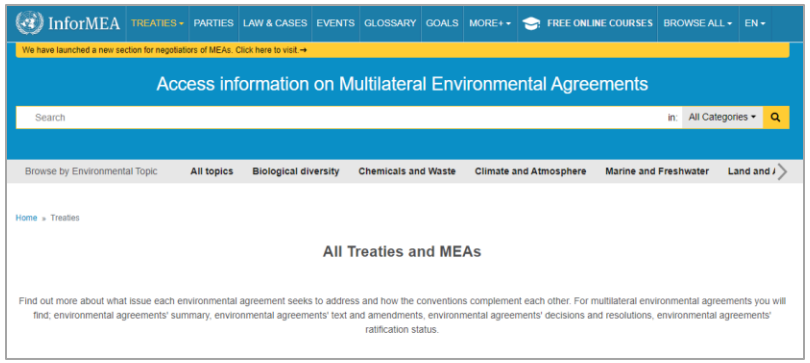
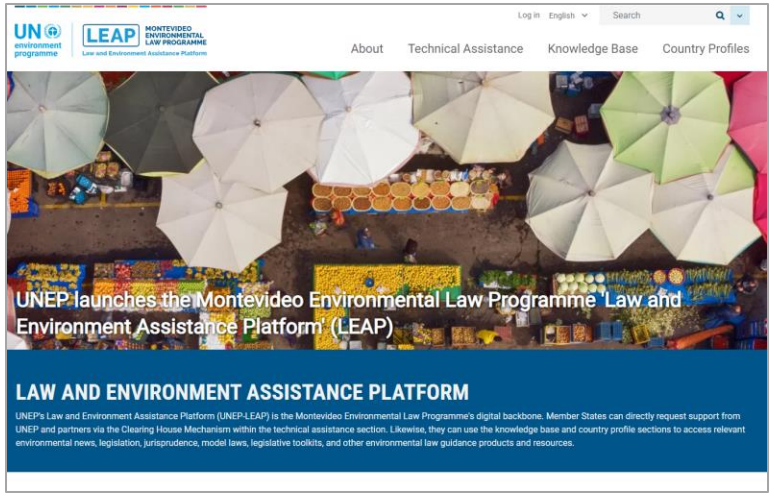
3.2) Law Division provides collective intelligence by hosting different platforms:

1. InforMEA



2. UNEP-LEAP



3. Global Judicial Portal

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Law Division relies strongly on its partnerships:

- Governments
- MEA Secretariats
- Parliamentarians
- Judiciaries
- UN bodies
- Civil society
- Indigenous Peoples
- Private sector

MEAs Heads at MEAs Day, 10 December 2025

UNEP ED and Chief Justice Antonio Benjamin, Chair of the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment, COP29, 16 Nov 2024

Intergovernmental negotiations at UNEA-7

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Thank you

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