UN environment programme

Law Division

Orientation session for the members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

Stadler Trengove, Principal Legal Advisor, Law Division
Tuesday, 13 October 2026| 9:30-17:30 | Conference Room 4 | Hybrid

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



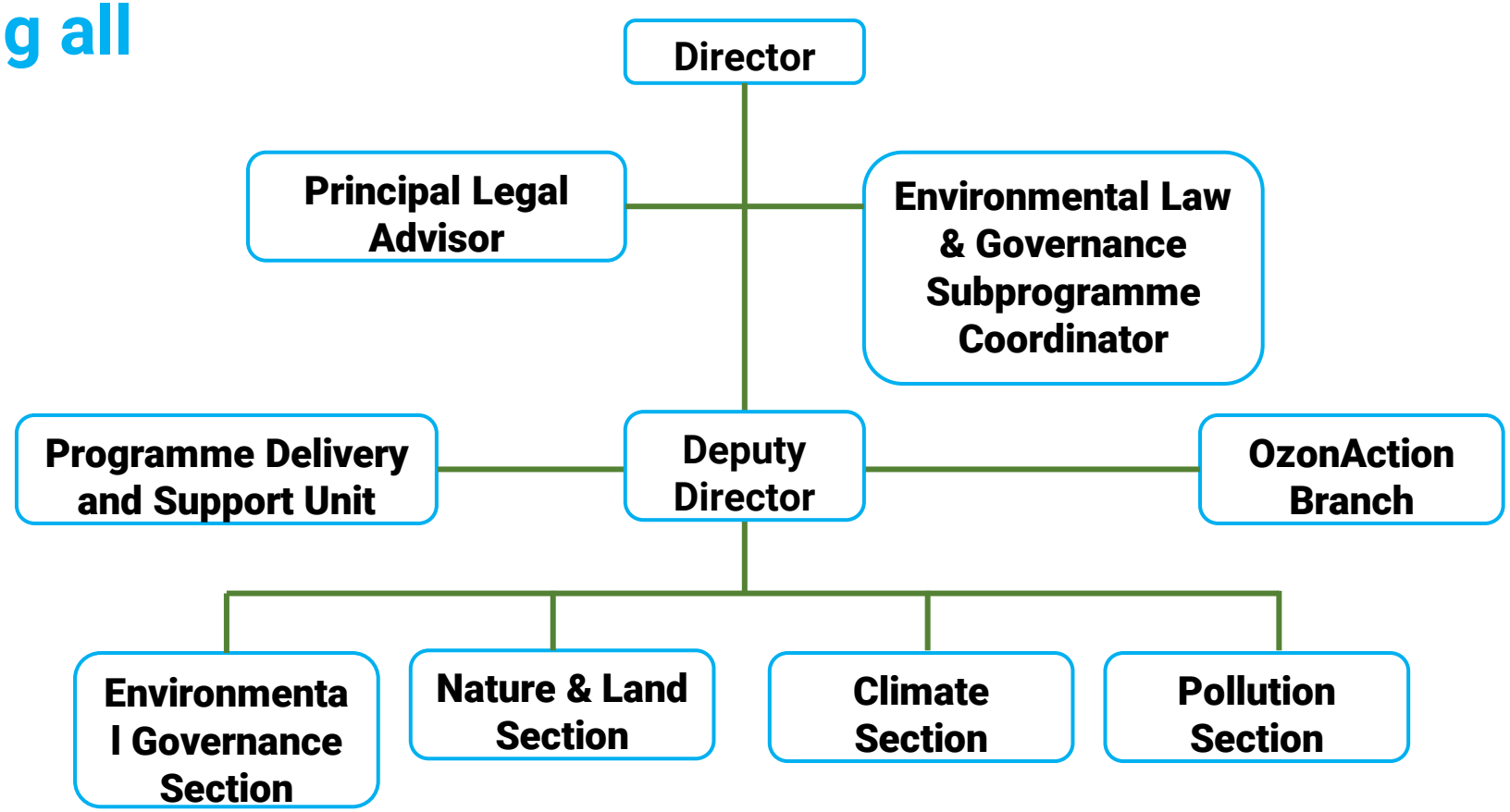
The Law Division supports countries in the development and implementation of environmental law at global, regional and national levels to help respond to existing or emerging environmental issues and internationally agreed environmental commitments and goals.

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Law Division's has 73 encumbered posts distributed through 5 duty stations, representing all regional groups



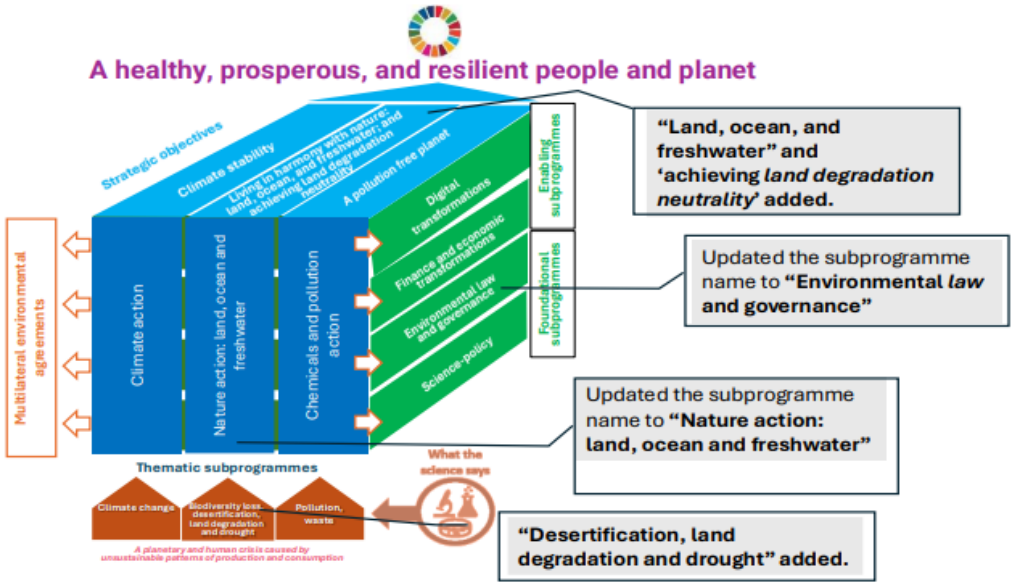
Law Division structure is aligned to UNEP's thematic priorities



Data as of 23 September 2026

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Law Division is the main delivery mechanism of the Environmental Law and Governance Subprogramme



Aligned with UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy 2026-2029 and Programme of Work 2026-27.

The sub-programme also includes:

- **Environment Management Group (EMG)**
- **UN sustainability (SUN)**

Within the current PoW, the estimated portfolio value is of 99M USD.

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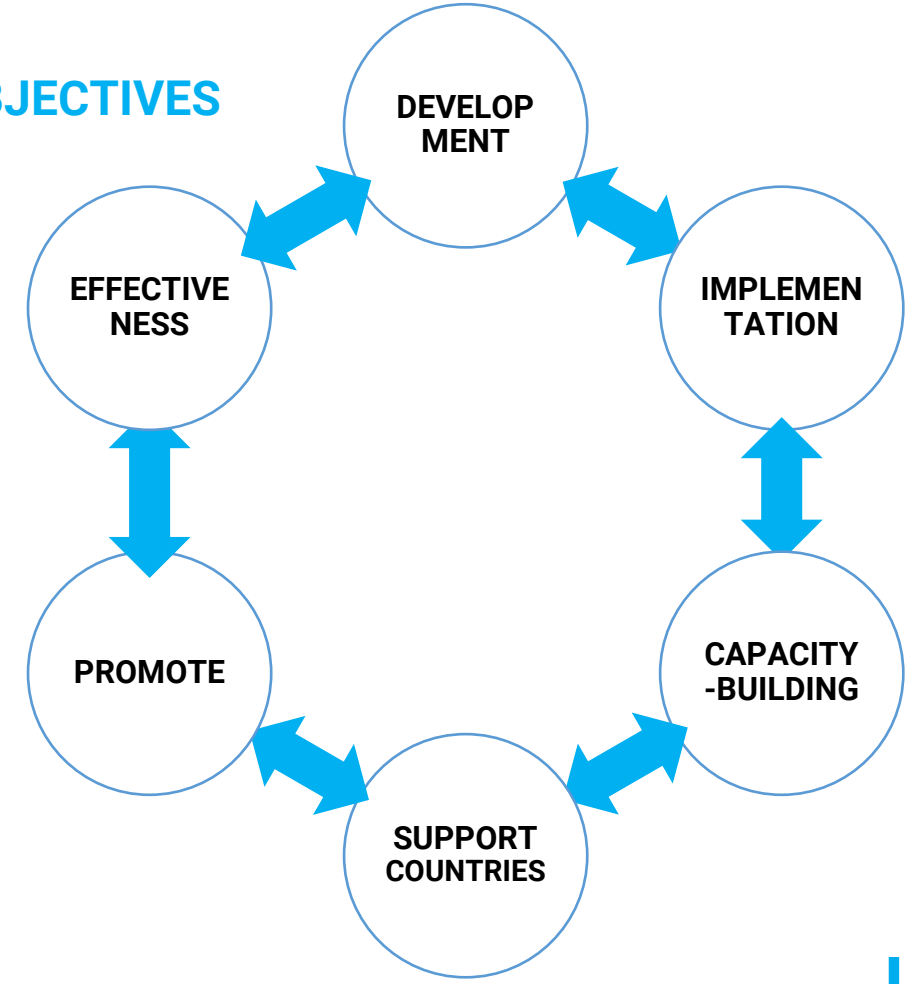
Montevideo Programme as Law Division's foundational delivery platform

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



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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

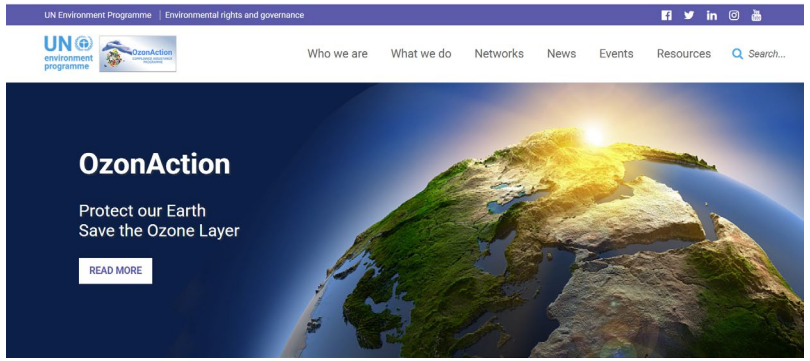
Thought leadership and collective intelligence

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

Under the Montevideo Programme:

From January to July 2026, UNEP supported at least 19 countries on pollution (air quality, waste, chemicals), on climate (carbon markets, climate law), on biodiversity (protection areas, desertification, and on broader governance issues (access rights, negotiations).



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.

At the 98th ExCom (June 2026), a total of 87 projects across 61 countries, at a total of 7,9M USD were approved for UNEP implementation.

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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



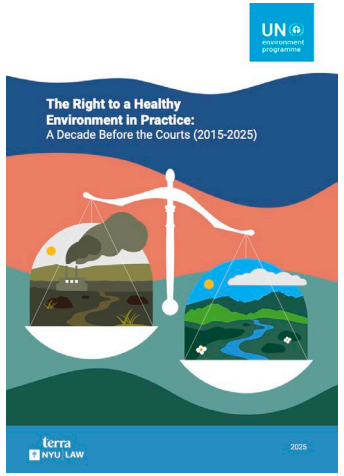
Organization of MEAs Day, 10 December 2025, UNEA-7

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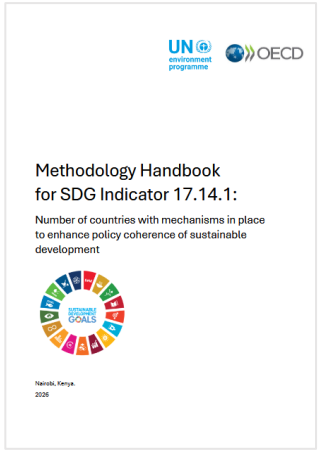
3.1) Law Division provides thought-leadership in environmental law and governance

- **Synergies**
- **Beyond formal law**
- **Space sustainability**
- **Sustainability litigation**
- **Environmental rights**
- **Environmental crime**
- **Etc.**







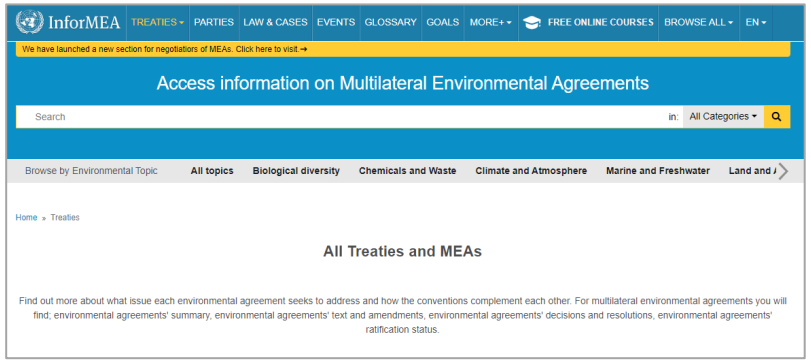




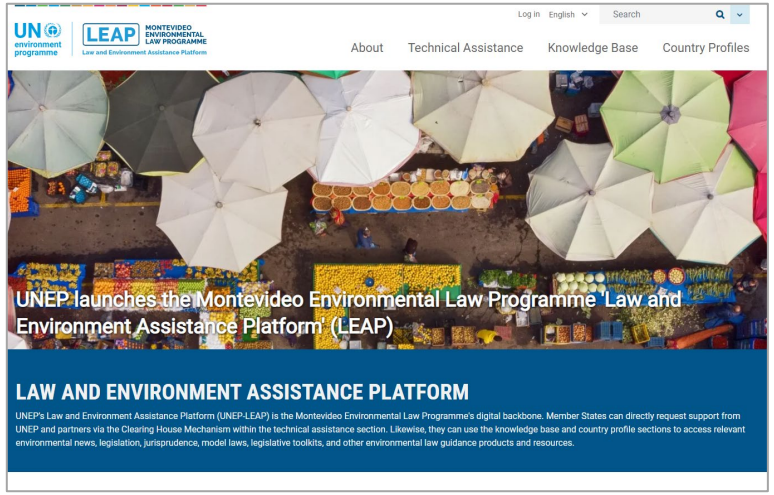


3.2) Law Division provides collective intelligence by hosting different platforms

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





Intergovernmental negotiations at UNEA-7



Special Commission for Caribbean Affairs, PARLATINO, Willemstad, Curacao, 20-21 May 2026

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Thank you

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