

## ***One pager for proposing issues to the Environment Management Group***

### **Promoting the progressive development of law for environmental sustainability**

#### **The issue and its context:**

Environmental law is a key ingredient for good governance of the environment, both at the international and national levels. There is a vast body of international environmental law reflected in global declarations and in multilateral environmental agreements, which addresses pressing global environmental concerns (e.g. biodiversity, climate change) and promote approaches that can advance environmental sustainability (e.g. access to information, public participation and access to justice on environmental matters). National environmental law is also quite developed, although it needs continuous updating to meet evolving priorities and to keep at par with innovative tools that legislation can incorporate. However, the implementation of this vast body of law is a challenge and requires capacities, resources, and knowledge.

Further, the interaction between environmental law and other bodies of law, e.g. trade law, human rights law, criminal law, humanitarian law, is very important and can help deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals. As an example, the mutually reinforcing nature of human rights and environment lies at the core of Sustainable Development Goal 16, and supports the underlying principles of Agenda 2030 for People and Planet. However, not all these linkages are known and exploited fully.

#### **UN wide dimensions:**

Several UN Agencies, programmes and bodies and the Multilateral Environmental Agreements are active in advancing environmental law both in terms of promoting its progressive development and in terms of making it work on the ground. Many more agencies have law programmes that although not directly focused on environmental law, can make an important contribution to advancing environmental sustainability.

While there is sufficient specialization among agencies, programmes and other entities, there could be gains from promoting collaboration for more impactful programmes and to more fully exploit the linkages between environmental law and other fields to ultimately promote sustainable development.

#### **Possible contribution of the EMG**

The Environment Management Group could provide a forum to:

- Map the role played by EMG members in promoting the development, implementation and integrated application of environmental law or other related fields of law that play a significant role in promoting sustainable development and good governance so important for ensuring Planet's wellbeing, peace and security.
- Identify areas where enhanced collaboration is particularly key to promote a holistic approach to the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.
- Provide a platform for the agencies to devise common or interlinked strategies on legal issues

**Specific outputs/outcomes to be achieved**

- Mapping report, including recommendations on areas for enhanced collaboration
- Common strategies among select agencies for more impactful law programmes in support of Agenda 2030.