

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Key features

Type of organisation: United Nations Programme

Charter/Constitution: [United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2997 \(XXVII\) of 15 December 1972](#)

Membership:

- Nature: Representatives from governments
- Number: 193 members

Year of establishment: 1972

Headquarters: Nairobi (Kenya)

UN Office Liaison: New York (United States)

Regional offices: Bangkok (Thailand), Geneva (Switzerland), Manama (Bahrain), Nairobi (Kenya), Panama City (Panama), Washington D.C. (United States)

Sub-regional offices: Abidjan (Ivory Coast), Almaty (Kazakhstan), Apia (Samoa), Kingston (Jamaica), Montevideo (Uruguay)

Liaison offices: Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Brussels (Belgium)

Country offices: Beijing (China), Brasilia (Brazil), Delhi (India), Mexico City (Mexico), Moscow (Russian Federation), Pretoria (South Africa)

Programme offices: Paris (France), Vienna (Austria)

Secretariat staff: 851 (2014)

Total budget: EUR 272 million (2014)

Type of activity: Information exchange, data collection, assessment of state of environment, global policy guidance and advice, development of legal instruments, capacity building

Sectors of activity: Environmental governance, climate change, ecosystem management, disasters and conflicts, chemicals and waste, resource efficiency, environmental review

Webpage: www.unep.org

Members

Universal membership – all UN member states.

Relationship with non-members

Accredited non-members such as regional and international inter-governmental organisations, international non-governmental organisations, major groups and stakeholders including scientific community, the private sector, women's groups can contribute to UNEP.

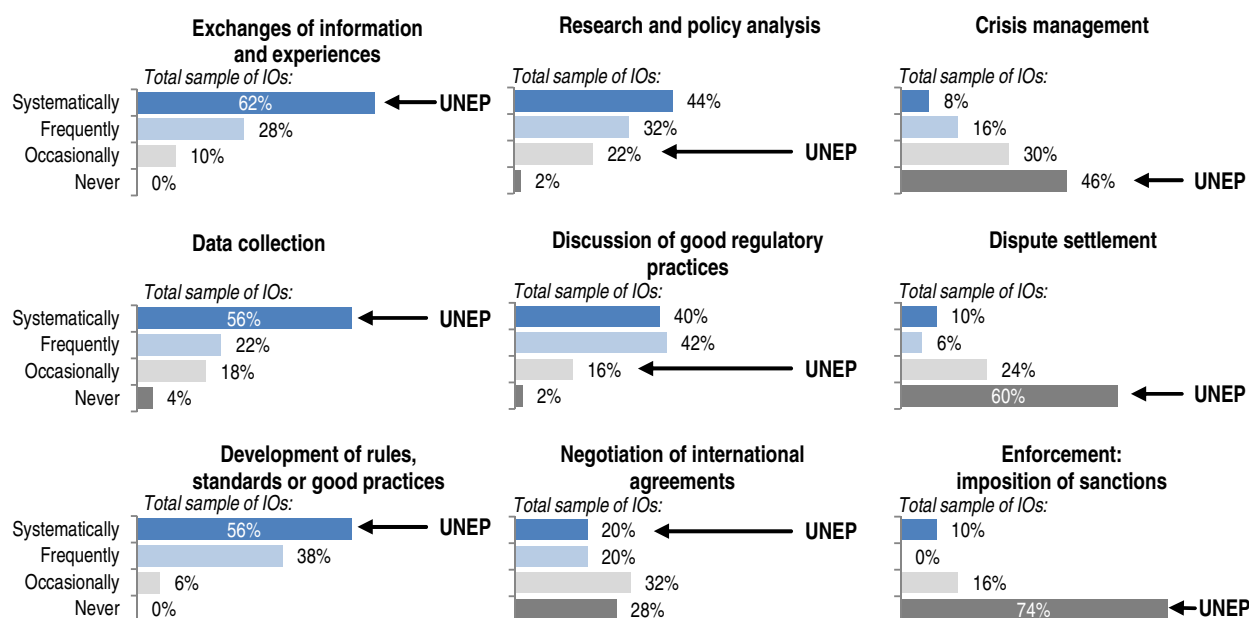
Observers

Holy See, State of Palestine, the European Union, accredited non-members, including inter-governmental organisations, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders.

Mandate

The UNEP is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. The mission of UNEP is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

IRC processes that take place within the United Nations Environment Programme



These figures show how each IO compares to other IOs in its IRC processes. The arrow situates the IO in the overall sample.

Categories of legal and policy instruments

	Is it taking place within the IO?	Approximate number
Treaties for ratification by States (excluding the funding one)	√	13
Legally binding decisions (resolutions/decisions)	√	> 700 decisions; 19 resolutions
Recommendations	√	
Political declarations	√	4
Model treaties or law		
Production of technical standards	√	
Non-binding guidance/best practices document	√	

Interactions with other international organisations active in the field

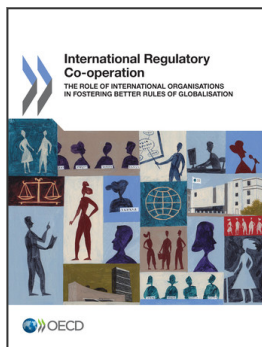
Mechanisms of interaction	Examples
Develop joint instruments	√ UN Plan of Action on DRR for Resilience, Global Environmental Management Initiative (GEMI)
MoU or other agreements*	√ UNICEF, FAO, UN-Women, EU, UN-Habitat
Participate in co-ordinating institution	√ CEB (HLCP, HLCM, UNDG), EMG, UN-Water, UN-Oceans, UN-Energy, SE4ALL, IACG for 10 YFP, IATT (technology), ECESA+, IANWGE (Gender), IACG (SIDS), IASG (Ingenious), UN TT for Habitat III, IANYD (Youth), Regional Coordination Mechanisms (RCMs), regional UNDGs
Joint meetings that provide forum for co-ordination	√ AMCEN, Conference of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment (CAMRE), LAC Forum of Environment Ministers, Regional Commissions, AU, EU, League of Arab States, CARICOM
Observe relevant actions of other bodies	√ Secretariats of various Multilateral Environmental Agreements
Exchange information	√ GSDR, UNSD, UNEP-Live, through inter-agency mechanisms and multi-agency partnerships/coalitions and publications (i.e. those of PEI)

*. Only includes those with strategic framework agreements.

UNEP history

The UNEP was established in June 1972, as a result of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm. On 15 December 1972 the UN General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/3004(XXVII) establishing the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) headquarters in Nairobi and Resolution 2997 (XXVII) establishing a 58 member UNEP Governing Council, its objectives, functions and responsibilities. In March 2013, the UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/67/251 changed the designation of the Governing Council to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) with universal membership. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and UNEP established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 1988. UNEP is also one of several Implementing Agencies for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, and it is also a member of the United Nations Development Group.

Source of Figures and Tables: OECD Survey 2015.



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