



UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA
DE CATALUNYA
BARCELONATECH

Analysis and proposals on Global Environmental Governance on the way to 2012 Rio Conference on Sustainable Development

Master's Thesis in Evaluation and Politics of Sustainability

Master in Sustainability

SÒNIA GARCIA ESTEBAN

BarcelonaTech (UPC)
Barcelona, Spain. June 2011

Abstract

The purpose of this Master's Thesis is to analyze the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development debate that is currently happening into the ongoing preparation process of the 2012 Conference on Sustainable Development, and more concretely about the Global Environmental Governance institutions within the United Nations.

In order to achieve this aim this study contextualizes the previously mentioned debate, through three parts: historical review of the Global Environmental Governance, analysis of the current Multilateral Environmental Agreements, and United Nations actors' analysis. These three parts are essential to understand the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development and Global Environmental Governance debate; as the actors and the Multilateral Environmental Agreements define the Institutional Framework that should make possible to face the Environmental problems and Challenges.

After contextualizing the Global Environmental Governance, the Secretary-General Report on the Preparatory Committee Recently held in New York [1] is critically read, arriving to different conclusions and proposals; among them the fact that the United Nations trends to duplicate structures which work on similar topics, the suggestion that thematic clustering of some of the current MEAs could improve the lack of coordination among actors involved in the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development, the need of creation of a Global monitoring system on Environmental impact assessment or the difficulties that the United Nations shows for integrating environmental topics within its structure.

Keywords: Global Environmental Governance United Nations, Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Sustainable Development.

Acknowledgments

The present Master's Thesis has helped me to understand some of the limitations and possibilities of international problem-solving approaches to Global Environmental Challenges.

There are too many persons who have advised me and helped me somehow during all the process; it would be difficult to write all your names, I do appreciate every minute.

I am very thankful to my advisor, Josep Xercavins for all the comments and hours spent with this project, his human attitude as a researcher as well as person, especially for the human treatment I received from him.

I would also like to say thank Montse Tafalla, who has been very helpful on approaching the labyrinthine Institution that the United Nations is.

Acronyms

CBD: Convention on Biological Diversity.
CCAMLR: Convention for the conservation of Antarctic Living Resources.
CITES: Convention on International Trade in Endanger Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.
COP: Conference of the Parties.
CSD: Commission for Sustainable Development.
DESA: Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
DSD: Division for Sustainable Development
EC: European Community.
ECE/UNECE: United Nations Commission for Europe.
ECOSOC: United Nations Economic and Social Council.
FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
GEF: Global Environmental Facility.
GEG: Global Environmental Governance.
IFF: Intergovernmental Forum on Forests.
ITTA: International Tropical Timber Agreement.
ITTO: International Tropical Timber Organization.
IUCN: International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources/World Conservation Union.
LRTAP: Convention on Long-Range Transboundary air Pollution.
MEAs: Multilateral Environmental Agreements.
OLA: Office of Legal Affairs.
POPs: Persistent organic Pollutants.
UN: United Nations.
UNCCD: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.
UNCED: United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.
UNCLOS: United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
UNCTAD: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.
UNDP: United Nations Development Programme.
UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme.
UNFCCC: United Nations Convention on Climate Change.
UNFF: United Nations Forum on Forests.
UNGA: United Nations General Assembly.
UN-HABITAT: United Nations Human Settlements Programme.
WTO: World Trade Organization.
WSSD: World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Content

Abstract.....	2
Acknowledgements	3
Acronyms	4
List of Figures.....	6
List of Tables.....	6
1. Justification.....	7
2. Objectives	8
3. Method.....	9
4. Project Development.....	12
4.1. Historical Context on Global Environmental Governance	12
4.2. Multilateral Environmental Agreements.....	13
4.3. Actors involved in the GEG debate.....	23
4.4. Summary Conceptual Map of the MEAs and actors analysis.....	31
4.5. General Assembly report after the preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development	33
5. Main Conclusions and proposals	39
6. Bibliography	41
Annex 1:	46
Annex 2:	51
Annex 3:	55

List of Figures

Figure 1: Conceptual map of the method	9
Figure 2: Global Environmental Governance history.	12
Figure 3: Thematic classification of the MEAs.....	17
Figure 4: MEAs timeline.....	18
Figure 5: MEAs per year	19
Figure 6: United Nations Chart	25
Figure 7: Hierarchy of the actors.....	27
Figure 8: Actors timeline.....	28
Figure 9: Representation of the actors and MEAs involved in the GEG debate following the hierarchy of the actors analysis.....	32

List of Tables

Table 1: MEAs analysis sequence	10
Table 2: Actors analysis sequence.....	11
Table 3: List of MEAs	14
Table 4: UNFCCC.....	17
Table 5: Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution	17
Table 6: location of the MEAs secretariats	19
Table 7: Number of MEAs that manages each actor.....	19
Table 8: Parties of each MEA and actors that manage them.....	20
Table 9: MEAs classification by keywords (1)	21
Table 10: MEAs classification by keywords (2)	21
Table 11: Summary of the MEAs.....	22
Table 12: Actors involved in the GEG debate.....	24
Table 13: UNEP table analysis.....	26
Table 14: UNdecision-making hierarchy	26
Table 15: Actors location	29
Table 16: Topics that each actor is working on.....	30

1. Justification

Global Environmental Problems are directly linked with our daily life. They are the result of the combination of all the individual actions and decisions of citizens from all over the world, including us. The outcome of all world citizens' actions leads to local, regional, national and global trends, which causes global environmental conflicts. Multiscale challenges require not only local structures and mechanisms to face them, but global, and on environmental challenges the United Nations is one of the most important actors [2].

The United Nations has tried and done efforts in order to integrate and face environmental challenges within its structure. After the Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm in 1972, the UNEP was created, and afterwards several sections, departments, commissions and programmes have been set up following the same purpose. Therefore a lot of actors within the UN are currently working on environment or sustainability which makes it difficult to coordinate [2]. The lack of coordination among actors is nowadays a core aspect in order to walk towards a more effective Global Environmental Governance. Global Environmental Governance could be defined as how well the different actors involved in decision-making processes in a global sphere, get organized for solving the Global Environmental Conflicts, challenges and improve the global environment.

One tool that helps in order to walk towards the improvement of the Global Environment are the Multilateral Environmental Agreements. They can be considered as one of the most operational tools that nowadays exist in the Global Environmental Arena. Some studies have focused on understanding MEAs formation and evolution [3] but the global image of how the different MEAs interact and which similarities and differences exist among them is not that much developed.

This lack of a general GEG explanatory image, both about the actors involved and the existing MEAs is one of the topics that is being discussed in the preparatory process of the next 2012 Rio Conference on Sustainable Development [1].

The present Master Thesis tries to analyze and develop, through Actors and MEAs analysis, and the critical reading of the Secretary-General Report on the preparatory Committee of the next 2012 Rio Conference on Sustainable Development, proposals on Global Environmental Governance within the United Nations. It has the aim to be a useful input towards a better understanding of the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development, considering the United Nations as a powerful organization and ideas exchange forum, where the different countries can walk towards an improvement of Global Governance.

2. Objectives

- General Objective:

Develop an institutional analysis about how the GEG issues are managed within the United Nations, framing it into the ongoing preparation process of the next 2012 Rio Conference on Sustainable Development.

- Specific Objectives:

- List and analyze the main MEAs, the topics that they refer to, and the actors that manage each of them, according to the defined methodology.

- List and analyze the main Actors that are currently working on environment and sustainability, that are taking part of the ongoing GEG debate.

- Read critically the current analysis and proposals that outcome from the Secretary-General Report on the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development on the reform of the institutional Framework on GEG.

- Develop conclusions and proposals about the challenges on the Institutional Framework on GEG within the United Nations.

3. Method

The Method has been built in order to analyze the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development, and concretely the Global Environmental Governance institutions debate, of the ongoing preparation process of the next 2012 Rio Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). The debate has been contextualized through three aspects: a historical review of the GEG, the analysis of the main existing MEAs and the analysis of the main actors involved in the current GEG debate; afterwards the Secretary-General Report that outcomes from the Preparatory Committee for the Rio+20 Conference held in New York [1] has been critically read and conclusions and proposals have been developed.

The following conceptual map (figure 1) summarizes the method that has been configured and used during the present Master Thesis.

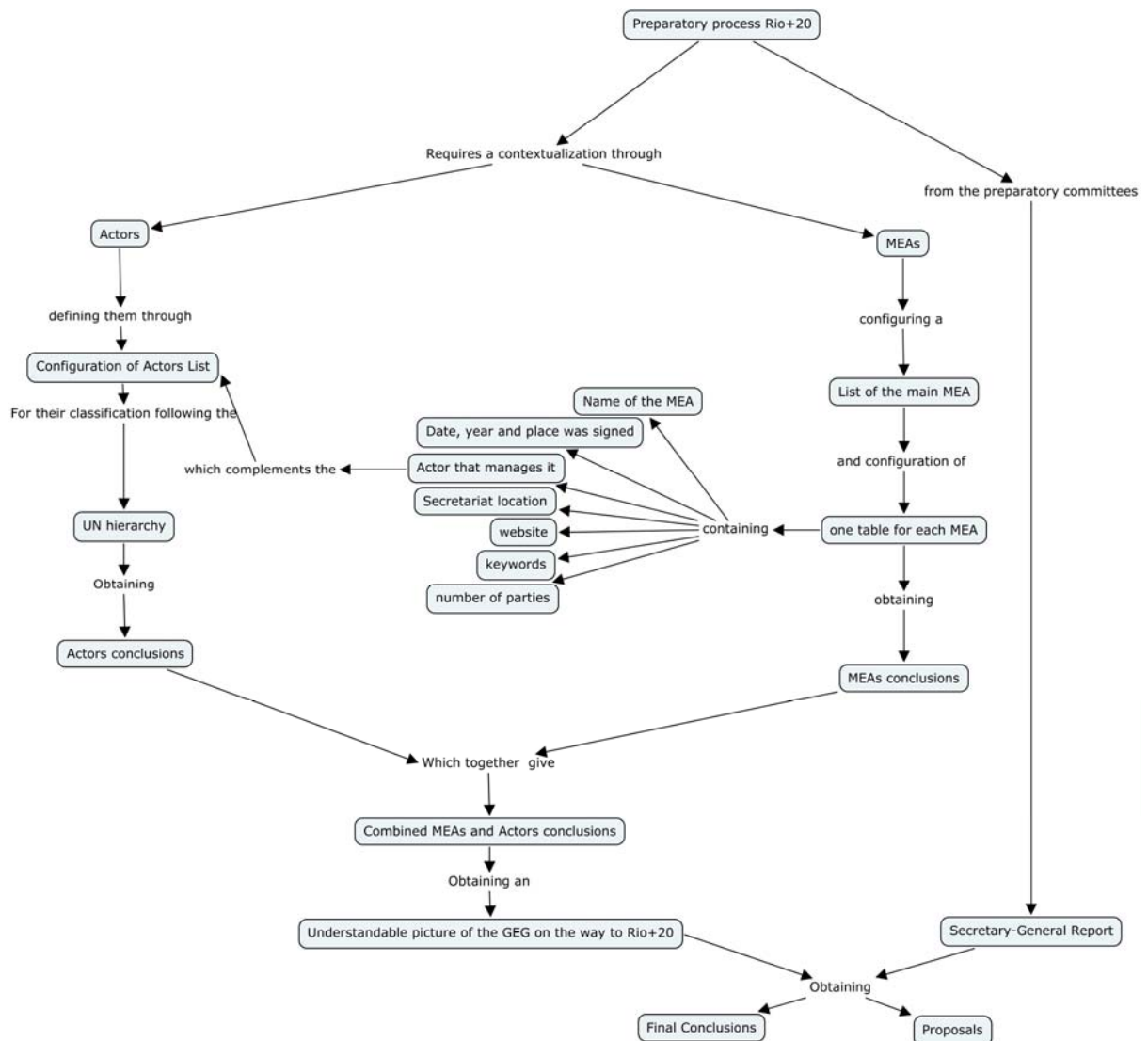


Figure 1. Conceptual Map of the Method.

As explained in the Justification the GEG can basically be explained through the creation of MEAs, the creation of actors and structures that work on environment and sustainability, and the conferences, summits and meetings that took place during all the GEG history[4]. Therefore the debate has been contextualized through three aspects: a historical review of the GEG, the analysis of the main existing MEAs and the analysis of the main actors involved in the current GEG debate.

The historical review of the GEG is carried out by Literature Review, on the most important Global Environmental events that have written its history, a timeline has been configured to present it in a clear way.

The MEAs analysis has been carried out under the assumption that they are one of the most operative tools of the GEG. There are other kinds of programs, projects, or initiatives at the international level that are linked with the GEG, but MEAs have been signed by each country that is part of them, and in most of the cases, each country includes them into their legal frame. Therefore MEAs have been considered to give useful information in order to contextualize how the GEG issues are managed within the United Nations. The MEAs analysis is represented above through a conceptual map, and follows the sequence represented in the table 1.

Table 1. MEAs analysis sequence.

1	Research of the current existing MEAs: through website research and bibliographic review.
2	Configuration of the List of the main MEAs: defining clear criteria about which MEAs can give us more information.
3	Configuration of one table for each MEA containing the following fields: Complete name of the MEA; date, year and place that the MEA was signed; actor within the United Nations that manages each MEA; secretariat Location; Website; keywords; number of parties of each MEA.
4	Develop conclusions from the analysis made on the main MEAs.

The actors are another element, within the United Nations, from which we can obtain a lot of information about the GEG debate and its historical context. In the United Nations the actors' roles are not as intuitive as we could expect for such a "hierarchical" organization; the relations among them, the functions, the existence or absence of leadership on the topics that they work on, and a lot of other factors depend sometimes of historical factors or other reasons that are not considered in the official UN char. Therefore this part of the Method aims to help on configuring a summary of which are the first line actors working on environment and Sustainable Development, and are taking part on the GEG debate.

The actors' analysis is represented above through a conceptual map, and follows the sequence represented in the table 2:

Table 2. Actors analysis sequence.

1	Research of the current actors involved in GEG debate: Searching on the UN actors' websites, and including the actors involved in the management of the previously studied MEAs.
2	Configuration of a list of the main actors involved in the GEG debate within the United Nations, adding the actors that manage the different MEAs, previously analyzed, if needed.
3	Configuration of one table for each actor including the following fields: Name of the actor; year that the actor was created; topics that the actor works on; MEAs that the actor manages.
4	Definition of the relations that exist among the different actors.
5	Classification of the actors into United Nations Hierarchy system, defining 5 levels of decision-making importance (from more important to less): (0) Secretary-General. (1) General Assembly. (2) Councils. (3) Programmes and Funds. (4) Agencies. (5) UN secretariat.
6	6. Develop conclusions from the analysis made on the Actors involved on the GEG debate.

In order to summarize all the analysis made for the contextualization of the current debate, it has been configured a conceptual map that summarizes the MEAs and actors analysis made.

After developing the contextualization of the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development, and GEG debate we moved forward by analyzing the Secretary-General Report in order to develop final conclusions about the current GEG situation within the UN and proposals on the same line.

The Secretary-General Report that outcomes from the preparatory committee held in New York, has been read and analyzed in order to develop final conclusions and proposals, that will hopefully contribute to improve GEG within the UN frame.

4. Project development

4.1. Historical Context on Global Environmental Governance.

Global Environmental Governance (GEG) can be defined as how well the different actors involved in decision-making processes in a global sphere, get organized for solving the Global Environmental Conflicts, challenges and improve the global environment.

The History of the GEG has been written, since approximately the 1972 Conference on Human Environment, by very diverse events and processes. All the actions that help walking towards a more coordinate Global environmental arena are included. After Stockholm conference a succession of MEAs, set up of new actors, conferences and meetings took place.

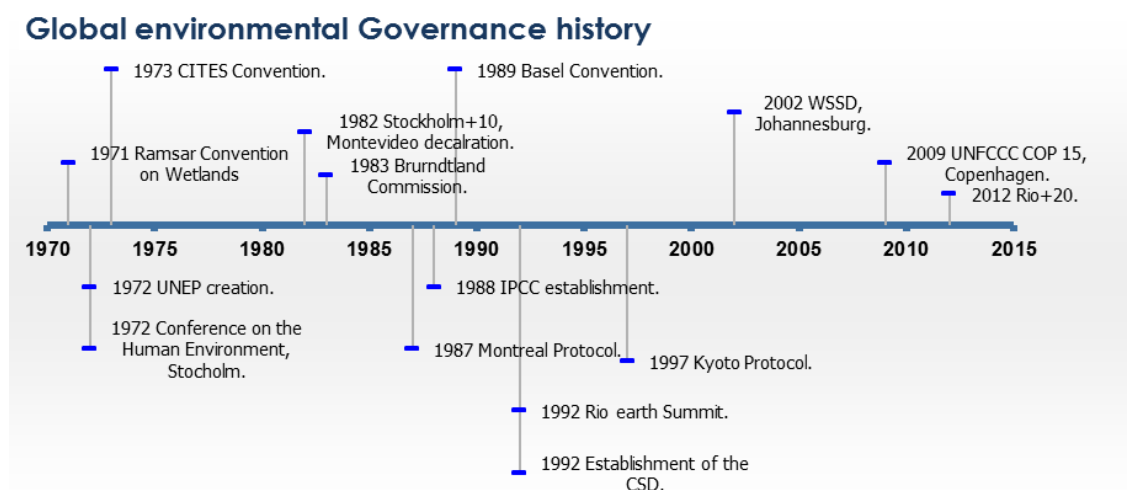


Figure 2. Global environmental governance history.

In 1971, before the creation of the UNEP (1992) the Ramsar convention was open to signature and the IUCN became engaged with its management. In 1973, CITES was open to signature. In 1983 Brundtland Commission was established and in 1987 their Report "Our common Future" introduced the concept of Sustainable Development in the international Arena. In 1992 the Rio Earth Summit, one of the most important dates on the GEG history, took place, there concept of sustainable Development concept became generalized and the agenda 21 was promoted and adopted by more than 150 countries. UNFCCC and CBD MEAs were open to signature in 1992 after consensus built in the Rio Summit by the different countries that attended it [4].

Johannesburg 2002 (Rio+10) focused on the human dimension of the sustainable development, and reviewed the implementation process of the 21 agenda. The 15th COP of the UNFCCC held in Copenhagen in 2009, got the public attention from all over the world, and although the expectations disappointed with light measures and lack of consensus; north-south positions made the rest [5].

In all these years good achievements took place. The 1987 Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the Ozone layer [3] helped to stop the Ozone depletion, as consequence of a technological transition towards the substitution of the CFCs. Some species have been protected from extinction thanks to the CITES derivate legislations, and the UNFCCC and the Kyoto protocol set up agenda on Climate Change Topics.

The Creation of UNEP (1972), the establishment of UNFCCC (1992), the CSD (1992) and other actors have increased the institutional capacity to face all the environmental Challenges, and at the same time in have increased the system complexity. Debates on how well UN has been able to adapt to changing environment world have succeed [2]. Lack of coordination among actors and duplication of structures with similar purposes is a fact [1; 6]. The environment is one of the most recent UN children. Will the UN and all the countries that are part of it, be able to walk towards a more effective structure with the aim of a real positive impact on the global environment?

The diversity of actors involved in the decision-making processes, together with the diversity of importance of the MEAs leads to an ongoing debate about the Institutional Framework for sustainable Development in the 2012 Rio conference on Sustainable Development, and as a part of it, on the Global Environmental Governance institutions.

In 2012 the Rio conference on Sustainable Development will take place, and the preparatory meetings are being held already. There is a new conference on Sustainable Development, after the failing of some of the most recent international negotiations. The agenda setting is ambitious: Green Economy and the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development (part in which this Master's Thesis focuses on).

Will the existing institutions be able to review the lack of coordination, the structure duplication and all the aspects that make difficult the management of global environmental challenges? Are our institutions good enough tools to achieve sustainable development? These and Some other Questions will try to be answered in the following pages.

4.2. Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

Multilateral Environmental agreements (MEAs) are one of the most operational tools that nowadays exist within the international environmental arena. These types of agreements have been appearing since approximately the 70s. There are MEAs about very diverse topics, including use of chemicals, biodiversity and wildlife, marine environment, air pollution or waste dealing [7]. The UN does not have clear criteria, so far about which international agreements should be considered as MEAs and not [8].

The MEAs are agreements between at least three states, related to environmental issues. They can be legally binding instruments, and are negotiated, in most of the cases within the United Nations framework [2]. Only agreements signed within the United Nations Framework are analyzed in this Master's Thesis.

4.2.1. Configuration of a list of the main MEAs.

The identification of potential sources of information in Barcelona was the first step. The main source of information was the Depository Library of the United Nations of the Law Faculty of the University of Barcelona, and concretely Montse Tafalla, the person engaged with it, who has a wide knowledge on United Nations documents and history.

The main resources consulted were the *Multilateral Treaties deposited with Secretary General* [8], Treaty Event books [9-11], and the UNTreaties online database [13], where different lists of MEAs were obtained. The first list included more than 500 MEAs.

Table 3. List of MEAs.

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)	
1	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Ramsar, Iran 2 February 1971.
	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Washington DC.
2	United States of America, 3 March 1973.
3	Convention on Migratory Species. Bonn, Germany 23 June 1979.
	Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. Geneva, Switzerland. 13
4	November 1979.
	[Antarctic treaty System] Convention for the conservation of Antarctic Marine Living
5	resources. Canberra, Australia. 20 May 1980.
	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Montego Bay, Jamaica. 10 December
6	1982.
	Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. Vienna, Austria. 22 March
7	1985.
	Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and
8	their Disposal. Basel, Switzerland. 22 March 1989.
	Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context. Espoo,
9	Finland. 25 February 1991.
	Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and international
10	Lakes. Helsinki, Finland. 17 March 1992.
	Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents. Helsinki, Finland. 17
11	March 1992.
	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. New York, United States of
12	America. 9 May 1992.
13	Convention on Biological Diversity. Rio de Janeiro, Brasil. 5 June 1992.
	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Counties Experiencing
	Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa. Paris, France. 14 October
14	1994.
	Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses. New
15	York, United States of America. 21 May 1997.
	Convention on Access to information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and
16	Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. Aarhus, Denmark. 25 June 1998.
	Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous
	Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade. Rotterdam, Netherlands. 10 September
17	1998.
	Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. Stockholm, Sweden. 22 May
18	2001.
19	International Tropical Timber Agreement. Geneva, Switzerland. 27 February 2006.

After the configuration of the preliminary list, containing information from the different sources previously cited, some criteria for the inclusion or exclusion of each MEA were defined in order to arrive to a definitive list. The agreements that have been included in the list are part of the environment chapter of the *Multilateral Treaties deposited with Secretary General* [8-11]; all of them were negotiated in the United Nations Framework.

Only Open Multilateral Agreements are included: Bilateral agreements, close multilateral agreements or any agreement that is not open to be sign by any country that belongs to the United Nations is not included in the list [12].

Only Conventions, with the exception of International Tropical Timber Agreement, are included in the list (the exception will be explained later on): From the sources consulted there were four kinds of agreements: agreements, conventions, protocols and amendments. Only Conventions have been studied and analyzed due to its permanent structure and regular meetings. Conventions include protocols within their structure although some protocols become more important than the conventions that they depend of.

Different years of the *Multilateral Treaties deposited with Secretary General* Book [8-11] were consulted: This book contains the most important agreements on each field. It is divided by thematic chapters and varies every year. There is a chapter named "Environment" which has been taken as a reference for the configuration of the list. The reason that makes the most recent edition of the book not enough is that each year the MEAs that are described vary. The United Nations vary the criteria of inclusion of the different MEAs so depending of what is consider environment or not important MEAs could be not included on one edition while they could be included in other years' edition. The 2004, 2008, 2009 and 2010 editions of *Multilateral Treaties deposited with Secretary General* Book were consulted and used for the preliminary configuration of MEAs list. The previous years' editions were very similar to 2004 one so they were not included in the analysis. The list of MEAs represented above in the table 3 is the outcome of all the selection process.

Three MEAs have been added to the list due to their historical importance and their citation in the reviewed bibliography: CITES; CCAMRL and Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Ramsar Convention on Wetlands was open to signature in 1971, one year before the 1972 Conference on Human Environment. It was not deposited to the Secretary General of the United Nations and is not managed by any section of the United Nations, but by the IUCN.

4.2.2. Configuration of the Tables of the MEAs.

Once the list of MEAs has been written the next step is the analysis of each MEA, fulfilling the tables previously mentioned in the method. It is difficult to manage the information of the 19 agreements that the list contains; each agreement has its historical context and peculiarities. As all the agreements are different, it is necessary to establish basic criteria about which parts of them is necessary to stress on, in order to develop conclusions and observe trends. With the definition of the different fields of the table the information they contain is standardize. The definition of the fields included in the tables was decided through bibliographic review, reading of the legal texts of the agreements and the information obtained from the United Nations Webpage [5].

The preliminary fields that were defined suffered some modifications. The fields of: historical Context, Funding and observations were not included due to the amount of information and time needed in order to standardize all MEAs' information.

The definitive fields that were chosen to configure the tables are explained below. The sources were the information that each of them contain was obtained is also detailed.

- *Name of the MEA*: Complete Name of each MEA and Abbreviation or Common name that is generally used. This Field helps understanding the literature and the UN documents, as the use of short names and abbreviations for the conventions is very common. The name that is included in the tables can be used to find the legal texts of the MEAs. Source: UN treaty event book [8-11].
- *Date, year and place the MEA was signed*: The agreements are chronologically analyzed. This field helps analyzing in which years more agreements were opened to signature. Source: UN treaty event book [8-11].
- *Actors that manage each MEA*: This is one of the most important fields, it helps to find out which actors manage more MEAs, and therefore have a more active role in the operational side of the International Environmental Arena. Source: Website of each agreement [14-31] and Legal text each agreement [32-50].
- *Secretariat Location*: This field helps to see if nearness of the different secretariats of the MEAs consequence an increase of institutional cooperation (with the help of bibliographical review). Source: Website of each MEA and Legal text of the agreements. Source: Website of each agreement [14-31].
- *Website*: Inclusion of the address of each MEA's website. This field is the source of most of the information to fulfill the different fields of the table.
- *Number of Parties*: This field can give an idea of how important the different MEAs are. The parties of a MEA are countries that signed the Agreement and in most cases included some of its parts in the country's legislation. In some cases also the list of countries that are part of the agreement will be cited. Source: UN treaty event book [8-11] and UNTreaties database [13].
- *Number of protocols that depend of each MEA*: This field can give an idea, as the previous one, of how important is the agreement and how active or successful has been during its existence. Source: UN treaty event book [8-11] and website of each agreement [14-31].
- *Keywords*: In this field, different explanatory words were given as a tag to each agreement, in order to define thematic groups and find out if there is an actors' specialization by topics, or if the MEAs trend to focus in concrete topics. Sources: the words were defined following criteria based in bibliography review [51; 52]; consultation of the UNTreaties database [13] in which each MEA has defined general thematic tags; legal text of the agreements [32-50]; personal Background as environmental scientist.

The keywords field then has been used to make thematic clusters of MEAs, two main thematic groups have been defined: Industrial activities related MEAs, and Conservation MEAs. The figure 3 explains the main groups and the sub thematic groups that have been defined. The tags that belong to each of the groups are:

- *Industrial activities related tags*: Pollution, health, atmosphere, industry, waste, chemicals, hazardous substances and pesticides.
- *Conservation tags*: Conservation, ecosystems, biodiversity and forests.

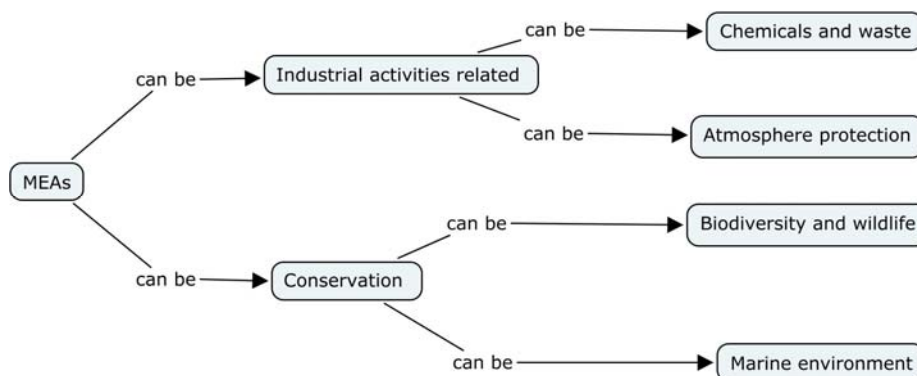


Figure 3. Thematic classification of the MEAs.

The tables of each agreement have been included in the annexes, as they are a tool in order to arrive to conclusions and not the goal of the research. With all the fields explained fulfilling the table, their final appearance of is represented below with two examples (table 4 and Table 5).

Table 4. UNFCCC.

Name	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
Date, year and place	New York, 9 May 1992.
Who manages it	General Assembly receives the reports.
Secretariat Location	Bonn, Germany.
Website	http://unfccc.int/2860.php
Number of Parties	192
Number of protocols signed	1, Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change. Kyoto, 11 December 1997.
Keywords	Atmosphere, pollution, health, trade.

Table 5. Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution.

Name	Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution
Date, year and place	Geneva, 13 November 1979.
Actor that manages it	UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)
Secretariat Location	Geneva, Switzerland.
Website	http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap
Number of parties	51
Number of protocols signed	8 protocols
Keywords	Pollution, atmosphere, health.

4.2.3. Results from the MEAs analysis.

All the information that was used for the configuration of the tables of each MEA has been summarized by the following tables, figures and timelines in order to extract from them conclusions. The following timeline (figure 4) includes all the MEAs of this research.

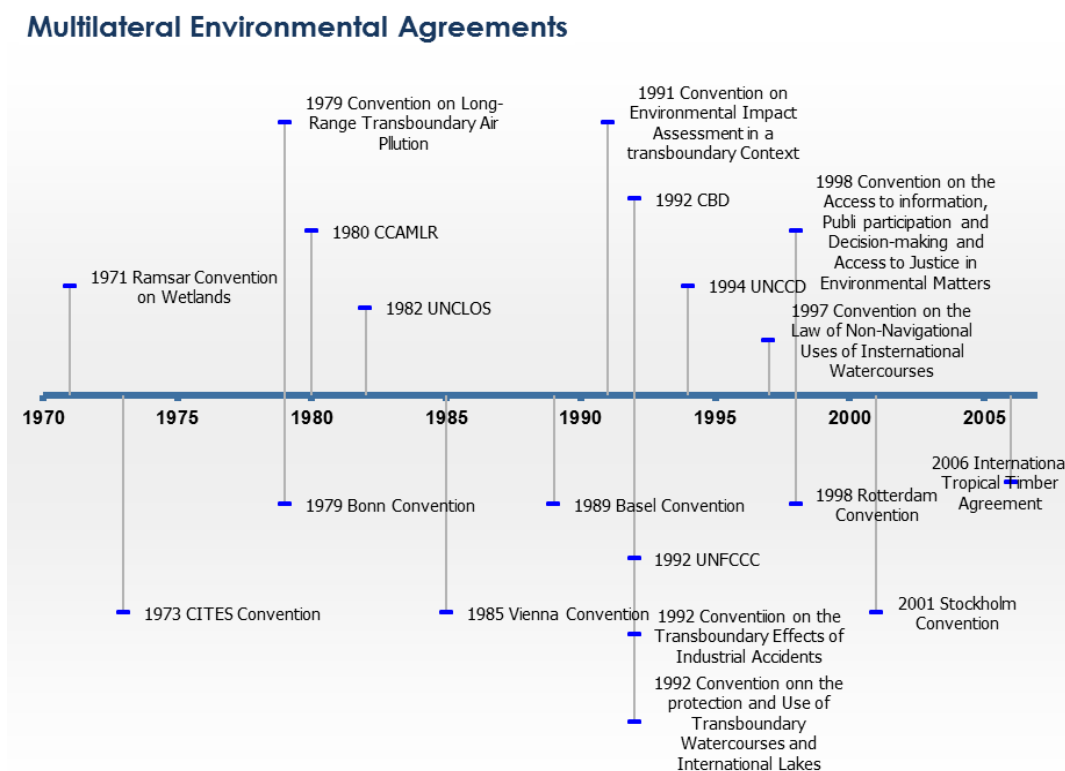


Figure 4. MEAs' Timeline.

In 1992, after the Rio Earth Summit that took place that year, the UNFCCC and the CBD were opened to signature. These two conventions together with the UNCCD have a special status in relation with the UN structure, although the CBD is formally managed by the UNEP. They have coordination meetings, and the UNFCCC and the UNCCD report directly to the General Assembly Second committee [51].

The increase of MEAs open to signature after the 1992 Rio Summit can also be observed in the figure 5. Only the MEAs that have been studied in the present Thesis are represented in the Figure 5.

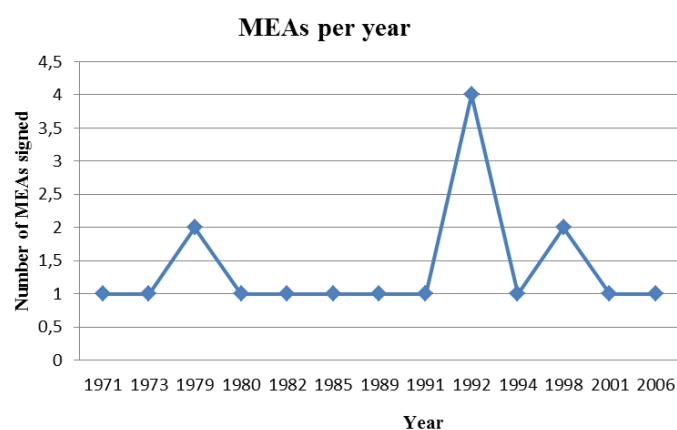


Figure 5. MEAs per year.

Another field that was included in the Tables was the secretariat location, in table 6 there are detailed the different secretariat locations that the studied MEAs have. Two clusters can be observed: Bonn, Germany and Geneva, Switzerland with a wider number of secretariats.

Table 6. Location of the MEAs secretariats.

Secretariat Location	Number of Agreements
Geneva, Switzerland	8,5
Bonn, Germany	3
Rome, Italy	0,5
Hobart, Australia	1
New York, USA	1
Nairobi, Kenya	1
Montreal, Canada	1
Yokohama, Japan	1
Gland, Switzerland	1

Although almost half of the MEAs studied have its secretariat in Geneva (Switzerland) no evidences of coordination mechanisms have been observed out of the ones established by the UNEP among the Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention and Basel Convention. Two of the three MEAs that have its location in Bonn, UNFCCC and UNCCD, have some coordination strategies due to historical reasons. The secretariat location, then didn't show any evidence of encouraging the apparition of coordination strategies, but can be seen as a potentiality in order start new ones.

Table 7. Number of MEAs that manages each actor.

Actor	Number of Agreements
UNEP	6,5
UNECE	5
Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea	3
General Assembly 2nd Committee	2
FAO	0,5
ITTO-UNCTAD	1
IUCN	1

The actors that are engaged with the management and reception of reports of each MEA was also a field of the tables. The table 7 summarizes how many agreements does each actor manages. There are two main actors: The UNEP, managing 6.5 MEAs, and the UNECE, managing 5 MEAs. It is important to stress the paper of the General Assembly 2nd Committee as a manager actor for the UNFCCC and UNCCD MEAs; this fact makes actually both MEAs act as a self-dependent body that reports to the General Assembly. The UNECE has the peculiar situation of being a regional commission, that manages agreements opened to signature to all the countries, although the agreements that it manages are much less important, than other agreements manages by the UNEP or other actors, as it will be explained through the following figures.

Table 8. Parties of each MEA and actors that manage them.

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)	Parties	Actor
Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. Vienna, Austria. 22 March 1985.	196	UNEP
Convention on Biological Diversity. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. 5 June 1992.	193	UNEP
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa. Paris, France. 14 October 1994.	193	General Assembly 2nd Committee
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. New York, United States of America. 9 May 1992.	192	General Assembly 2nd Committee
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Washington DC. United States of America, 3 March 1973.	175	UNEP
Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. Basel, Switzerland. 22 March 1989.	170	UNEP
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. Stockholm, Sweden. 22 May 2001.	163	UNEP
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Ramsar, Iran 2 February 1971.	160	IUCN
United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Montego Bay, Jamaica. 10 December 1982.	158	Division for Ocean and the Law of the Sea
Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade. Rotterdam, Netherlands. 10 September 1998.	128	UNEP and FAO
Convention on Migratory Species. Bonn, Germany 23 June 1979.	100	UNEP
Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. Geneva, Switzerland. 13 November 1979.	51	UNECE
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context. Espoo, Finland. 25 February 1991.	45	UNECE
Convention on Access to information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. Aarhus, Denmark. 25 June 1998.	41	UNECE
Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents. Helsinki, Finland. 17 March 1992.	37	UNECE
[Antarctic treaty System] Convention for the conservation of Antarctic Marine Living resources. Canberra, Australia. 20 May 1980.	31	Division for Ocean and the Law of the Sea
International Tropical Timber Agreement. Geneva, Switzerland. 27 February 2006.	22	ITTO
Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses. New York, United States of America. 21 May 1997.	17	Division for Ocean and the Law of the Sea
Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and international Lakes. Helsinki, Finland. 17 March 1992.	16	UNECE

The parties of each MEA, another field of the tables, can help to contextualize how important an agreement is or the level of consensus on the topics that is about. In table 8 it is detailed for each agreement, ordered by number of parties, how many parties it has; it also includes the actor that manages it so an idea about which actors manage the most important MEAs can be obtain. The combination of table 7 and table 8 will help configuring the conclusions of the MEAs' analysis section.

All UNEP managed MEAs are over the 100 parties. The 3rd and the 4th biggest MEAs in terms of number of parties are managed by the General Assembly 2nd Committee, which gives an idea about the lack of coherence and coordination of the UN within environmental topics. These two agreements, UNFCCC and UNCCD can be considered as actors themselves.

The Keywords' results are summarized below in the tables 9 and 10. The classification of the MEAs between the two previously defined groups helped analyzing if there is any kind of specialization. Some of the tags defined in the table number 11 are not related to the classification between industrial activities related MEAs and conservation MEAs, but still give some information about the content of each agreement.

Table 9. MEAs classification by keywords (1).

Type of MEA	Number of MEAs
Industrial Activities related MEAs	10
Conservation MEAs	9

The UNECE is specialized in industrial activities MEAs, and more concretely in Chemicals and waste management. The UNEP does not present any trend on thematic specialization. The Division for Ocean affairs and the Law of the Sea is specialized in Marine environment, as would be expected; with the three agreements that the table 10 refers to.

Table 10. MEAs classification by keywords (2).

Industrial Activity related MEAs	
Chemicals and waste	8
Atmosphere protection	2
Conservation MEAs	
Biodiversity and wildlife	6
Marine environment	3

The information obtained from the configuration of the tables has been summarized in the table 11, to obtain a general picture of the 19 studied MEAs. The table 11 aims to be a useful tool in order to study and contextualize the MEAs that have been analyzed. The MEAs are chronologically ordered. The agreements number 15, and 19 did not entered into force yet, because of this reason the agreement number 15 does not have a defined secretariat location yet.

Table 11. Summary of the MEAs.

Convention	Year	keywords	Secretariat Location	Manager	Parties
1 Ramsar Convention on Wetlands	1971	Water, conservation, trade, fisheries, sustainability, ecosystems.	Gland, Switzerland	IUCN	160
2 CITES (Convention on international trade in endanger species)	1973	Biodiversity, trade, conservation	Geneva, Switzerland	UNEP	175
3 Bonn Convention (Convention on Migratory Species)	1979	Biodiversity, trade, conservation	Bonn, Germany	UNEP	100
4 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution	1979	Pollution, atmosphere, health	Geneva, Switzerland	UNECE	51
5 CCAMLR (Convention for the conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources). [Antarctic Treaty System].	1980	Sea, biodiversity, trade, conservation	Hobart, Australia	Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea	31
6 UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea)	1982	Sea, trade, conservation	New York, USA	Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea	158
7 Vienna Convention (Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer)	1985	Atmosphere, pollution, health	Nairobi, Kenya	UNEP	196
8 Basel Convention (Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal)	1989	Health, waste, pollution	Geneva, Switzerland	UNEP	170
9 Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context	1991	Environmental Impact Assessment, pollution, health	Geneva, Switzerland	UNECE	45
10 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes	1992	Health, water, pollution, waste	Geneva, Switzerland	UNECE	16
11 Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents	1992	Health, pollution, waste, industry	Geneva, Switzerland	UNECE	37
12 UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)	1992	Atmosphere, pollution, health, trade, forests	Bonn, Germany	General Assembly 2nd Committee	192
13 CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity)	1992	Conservation, biodiversity, trade. Genetic resources.	Montreal, Canada	UNEP	193
14 UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa)	1994	Drought, water, forests, agriculture, atmosphere, conservation.	Bonn, Germany	General Assembly 2nd Committee	193
15 Convention on the Law of Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses.	1997	Conservation, water, pollution, biodiversity.	Not yet.	Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea	17
16 Convention on Access to information, Public Participation and Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.	1998	Sustainability, human rights, policy.	Geneva, Switzerland	UNECE	41
17 Rotterdam Convention (Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade)	1998	Chemicals, pesticides, trade, waste, pollution, agriculture,	Geneva, Switzerland and Rome, Italy.	UNEP-FAO	128
18 Stockholm Convention (Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants)	2001	Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), pesticides, waste, pollution, agriculture	Geneva, Switzerland	UNEP	163
19 International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA 2006)	2006	Law, trade, forests, deforestation, conservation, governance.	Yokohama, Japan	ITTO depends of UNCTAD	22

4.2.4. MEAs Conclusions.

Two thematic groups have been defined in the studied MEAs: Industrial Activities related MEAs, and Conservation MEAs. Subgroups of each were defined. Nine of nineteen agreements studied belong to the Conservation MEAs group. Ten of nineteen agreements belong to the Industrial Activities related MEAs group.

Eight and half of nineteen secretariats are located in Geneva, three more are located in Bonn, Germany and the others are spread all around the globe, making to work together. Although the location of the secretariats could increment the cooperation among the MEAs that have its secretariat close to each other, they are not using this potential resource at the moment.

The main Actors involved in the management of the MEAs are: UNEP managing six of nineteen; UNECE, managing five of nineteen agreements. UNECE is a regional commission of the ECOSOC and the number of parties of the MEAs that it manages is much lower than the MEAs managed by the UNEP. The General Assembly, 2nd Committee receives the reports of two agreements: UNFCCC and UNCCD. And the IUCN, which is not part of the official UN framework, manages the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands that was open to signature one year before the UNEP was set up.

The UN Treaties book does not include clear criteria about the classification of the MEA in the environment section on of the book. The unclear criteria originate that treaties, agreements and conventions that should be considered part of environmental topics, are not. Therefore this situation increases the dispersion of actors, topics and makes the UN environmental Governance weaker. The UNCLOS was not considered as MEAs until the 2009 UN treaties book.

4.3. Actors involved in the GEG debate.

After the historical review and the analysis of the MEAs, the focuses of this section are the actors. The actors involved in the GEG are very diverse in terms of jurisdiction and topics they work on. Only actors that are part of the UN frame are studied, with exception to the IUCN due to historical reasons.

The UN has different actors that carry out programs, activities, coordination of MEAs and others; with the aim of improving the international environment and environmental challenges. These actors will be analyzed in this section to complement the information that has been presented from the MEAs analysis.

There are currently a lot of actors working on environment and sustainability, although in this section only the actors involved in the already mentioned debate on Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development, and concretely the GEG institutions debate, are included.

4.3.1. Configuration of the tables of the actors.

The first step for the configuration of the tables has been to read and identify the actors that will be studied in the UN chart (figure 6). The first reading of the Chart led to a preliminary list of the actors which was complemented by searching in the websites of each actor that was consider to be working on the topics. The actors that were identified as managers of the nineteen MEAs studied in the previous section were also included in this analysis and some of the MEAs themselves can be considered as actors. In the figure 6, the UN Chart, a general overview of the UN structure is represented. The identified actors are stress with red squares around their names.

Fourteen Actors have been identified. The actors that have been analyzed are listed in the table 12.

Table 12. Actors involved in the GEG debate.

Actors	
1	UNEP (United Nation Environment Programme)
2	UNECE (United Nations Commission for Europe)
3	General Assembly (2 nd Committee)
4	CSD (Commission for Sustainable Development)
5	DESA-DSD (Department of Economic and Social Affairs)
6	OLA (Office of Legal Affairs)
7	UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)
8	CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity)
9	UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification)
10	UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)
11	ITTO (International Tropical Timber Organization)
12	IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature)
13	FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization)
14	Environment Management Group

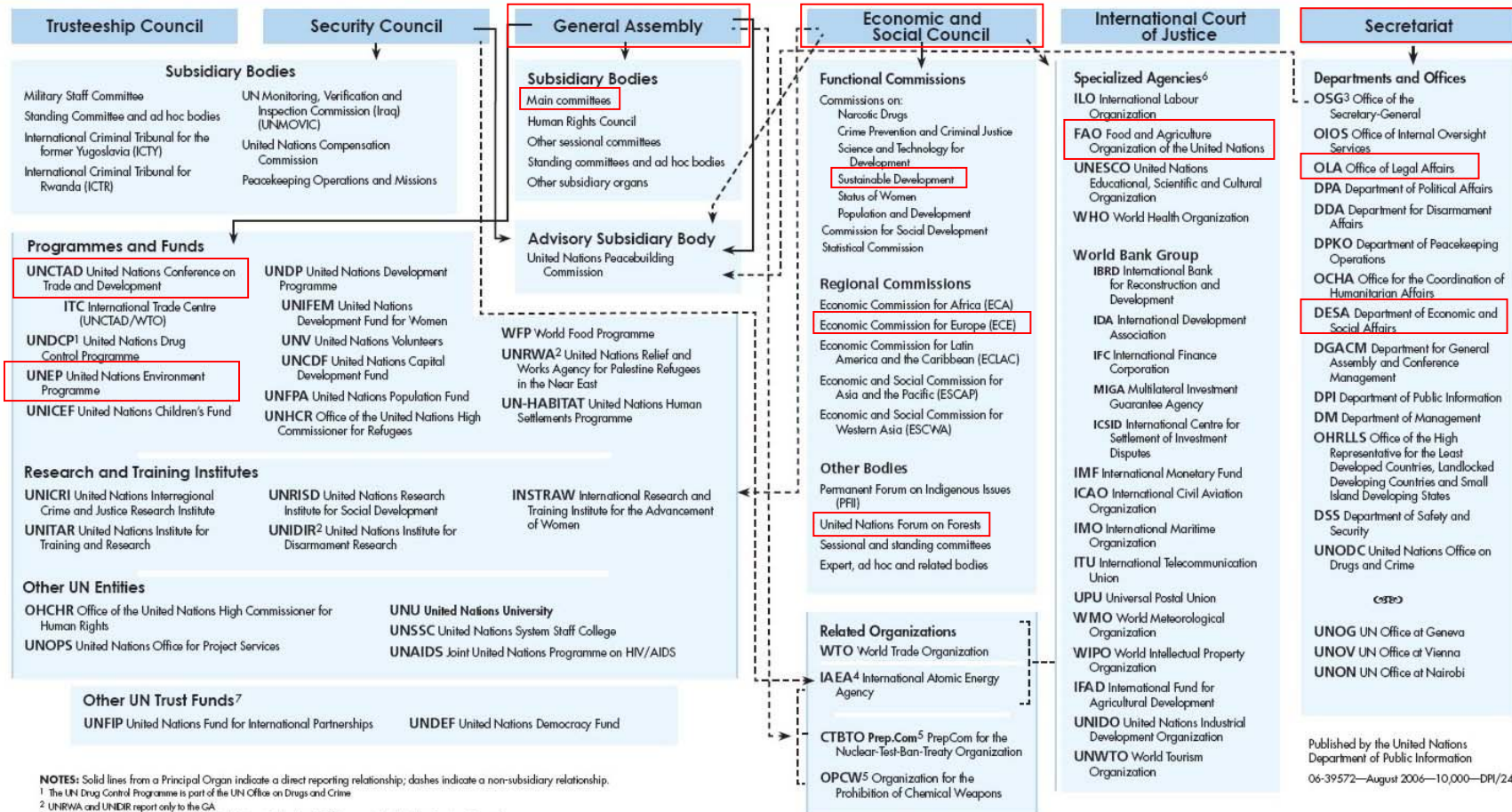
In the MEAs' analysis section, the tables have been a useful tool in order to take conclusions and observe trends. In the case of the actors the tables have help equally taking conclusions and observing trends about the different actors studied.

The fields that have been defined to fulfill the tables for each actor are explained below and in the table 13. The sources where the information for each field was obtained from is also explained.

- *Name of the Actor*: Complete name of the actor and its abbreviation. Source: United Nations website [5], each actor's website [53-63; 25-27] and the UN Chart represented in figure 6.
- *Year it was created*: This field has been used to configure a timeline that will represent the actors' establishment history represented in the figure 8. Source: Each actor's website [53-63; 25-27].
- *Website*: Inclusion of the address of each actor's website. This field is the source of most of the information to fulfill the different fields of the table.
- *Topics that each actor is working on*: This field helps giving a global picture of which topics are being done by various actors, or topics in which there are no actors working on. Source: Each actor's website [53-63; 25-27].
- *Number of MEAs the actor manages*: This field can give an idea, of how important an actor is. Source: Website of each agreement [14-31].

The United Nations System

Principal Organs



NOTES: Solid lines from a Principal Organ indicate a direct reporting relationship; dashes indicate a non-subsidiary relationship.

¹ The UN Drug Control Programme is part of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

² UNRWA and UNDIR report only to the GA.

³ The United Nations Ethics Office and the United Nations Ombudsman's Office report directly to the Secretary-General.

⁴ IAEA reports to the Security Council and the General Assembly (GA).

⁵ The CTBTO Prep.Com and OPCW report to the GA.

⁶ Specialized agencies are autonomous organizations working with the UN and each other through the coordinating machinery of the ECOSOC at the intergovernmental level, and through the Chief Executives Board for coordination (CEB) at the inter-secretariat level.

⁷ UNIFIP is an autonomous trust fund operating under the leadership of the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General. UNDEF's advisory board recommends funding proposals for approval by the Secretary-General.

Figure 6. United Nations Chart.

The table 13 is an example of the tables done to summarize the fourteen actors; each table contains the previously explained fields: Name of the actor; year it was created; location of its headquarters; website; topics that is working on; number of MEAs that manages.

Table 13. UNEP table analysis.

Actor	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	
Year it was created	1972	
Location of its headquarters	Nairobi, Kenya	
Website	www.unep.org	
Topics that is working on	Climate Change, Disasters and conflicts, Ecosystem management, Environmental Governance, Harmful Substance, Resource Efficiency.	
Number of MEAs that manages	6,5	1

4.3.2. Hierarchy of the actors.

The United Nations is a hierarchic organization [64]. Although hierarchy does not always explain the relations that are established between the actors, it helps understanding the institutional relations. The United Nations as represented in the UN chart (figure 6), follows the hierarchy explained below, in order of decision-making, from more importance to less:

Table 14. UN decision-making hierarchy.

0	Secretary General.
1	General Assembly (which gets organized through committees)
2	Councils (ECOSOC, Security council, trusteeship council)
3	Programmes and funds.
4	Related Organizations.
5	UN secretariat.

The Secretary General Cannot decides by him or herself to implement decisions without the support of the General Assembly, but is the maximum executor of the organization.

The position in the UN decision-making hierarchy of the fourteen actors analyzed helps explaining the action capacity of each of them. Figure 7 represents the hierarchy explained in the table 14. Some of the MEAs studied are at same time MEAs and Actors, so they have been included in the figure 7.

In terms of hierarchy the most logical section to reinforce would be the ECOSOC, in reality UNEP has shown and prove to be much more effective on managing global environmental Challenges.

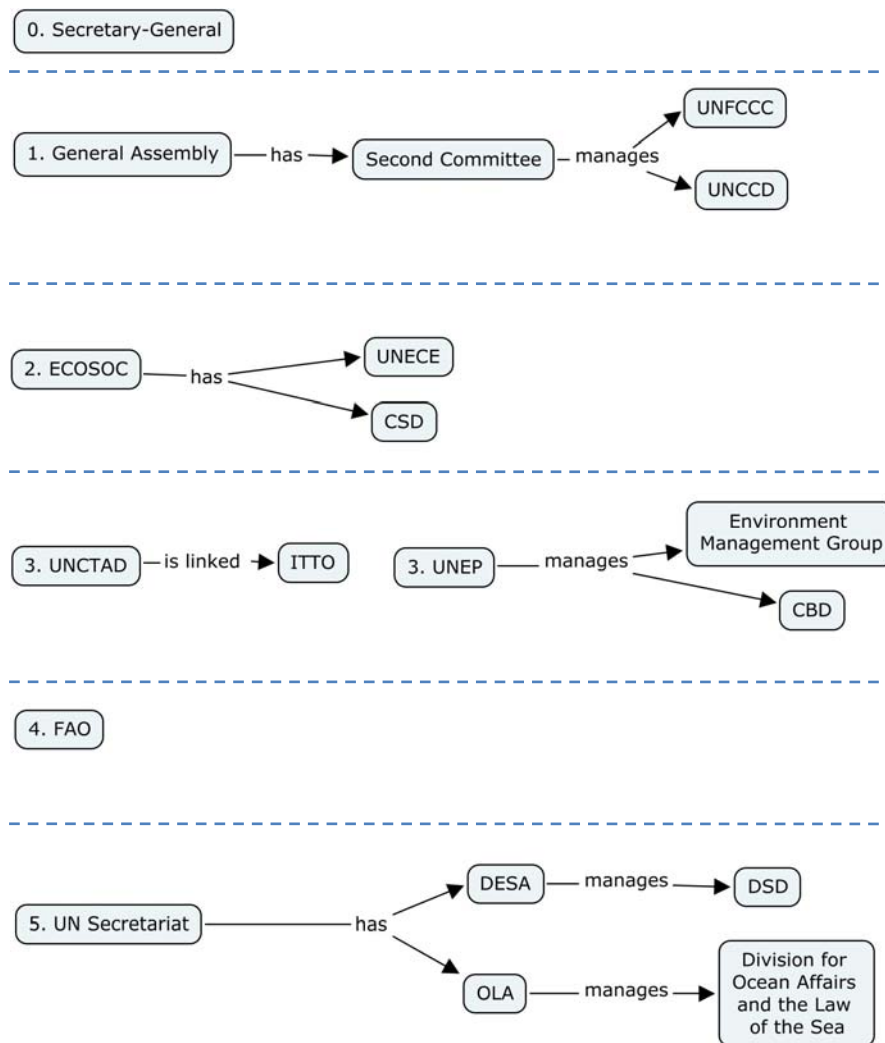


Figure 7. Hierarchy of the actors.

4.3.3. Identification of coordination mechanisms and duplicated structures.

UN has tried to adapt to the appearing challenges in each moment of history [2; 65] but it has not been very efficient integrating new topics and challenges within its structure. UN has often been accused of structures duplication. Although the apparition on duplicate structures on environmental issues, some efforts on establishing coordination of mechanisms among the environment and sustainability actors [66]. The identified coordination mechanisms are explained below:

UN-Water, UN-Energy and UN-Ocean (The annex 3 includes a list of all the actors involved in their meetings): The three of them are very similar instruments. They are forums that meet regularly in order to find synergies on the topics and processes that all the actors involved work on. The actors involved in each meeting are between 20, in the case of UN-Energy, and 28, for the UN-water. The big amount of actors involved in the meetings makes it difficult to coordinate in an operational way. It is an interesting forum to exchange ideas and problems that each actor has, but not an operational tool. Therefore these three instruments would be considered as duplicated structures, op other operational tools on the same fields such as the MEAs.

Environmental Management Group is a wide-coherence body that depends of the UNEP. It has not lead to thematic clustering processes of the MEAs neither thematic clustering meetings of the actors that work on environment and sustainability. The fact that the UNEP is the manager might have been one of the causes of its lack of leadership. A similar mechanism introduced in the General Assembly 2nd Committee might could be more useful in terms of consensus building than an instrument managed by one of the actors that is involved in the GEG debate.

Inter- (Rotterdam Convention, Basel Convention, and Stockholm Convention) Meetings: The three MEAs involved are managed by the UNEP. The first meeting was hold in Nusa Dua, Bali, from 22 to 24 February 2010. Its first meeting has been considered and achievement. There are initiatives that try to make common meetings also with the biodiversity-related conventions of CITES, CBD and Bonn Convention, also managed by UNEP.

Forests related structures: The forests and the UN have a very special relation due to its trade implications. The only MEA that finally rose related to the forests have been the ITTA. Although this fact, there are some different structures within the UN that are working on forest related topics. The ECOSOC, has the United Nations Forum on Forest (UNFF), FAO has a committee on Forestry (COFO), the REDD+ from the UNFCCC [3]. In the 1992 Rio Summit the negotiations for a MEA about forests failed caused by veto coalitions. The forests are a good example of duplication of structures.

4.3.4. Results.

With the data used for the configuration of the tables of the actors, different results represented through figures and tables, have been obtained in order to extract conclusions about the 14 actors analyzed. The timeline of the figure 8 contains the dates in which the different actors were established.

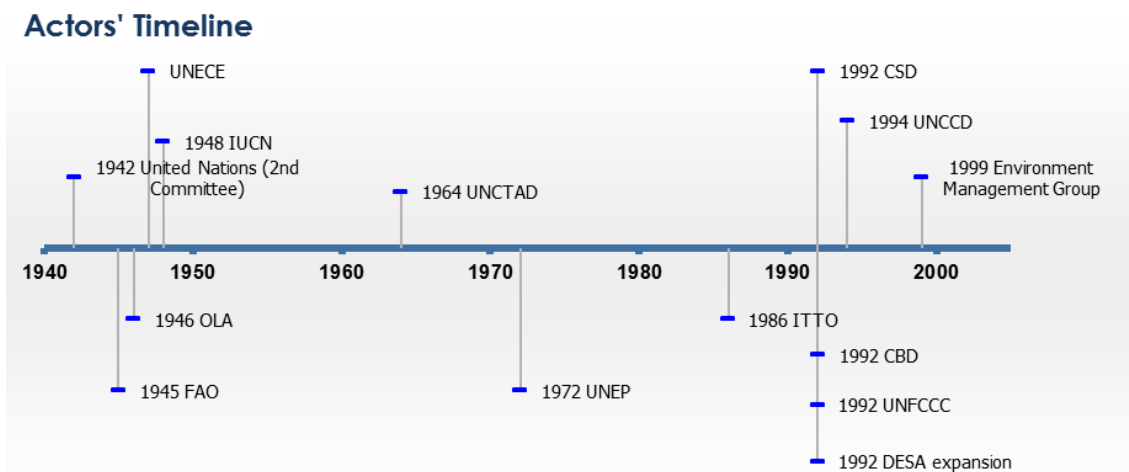


Figure 8. Actors timeline.

The IUCN is not part of the UN structure; although this fact it manages one of the biggest MEAs in terms of number of parties (table 8). This fact makes it necessary to analyze the IUCN as one of the actors involved in the GEG debate, because in the moment that it appeared there were not defined structures within the UN that could accomplish the same functions.

The location of the headquarters of each actor represented in the table 15 is different from the MEAs secretariats locations. Only 3 of the actors are located in Geneva, and four of them are located in New York. The fact that the actors that receive the reports of the different MEAs are located far away from their MEAs' secretariat might be a weakness for the building-up of coordination strategies and apparition of synergies.

Table 15. Actors location.

Actor	Location
UNEP	Nairobi, Kenya
UNECE	Geneva, Switzerland
General Assembly	New York, USA
CSD	New York, USA
DESA-DSD	New York, USA
OLA	New York, USA
UNFCCC	Bonn, Germany
CBD	Montreal, Canada
UNCCD	Bonn, Germany
UNCTAD	Geneva, Switzerland
ITTO	Yokohama, Japan
IUCN	Gland, Switzerland
FAO	Rome, Italy
Environment Management Group	Geneva, Switzerland

The field of the tables that refers to the topics that the actors are working on is represented in the table 16.

The thematic clustering classification proposed in the figure 3, might be useful to find synergies on the topics that each actor is working on, an increase of the specialization of each actor would also be useful to avoid duplication of structures and lack of coordination among actors.

Table 16. Topics that each actor is working on.

Actor	Topics
UNEP	Climate Change, Disasters and Conflicts, Ecosystems management, Environmental governance, Harmful substances, Resource Efficiency.
UNECE	Environmental Policy, Sustainable energy and Forestry and Timber.
General Assembly 2nd Committee	Issues relating to economic growth and development such as macroeconomic policy questions (including international trade, international financial system, and external debt sustainability), financing for development, sustainable development, human settlements, poverty eradication, globalization and interdependence, operational activities for development, and information and communication technologies for development.
CSD	Two-year cycles on selected thematic cluster issues. 2010-2011: Transport, Chemicals, Waste Management (Hazardous –Solid Waste), Mining, a ten year framework of programs on sustainable consumption and production patterns.
DESA includes the DSD	Divided among 10 thematic divisions. The topics related to Sustainable Development are approached by the DSD, and are the same ones the commission for sustainable Development is working on, as DESA offers to it secretariat functions.
OLA includes the division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea	Marine Biological diversity beyond areas of natural jurisdiction; Ocean noise: peer reviewed scientific studies; Ecosystemic approaches; Oceans and Climate change.
UNFCCC	Climate change related Topics.
CBD	Biological Diversity Conservation Related Topics.
UNCCD	Desertification related Topics.
UNCTAD	Climate Change; Commodities: Sustainability Claims Portal; Trade, environment and Development (Market access, environmental goods & services, organic Agriculture, traditional knowledge, Multilateral environmental agreements & trade).
ITTO	Sustainable Forest Management; Economic information & market intelligence; Industry Development; Capacity building; Climate Change; CITES; CEEP (Children's environmental education program).
IUCN	Conservation related topics.
FAO	It works on environmental Issues when they are related to agriculture or food in some way.
Environment Management Group	Atmosphere/air pollution and industrial development; International initiatives; environment Related Capacity Building; Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Capacity Building and Technology Support; Harmonization of Reporting for Bio-diversity related Conventions; Environmental aspects of Fresh Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements.

4.3.5. Actors Conclusions.

The UN system shows difficulties on how to integrate environmental challenges within its structure. One of the results of this situation is the diversity of actors involved on sustainability and environmental management. Different actors work on similar topics and do not coordinate in order to avoid overlapping. The lack of coordination among actors originates duplication of structures.

There is a lack of institutional frame and linkages for a Global Environmental Governance. The UNEP is not leading all the processes that would be needed to increase the institutional coherence; neither the CSD. The dimension of environment and sustainability challenges exceeds both actors' jurisdiction and capacity. This lack of institutional frame and linkages for a Global Environmental Governance is one of the causes that some of the most important MEAs: UNFCCC and UNCCD report directly to the General Assembly. Three MEAs UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD, act as new institutional bodies within the United Nations structure. The importance of some MEAs exceeds the UN capacity to integrate them within its structure, trending to create of new bodies.

The UNECE manages five MEAs. These agreements are open to signature to all the countries, although in most of the cases only European countries, Canada and USA are parties. The UNECE is a regional commission but manages global agreements.

The actors' location diverges from the MEAs' secretariats location. Four of the fourteen actors' headquarters are located in New York, USA; three are located in Geneva, Switzerland; and two in Bonn, Germany. The difference of locations between MEAs and actors decreases the potentialities to generate the apparition of coordination mechanism between them.

The UN-Water, UN-Ocean and UN-Energy; the Environment Management Group and the Forest related structures, are examples of attempts of establishing coordination mechanisms, which have end up being duplicate thematic structures within the United Nations. The extraordinary COP meeting of the Rotterdam, Basel and Stockholm conventions can be considered as an achievement in terms of coordination. Coordination of MEAs can lead to more action-oriented strategies; while forums with too many actors involved can end up without any operative result.

There seems to be a lack of communication between normative (General Assembly, ECOSOC, CSD) and executive structures of the United Nations. This fact makes more difficult the implementation of decisions and therefore the improvement of the global environment.

4.4. Summary Conceptual map of the MEAs and actors analysis.

The conceptual map represented in the figure 9 tries to summarize the MEAs and actors analysis carried out in the previous sections. The Conceptual map includes the hierarchy classification of the actors studied and the MEAs that each actor manages. The number of parties of each agreement has been written next to the name of the different MEAs.

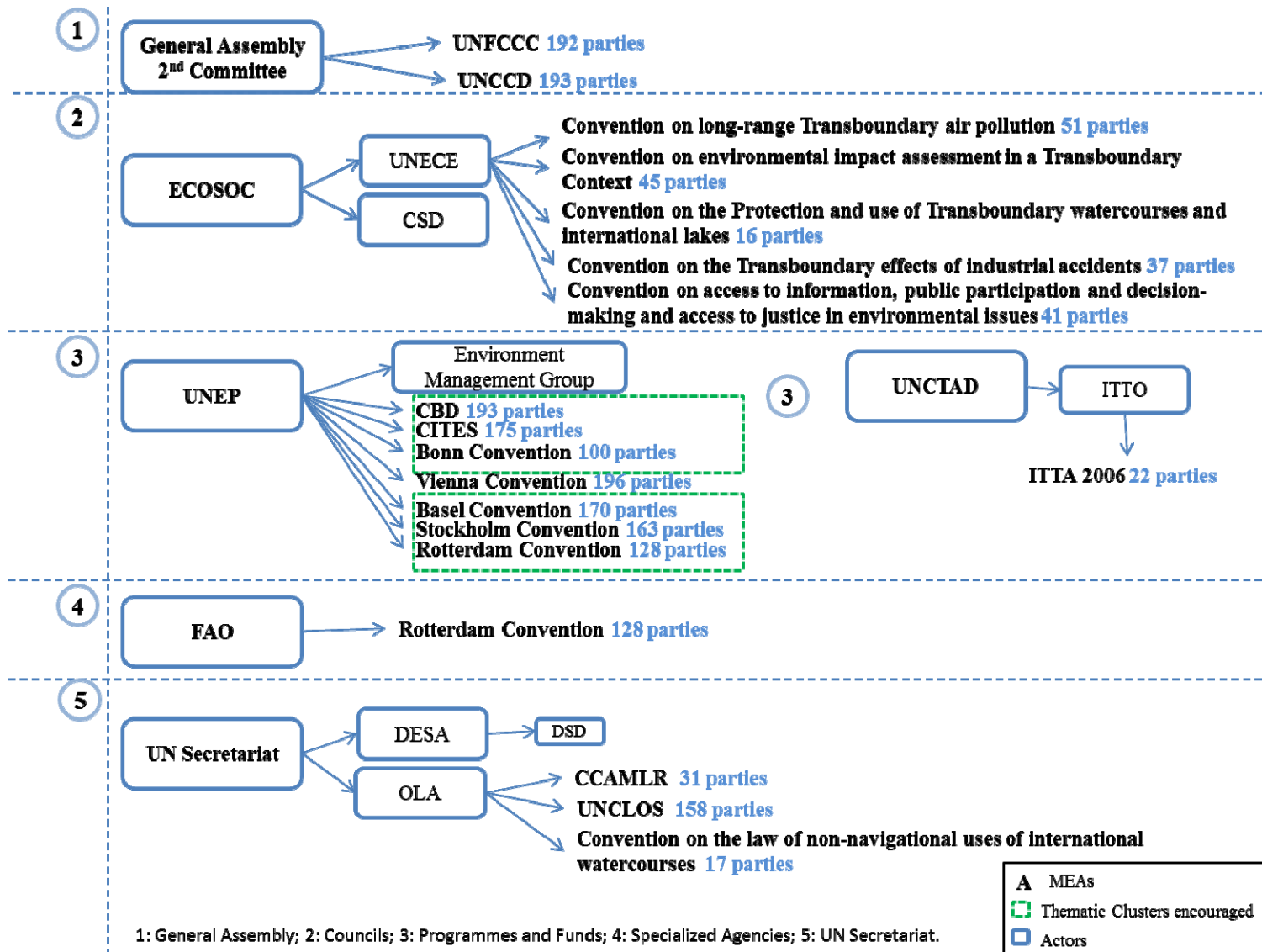


Figure 9. Representation of the actors and MEAs involved in the GEG debate following the hierarchy of the actors analysis.

4.5. General Assembly report after the preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development [1]

The ongoing process of preparation of the Rio+20 Conference is producing a lot of materials, documents and papers about the 2 different working “lines”: Green Economy, and the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development. The Secretary-General compilation Report that includes the different positions of the actors involved in both debates. The working topic of Institutional Framework for sustainable Development, includes an analysis made on the Global Environmental Governance within the UN, considering the environmental pillar and its representing institutions, as the weakest branch of the three that the sustainability has (Social, economic and environmental).

The SG report includes a summary about what the different actors that attended the preparatory committee consider to be the main challenges on GEG.

The reading and the conclusions obtained from the SG report have been done under the light of the previous analysis done on structure/actors and MEAs.

4.5.1. Analysis of the General Assembly report.

The quoted sentences are parts of the General Assembly Report on the preparatory committee for the United Nations conference on Sustainable Development [1], the sentences that follow the parts of the text are my conclusions in reference to the concepts discussed taking in consideration all the things learned through this Master’s Thesis research.

91. “The institutional framework for sustainable development covers a spectrum of formal and less formal bodies, organizations, networks & arrangements that are involved in policy-making or implementation activities”

In the Global Environmental Arena the actors identified are: The States, NGOs, Civil Society, UNEP, WTO, UNCTAD, UNDP, FAO, CSD, UNECE, DSD, DESA, OLA, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Secretary-General, General Assembly 2nd Committee, IUCN, ITTO.

93. “Overall, there is a widely recognized need to strengthen the institutional framework for sustainable development at all levels. In particular, the aim is integration in policymaking and implementation of the three pillars of sustainable development. A strengthened institutional framework for sustainable development, building on developments since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, encompasses a number of objectives.”

The integration of the three pillars could be a good way to approach an institutional Reform, integrating the Economic, Social and Environmental institutions or departments, giving them policy-formulation coherence.

97. *“Decision makers and citizens need access to sound sources of information, assessment and advice concerning risks to natural systems and human well-being. A variety of assessments at the international level have been undertaken over the past few decades, but their bearing on policymaking has varied widely. The cases of effective linkage between science and policy could offer fruitful lessons for future assessments, including that planned on biodiversity.”*

There is already an existing MEA that could be enhanced in order to serve this purpose: the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context. It is managed by the UNECE, which is the European regional commission of the ECOSOC. 45 Countries are parties of this MEA among them the United States of America and Canada.

98. *“There is a need to reinforce the institutions and processes involved in delivering on normative commitments made at the global level. Presently, there is an apparent disconnect between the bodies making normative decisions and the bodies responsible for implementation, with the latter feeling only weak ownership of those decisions unless they are incorporated into mandates from their own governing bodies.”*

There is a disconnection between the normative bodies and the executive bodies, which make difficult the coordination among actors, this fact can lead among other things to duplication of structures.

99. *“There are a number of mechanisms for coordination within the United Nations system, such as the Chief Executives Board and the Environment Management Group, in relation to the environment. Several thematic inter-agency mechanisms have been established, including UN-Energy, UN-Oceans and UN-Water, with the objective of fostering cooperation and information-sharing among United Nations entities. UN-Water also contributes to monitoring and reporting on internationally agreed water and sanitation targets. The United Nations Development Group assumes a role in relation to development activities on the ground, operationalizing normative decisions through, for example, producing guidance notes for United Nations country teams, including a recent one on mainstreaming environmental sustainability in country analysis and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.”*

Although it is seen as an achievement the establishment of inter-agency mechanisms such as UN-Energy, UN-Ocean and UN-water, the actors involved in the meetings are that many (annex 3) that the outcomes of the meetings become too general. Other coordination strategies have been set up through thematic clustering of MEAs, which can turn up to be more concrete and operative.

106. The Commission on Sustainable Development was established as the high-level body for the review and follow-up to the implementation of Agenda 21. While the central role of the Commission is widely acknowledged, concern has been expressed about lack of implementation of its policy decisions and its perceived weakness in driving the sustainable development agenda. However, the Commission has been a leading institution in the United Nations system with respect to the involvement of the major groups which engage actively and substantively in its work programme.”

CSD presents problems on setting up the Sustainability agenda in the Global Arena and the lack of implementation of its policy decisions should be taken in consideration when we analyze the proposals that outcome of the report. There are currently no MEAs being managed by the CSD, although other programs like the Agenda 21 are being coordinated by it.

108. “The institutions for the environment are frequently described as the weakest of the three pillars. While the adoption of a large number of multilateral environmental agreements has resulted in broad coverage, it has arguably also spread thin the limited financial and human resources and resulted in inadequate coordination. In response, efforts are also focused on bringing about greater coordination between multilateral environmental agreements through joint administrative support and thematic clustering. At present, UNEP provides administrative support for the following conventions: the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Migratory Species, the Basel Convention, the Rotterdam Convention and the Stockholm Convention (jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)), as well as the Montreal Protocol. Clustering of thematically related multilateral environmental agreements has been identified as a bottom-up solution for enhancing coherence. In that regard, a step towards greater synergy was the simultaneous extraordinary Conferences of the Parties to the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions, held from 22 to 24 February 2010, which adopted a decision on joint services, joint activities, synchronization of the budget cycles, joint managerial functions and review arrangements. The biodiversity related agreements (Convention on Biological Diversity, CITES, Convention on Migratory Species) have also moved towards greater cooperation. In general, thematic cooperation, animated by a shared need to investigate an issue, appears to be more important than factors such as the co-location of secretariats. It is important to define the rationale and purpose of multilateral environmental agreements’ cooperation and set clear objectives and criteria to assess results. At the same time, initiatives for coordination must also be balanced against the need to respect the autonomy and legal mandates of the agreements.”

Efforts have been carried out towards MEAs cooperation. Rotterdam Convention, Basel Convention and Stockholm Convention (the three of them focus on Chemical Hazardous) had simultaneous extraordinary conferences of the parties in February 2010. The biodiversity related MEAs (Bonn Convention, CBD and CITES) have also move forward. All of these MEAs are managed by the UNEP. Some of the MEAs that are managed by the UNECE are thematically related to the Rotterdam, Basel and Stockholm conventions: Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents. Even the UNFCCC could be included in this group. Focus on Thematic Clustering of the MEAs and establishment of extraordinary meeting could avoid structure duplication and consequence synergy action plans.

111. “A number of initiatives have explored options for strengthening international environmental governance, with a focus on UNEP. The consultative process launched by the UNEP Governing Council identified a number of system-wide responses to the shortcomings in the current system of international environmental governance and also considered a number of institutional options for strengthening the environment pillar in the context of sustainable development”.

Institutional options

“Enhancing UNEP. Universal membership in the UNEP Governing Council universal (from current 58 members). No change to mandate and minimal financial implications. Some analysts conclude that broad and active participation in the Governing Council and the Global Ministerial Environmental Forum of observer countries amounts to de facto universal membership.”

The fact that the UNEP has only 58 members is one of its main problems although the MEAs that are impulse by UNEP include more countries within its management. It would be a good solution to enhance it to universal membership.

“Establishing a new umbrella organization for sustainable development. New institution exercising executive functions, possibly founded on existing intergovernmental and secretariat entities. It would enhance integration of sustainable development in the work of institutions covering economic, social and environmental pillars. Established by General Assembly resolution or legal instrument.”

The ECOSOC has nowadays similar functions (through the CSD) and it has proven unable to serve this aim, the creation of a new umbrella organization without analyzing and integrating the current actors involved in the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development, can lead to another useless structure.

“Establishing a specialized agency such as a world environment organization. Specialized agency based on the model of United Nations agencies such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and FAO, which are hybrid normative and operational entities. It would be the global authority on the environment, providing policy guidance to other United Nations entities working on the environment and multilateral environmental agreements.”

This kind of agency would be less linked to United Nations Structure and decision-making processes, the environment is linked with a lot of different topics and conflicts, so a model of institution that would be more connected with the United Nations different decision-making bodies would be more useful and contextualized.

“Reforming the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Sustainable Development. In relation to the Economic and Social Council, possibilities that have been raised include strengthening the coordination of role of the Council in relation to sustainable development, for example, by establishing a “sustainable development segment” to engage more closely with the reports of the various functional commissions and entities such as UNEP. Another possibility involves merging the Economic and Social Council with the Commission on Sustainable Development into a council on sustainable development. Mention has also been made of upgrading the Commission to a sustainable development council, which could be achieved through a General Assembly resolution.

Enhancing institutional reforms and streamlining existing structures. A consortium arrangement for environmental sustainability, headed by a high-level governing body. An instrument or set of instruments would structure relationship with existing institutions.”

This option would be interesting from the point of view of integration Sustainable Development in a more efficient way into the United Nations structure, although if this reform would take place, the causes that make the ECOSOC not to be able to implement its policy decisions should be analyzed.

4.5.2. Comments and conclusions after reading the General Assembly report

Policy-making agents and executors are not the same actors in most of the cases. This fact makes more difficult the communication between normative and executive structures. The lack of communication between them leads to coordination problems and duplication of structures. Therefore it is difficult to implement policy reforms, and achieve concrete targets.

There have been established structures, within the United Nations, which although in theory should have improved the coordination among the different actors, the truth is that have trend to double thematic structures. UN-Oceans/Un-Water/UN-Energy can be considered as such although the report considers them an achievement. These structures involve too many actors to be effective and do not have concrete responsibilities, tasks or capacities. MEAs on the same topics already exist and are not being coordinated in these thematic groups.

UNEP has done efforts towards thematic clustering of the MEAs that manages. Extraordinary simultaneous conferences of the Conventions: Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel has been held; and there are plans to work on CBD, CITES and CMS coordination strategies. Coordination of MEAs in thematic groups could help to improve the lack of coordination among actors and MEAs within the United Nations.

As it is being usual in the United Nations frame, the current MEAs are written in a way that is easy to avoid the implementation of their targets. This fact makes difficult to apply their targets or compromises at national level, if the countries do not include them in their national legislation. In order to achieve the MEAs' targets, reforms for the establishment of a global monitoring system should be carried out.

The ECOSOC is a normative body that within the structure of the United Nations has problems to define how to implement its decisions. The ECOSOC should have an integrative role between the three sustainability pillars: Social, economic and environmental; this function is not being achieved. It has not been very successful setting up agenda on sustainability issues although it has led to important international conferences such as Rio earth summit 1992 which brought as consequence several MEAs, and the creation of the CSD.

The argument of the respect to the autonomy and legal mandates of the MEAs has to be taken in consideration on the Global Environmental Governance Debate. Each agreement has its historical context and history but an institutional effort is needed for the establishment of coordination and complementation mechanisms among them.

5. Main conclusions and Proposals

The ongoing preparation process of the next 2012 Rio Conference on Sustainable Development and the discussions about the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development, and more concretely about the Global Environmental Governance institutions, has been the connecting thread of this thesis. This last section aims to be a summary of all the conclusions written so far on the other three sections, and the place to develop my own proposals about the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development debate.

5.1. Main Conclusions

The United Nations shows difficulties on how to integrate environmental topics within its structure. This fact makes it difficult to concrete which agreements can be considered MEAs and what are the actors that work on environment and sustainability.

There is a disconnection between normative actors and executive bodies. This lack of coordination can decrease the capacity of policy application, and the execution of action-oriented strategies.

There is a lack of coordination among the actors that work on environment and sustainability. This lack of coordination can lead to overlapping of responsibilities and duplication of structures. The United Nations has doubled thematic structures as UN-Water, UN-Ocean, UN-Energy and Environment management group. The four of them involve too many actors in its meetings to be effective and work on topics that there are already MEAs working on.

There is lack of institutional frame and linkages referring to the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development. The ECOSOC is engaged with the integration of the three pillars of sustainability: Social, economic and environmental, within the United Nations structure. The ECOSOC is a normative body that within the structures of the United Nations has problems to define how to implement its decisions. The UNEP has been efficient managing environmental problems, what is its aim, and has even tried to set up coordination mechanisms, without being very successful, like the Environment Management Group. There are two MEAs that become new institutional bodies, due to the lack of institutional structure which could integrate them. These two MEAs even report directly to the General Assembly, and self-function as independent bodies.

The nearness of location of MEAs and actors do not increase the coordination among them. This could be used as a potential resource to increase communication and coordination.

Thematic clustering has been used by the UNEP to increase coordination among MEAs. One extraordinary meeting of the parties of the Rotterdam, Stockholm and Basel conventions has been carried out. Similar meetings on Biodiversity related MEAs want to be prepared by the UNEP managed CBD, CMS and CITES.

5.2. Proposals

The extraordinary meetings of the parties held by the Rotterdam, Stockholm and Basel conventions, is a good achievement. Thematic clustering could be used to identify which MEAs are working on similar topics and encourage extraordinary meetings in order to avoid overlapping and duplication of structures.

The lack of institutional frame and linkages observed in the United Nations Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development is related to a wrong identification of each actor's duties and aims. The ECOSOC is engaged with the integration of the three pillars of sustainability: Social, economic and environmental, within the United Nations structure; but is not performing this integration or coordination role, and is focusing too much on environmental topics, while has not capacity to focus on economic issues. The ECOSOC has problems on implementing its policy. This problem has to be solved. The weakness of ECOSOC should be analyzed by a panel and reformed by a resolution of the General Assembly if needed, in order to be more effective implementing its decisions. There should be a focus on the three pillars of sustainability more than on the environmental pillar. The

The UNEP has been working efficiently on environmental topics since it was created in 1972. One of the problems that it presents is that only 58 countries are integrated within its structure; the proposal of enhancing the UNEP to universal membership and empowering it would be a good way to include more visions and approaches to its mission. Although having only 58 countries within its structure, the MEAs that the UNEP manages, have a lot of parties and wide consensus. The UNEP should be engaged with the creation of a definition of what is environment. The environment definition created by the UNEP should be applied to all the United Nations.

A Global monitoring system on Environmental Impact assessment should be set up. There is already the experience of the Convention on Environmental Impact assessment in a Transboundary context, managed by the UNECE, which could be taken as an example for a global system. The monitoring system could be managed by the UNEP.

5.3. Further studies

Further studies could focus on:

- Research about a wider Global Environmental Governance frame; including states, civil society and actors that are not part of the United Nations.
- Thematic clustering of the existing MEAs, in order to increase the coordination among them.
- Compilation of all the bilateral, regional and multilateral environmental agreements in order to promote their thematic clustering.
- Design a preliminary Global Monitoring system on Environmental Impact Assessment.

6. Bibliography

- [1] General Assembly of the United Nations 2011, *Report of the Secretary-General of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Objectives and themes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.* , The United Nations, New York, USA.
- [2] Andersen, S. 2001, "Global Environmental Governance: UN Fragmentation and Coordination", *Yearbook of International Co-operation on Environment and Development 2001/02* , pp. 19.
- [3] Chasek, P.S., Downie, D.L. & Brown, J.W. 2006, *Global Environmental Politics*, 4th edn, Westview Press, Colorado, USA.
- [4] Broadhead, L. 2002, *International Environmental Politics, The limits of Green Diplomacy*. Lynne Rienner Publishers, London.
- [5] The United Nations 2011, , *United Nations webpage* [Homepage of United Nations], [Online]. Available: <http://www.un.org/> [2011, May].
- [6] Haas, P.M. 2004, *Addressing the Global Governance Deficit*, University of Massachusetts.
- [7] Brack, D. & Gray, K. 2003, *Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the WTO*, The Royal Institute of International Affairs.
- [8] The United Nations 2004, *Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary General*, United Nations, New York, USA.
- [9] The United Nations 2008, *2008 Treaty Event: Towards Universal Participation and Implementation. Dignity and Justice for all of us.*, United Nations, 2008.
- [10] The United Nations 2009, *2009 Treaty Event: Towards Universal Participation and Implementation*, United Nations, New York, USA.
- [11] The United Nations 2010, *2010 Treaty Event: Towards Universal Participation and Implementation*, United Nations, 2010.
- [12] Diez de Velasco, M. 2007, *Las Organizaciones Internacionales*, 14th edn, TECNOS, Madrid, Spain.
- [13] The United Nations 2011, , *United Nations Treaty Database. United Nations Treaty Collection*. [Homepage of United Nations], [Online]. Available: <http://treaties.un.org/Home.aspx> [2011, May].

- [14] International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) 2011, , *Ramsar Convention on Wetlands*. Available: http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-march11/main/ramsar/1%5E25044_4000_0 [2011, April 2011].
- [15] UNEP, United Nations Environment Programme 2011, , *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, CITES* [Homepage of UNEP], [Online]. Available: <http://www.cites.org> [2011, April].
- [16] The United Nations 2011, , *Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn Convention)*. Available: <http://www.cms.int> [2011, April 2011].
- [17] UNECE, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe 2011, , *Convention on Long-range transboundary air pollution* [Homepage of UNECE], [Online]. Available: <http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap> [2011, April].
- [18] The United Nations 2011, , *Convention for the conservation of Antarctic Marine Living resources CCAMLR* [Homepage of United Nations], [Online]. Available: <http://www.ccamlr.org> [2011, April].
- [19] The United Nations 2011, , *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, UNCLOS*. [Homepage of UN], [Online]. Available: <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/index.htm> [2011, April].
- [20] UNEP, United Nations Environment Programme 2011, , *Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer*. [Homepage of UNEP], [Online]. Available: <http://ozone.unep.org/> [2011, April].
- [21] UNEP, United Nations Environment Programme 2011, , *Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal*. [Homepage of UNEP], [Online]. Available: <http://www.basel.int> [2011, April].
- [22] UNECE, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe 2011, , *Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context*. [Homepage of UNECE], [Online]. Available: <http://www.unece.org/env/eia/eia.htm> [2011, April].
- [23] UNECE, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe 2011, , *Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and international Lakes*. [Homepage of UNECE], [Online]. Available: <http://www.unece.org/env/water> [2011, April].
- [24] UNECE, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe 2011, , *Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents*. [Homepage of UNECE], [Online]. Available: <http://www.unece.org/env/teia/> [2011, April].
- [25] The United Nations 2011, , *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* [Homepage of UN], [Online]. Available: <http://unfccc.int/2860.php> [2011, April].
- [26] The United Nations 2011, , *Convention on Biological Diversity*. [Homepage of UN], [Online]. Available: <http://www.cbd.int> [2011, April].

- [27] The United Nations 2011, , *United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Counties Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa*. [Homepage of UN], [Online]. Available: <http://www.unccd.int/main.php> [2011, April].
- [28] UNECE, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe 2011, , *Convention on Access to information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters*. [Homepage of UNECE], [Online]. Available: www.unece.org/env/pp [2011, April].
- [29] UNEP, United Nations Environment Programme 2011, , *Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade*. [Homepage of UNEP], [Online]. Available: <http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=s&id=77> [2011, April].
- [30] UNEP, United Nations Environment Programme 2011, , *Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants*. [Homepage of UNEP], [Online]. Available: <http://chm.pops.int/default.aspx> [2011, April].
- [31] ITTO, International Tropical Timber Organization. 2011, , *ITTA, International Tropical Timber Agreement*. [Homepage of ITTO], [Online]. Available: <http://www.itto.int> [2011, April].
- [32] Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, signed at Iran 2 February 1971 (No. I-14583). United Nations Treaty Series Online Collection.
- [33] Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, signed at Washington DC. United States of America, 3 March 1973 (No.I-14537). United Nations Treaty Series Online Collection.
- [34] Convention on Migratory Species, signed at Bonn, Germany 23 June 1979 (No. I-28395). United Nations Treaty Series Online Collection.
- [35] Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, signed in Geneva, Switzerland. 13 November 1979 (No.21623). *United Nations Treaty Series* 1302 pp. 217.
- [36] Convention for the conservation of Antarctic Marine Living resources, signed in Canberra, Australia. 20 May 1980 (No. I-22301) United Nations Treaty Series Online Collection.
- [37] United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, signed in Montego Bay, Jamaica. 10 December 1982. (No.31363) *United Nations Treaty Series* 1833 pp. 3.
- [38] Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, signed at Vienna, Austria. 22 March 1985 (No. 26164) *United Nations Treaty Series* 1513 pp. 293.
- [39] Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, signed at Basel, Switzerland. 22 March 1989. (No. 28911) *United Nations Treaty Series* 1673 pp. 57.
- [40] Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, signed at Espoo, Finland. 25 February 1991. (No. I-34028) United Nations Treaty Series Online Collection.

- [41] Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and international Lakes, signed at Helsinki, Finland. 17 March 1992. (No. 33207) *United Nations Treaty Series* 1936 pp. 269.
- [42] Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, signed at Helsinki, Finland. 17 March 1992. (No. 36605) *United Nations Treaty Series* 2105 pp. 457.
- [43] United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, signed at New York, United States of America. 9 May 1992. (No. 30822) *United Nations Treaty Series* 1771 pp. 107.
- [44] Convention on Biological Diversity, signed at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. 5 June 1992. (No. 30619) *United Nations Treaty Series* 1760 pp. 79.
- [45] United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Counties Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, signed at Paris, France. 14 October 1994. (No. 33480) *United Nations Treaty Series* 1954 pp. 3.
- [46] Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses. New York, United States of America. 21 May 1997. *United Nations Treaty Series Online Collection*.
- [47] Convention on Access to information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, signed at Aarhus, Denmark. 25 June 1998. (No. 37770) *United Nations Treaty Series* 2161 pp. 447.
- [48] Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, signed at Rotterdam, Netherlands. 10 September 1998. (No. 39973) *United Nations Treaty Series* 2244 pp. 337.
- [49] Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. Stockholm, Sweden. 22 May 2001. (No. 40214) *United Nations Treaty Series*.
- [50] International Tropical Timber Agreement. Geneva, Switzerland. 27 February 2006. *United Nations Treaty Series Online Collection*.
- [51] General Assembly of the United Nations, 2nd Committee 2010, *List of Proposals contained in the reports of the Second Committee*, The United Nations, New York, USA.
- [52] Von Moltke, K. 2001, *On Clustering Interational Environmental Agreements*, International Institute for Sustainable Development.
- [53] UNEP, United Nations Environment Programme 2011-last update, *UNEP* [Homepage of UNEP], [Online]. Available: www.unep.org [2011, May].
- [54] UNECE, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe 2011, , *United Nations Economic Commission for Europe* [Homepage of UNECE], [Online]. Available: <http://www.unece.org> [2011, May].
- [55] The United Nations 2011, , *General Assembly 2nd Committee* [Homepage of United Nations], [Online]. Available: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/index.shtml> [2011, May].
- [56] CSD, Commission for Sustainable Development 2011, , *Commission for Sustainable Development* [Homepage of CSD], [Online]. Available: <http://www.un.org/esa/dsd> [2011, May].

- [57] The United Nations 2011, , *Department of Economic and Social affairs* [Homepage of United nations], [Online]. Available: <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/index.html> [2011, May].
- [58] The United Nations 2011, , *Office of Legal Affairs* [Homepage of United nations], [Online]. Available: <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/index.htm> [2011, May].
- [59] UNCTAD, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. 2011, , *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development*. [Homepage of United Nations], [Online]. Available: <http://www.unctad.org> [2011, May].
- [60] ITTO, International Tropical Timber Organization. 2011, , *International Tropical Timber Organization*. [Homepage of ITTO], [Online]. Available: <http://www.itto.int> [2011, May].
- [61] IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature. 2011, , *International Union for Conservation of Nature*. [Homepage of IUCN], [Online]. Available: <http://www.iucn.org> [2011, May].
- [62] FAO, Food and Agriculture Organization. 2011, , *Food and Agriculture Organization* [Homepage of FAO], [Online]. Available: <http://www.fao.org> [2011, May].
- [63] UNEP, United Nations Environment Programme 2011, , *Environment Management Group* [Homepage of UNEP], [Online]. Available: <http://www.unemg.org> [2011, May].
- [64] Abellán Honrubia, V., Pons Ràfols, X. & Saura Estapà, J. 2005, *Nocions, Bàsiques de Dret internacional Públic per a diplomatures de ciències Empresarials i de Gestió i Administració Pública*. 2nd edn, Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona.
- [65] General Assembly of the United Nations 2006, *Delivering as One*, The United Nations, New York, USA.
- [66] Molina Schmid, T. 2007, "Las Sinergias en los mecanismos Internacionales de Protección de la Biodiversidad.", *da, Documentación administrativa. Gobierno de España.*, , pp. 351.

Annex 1: Multilateral Environmental Agreements' Tables.

Name	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.	
Date, year and place	Ramsar, Iran 1971.	
Actor that manages it	IUCN(International Union for Conservation of Nature	
Secretariat Location	Gland, Switzerland	
Website	http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-march11/main/ramsar/1%5E25044_4000_0	
Number of Parties	160	
Number of protocols signed	None described	
keywords	Water, Conservation, Trade, Fisheries, Sustainability, Ecosystem	1

Name	Convention on international Trade in endanger Species (CITES).	
Date, year and place	Washington DC. United States of America, 3 March 1973.	
Actor that manages it	UNEP	
Secretariat Location	Geneva, Switzerland	
Website	http://www.cites.org	
Number of Parties	175	
Number of protocols signed	None described	
keywords	Biodiversity, trade, conservation.	2

Name	Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn Convention).	
Date, year and place	Bonn, Germany; 23 June 1979.	
Actor that manages it	UNEP	
Secretariat Location	Bonn, Germany	
Website	http://www.cms.int	
Number of Parties	100	
Number of protocols signed	Non described	
keywords	Biodiversity, trade, conservation.	3

Name	Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution.	
Date, year and place	Geneva, 13 November 1979.	
Actor that manages it	UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)	
Secretariat Location	Geneva, Switzerland	
Website	http://www.unece.org/env/lrtap	
Number of Parties	51	
Number of protocols signed	8 protocols	
keywords	Pollution, atmosphere, health.	4

Name	Convention for the conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources. [Antarctic Treaty System]. CCAMLR.	
Date, year and place	Canberra, Australia; 20 May 1980.	
Actor that manages it	Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea.	
Secretariat Location	Hobart, Tasmania, Australia	
Website	http://www.ccamlr.org	
Number of Parties	31	
Number of protocols signed	Non described	
keywords	Sea, biodiversity, trade, conservation.	5

Name	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.	
Date, year and place	Montego Bay, 10 December 1982.	
Actor that manages it	Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea.	
Secretariat Location	New York, USA	
Website	http://www.un.org/Depts/los/index.htm	
Number of Parties	158	
Number of protocols signed	Non described	
keywords	Sea, trade, conservation, Waste, chemicals.	6

Name	Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer.	
Date, year and place	Vienna, 22 March 1985.	
Actor that manages it	UNEP	
Secretariat Location	Nairobi, Kenya	
Website	http://ozone.unep.org/	
Number of Parties	196	
Number of protocols signed	1, Montreal protocol on substances that deplete the Ozone layer. Montreal, 16 September 1987.	
keywords	Atmosphere, pollution, health.	7

Name	Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.	
Date, year and place	Basel, 22 March 1989.	
Actor that manages it	UNEP	
Secretariat Location	Geneva, Switzerland	
Website	http://www.basel.int	
Number of Parties	170	
Number of protocols signed	1, Basel protocol on liability and compensation for Damage resulting from Transboundary movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. Basel, 10 December 1999.	
keywords	Health, waste, pollution.	8

Name	Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.	
Date, year and place	Espoo, Finland, 25 February 1991.	
Actor that manages it	UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe).	
Secretariat Location	Geneva, Switzerland	
Website	http://www.unece.org/env/eia/eia.htm	
Number of Parties	45	
Number of protocols signed	1, Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary context. Kiev, 21 May 2003.	
keywords	Environmental impact assessment, pollution, health.	9

Name	Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and international Lakes.	
Date, year and place	Helsinki, 17 March 1992	
Actor that manages it	UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe).	
Secretariat Location	Geneva, Switzerland	
Website	http://www.unece.org/env/water	
Number of Parties	16	
Number of protocols signed	2, Protocols: - Protocol on Water and health to the 1992 convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. London, 17 June 1999. - Protocol on Water and health to the 1992 convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. London, 17 June 1999.	
keywords	Health, water, pollution, waste.	10

Name	Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.	
Date, year and place	Helsinki, 17 March 1992	
Actor that manages it	UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe).	
Secretariat Location	Geneva, Switzerland	
Website	http://www.unece.org/env/teia/	
Number of Parties	37	
Number of protocols signed	1, Protocol on Civil Liability and Compensation for Damage Caused by the Transboundary effects of industrial accidents on Transboundary waters to the 1992 convention on the protection and use of Transboundary watercourses and international lakes and o the 1992 convention on the Transboundary effects of Industrial accidents. Kiev, 21 May 2003.	
keywords	Health, waste, pollution, industry.	11

Name	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	
Date, year and place	New York, 9 May 1992.	
Actor that manages it	General Assembly 2 nd Committee.	
Secretariat Location	Bonn, Germany	
Website	http://unfccc.int/2860.php	
Number of Parties	192	
Number of protocols signed	1, Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change. Kyoto, 11 December 1997.	
keywords	Atmosphere, pollution, health, trade.	12

Name	Convention on Biological Diversity.	
Date, year and place	Rio de Janeiro, 5 June 1992	
Actor that manages it	UNEP	
Secretariat Location	Montreal, Canada	
Website	http://www.cbd.int	
Number of Parties	193	
Number of protocols signed	2, protocols: - Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the convention on biological diversity. Montreal, January 2000. - Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing 29 October 2010, Nagoya, Japan.	
keywords	Conservation, biodiversity, sea, trade, genetic resources	13

Name	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Counties Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa.	
Date, year and place	Paris, 14 October 1994	
Actor that manages it	General Assembly 2 nd Committee	
Secretariat Location	Bonn, Germany	
Website	http://www.unccd.int/main.php	
Number of Parties	193	
Number of protocols signed	Non described	
keywords	Drought, water, forests, agriculture, atmosphere, conservation	14

Name	Convention on the Law of the Non Navigational Uses of International Watercourses.	
Date, year and place	New York, 21 May 1997.	
Actor that manages it	Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea.	
Secretariat Location	To be defined when it enter into force.	
Website	Not existing yet	
Number of Parties	17	
Number of protocols signed	Non described	
keywords	Conservation, water, waste, pollution, biodiversity.	15

Name	Convention on Access to information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.	
Date, year and place	Aarhus, Denmark, 25 June 1998.	
Actor that manages it	UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe).	
Secretariat Location	Geneva, Switzerland	
Website	www.unece.org/env/pp	
Number of Parties	41	
Number of protocols signed	1, Protocol on pollutant release and transfer registers. Kiev, 21 May 2003.	
keywords	Sustainability, human rights, governance, policy.	16

Name	Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade.	
Date, year and place	Rotterdam, 10 September 1998.	
Actor that manages it	UNEP and FAO.	
Secretariat Location	Geneva, Switzerland and Rome, Italy	
Website	http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=s&id=77	
Number of Parties	128	
Number of protocols signed	Non described	
keywords	Chemicals, pesticides, trade, waste, pollution, agriculture.	17

Name	Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.	
Date, year and place	Stockholm, 22 May 2001.	
Actor that manages it	UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme)	
Secretariat Location	Geneva, Switzerland	
Website	http://chm.pops.int/default.aspx	
Number of Parties	163	
Number of protocols signed	Non described	
keywords	Persistent organic pollutants (POPs), pesticides, waste, pollution, agriculture.	18

Name	ITTA 2006 (International Tropical Timber Agreement).	
Date, year and place	Geneva, 27 January 2006.	
Actor that manages it	ITTO (International Tropical Timber Organization).	
Secretariat Location	Yokohama, Japan	
Website	http://www.itto.int	
Number of Parties	22	
Number of protocols signed	Non described	
keywords	Law, trade, Forests, Deforestation, Conservation, Governance.	19

Annex 2: Actors' Tables.

Actor	UNEP	
Year it was created	1972	
Location of its headquarters	Nairobi, Kenya	
Number of MEAs that manages	6,5: CITES; Bonn Convention; Vienna Convention; Basel Convention; Rotterdam Convention; Stockholm Convention.	
Topics that is working on	Climate Change, Disasters and conflicts, Ecosystem management, Environmental Governance, Harmful Substance, Resource Efficiency.	
Website	www.unep.org	1

Actor	UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)	
Year it was created	1947	
Location of its headquarters	Geneva, Switzerland.	
Number of MEAs that manages	5: Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution; Convention on Environment Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context; Convention on the Protection and the Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes; Convention on the Effects of Industrial Accidents; Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.	
Topics that is working on	They work by programs, the related ones: Environmental Policy; Sustainable Energy; and Forestry and Timber.	
Website	http://www.unece.org	2

Actor	General Assembly 2 nd Committee	
Year it was created	1942	
Location of its headquarters	New York, USA.	
Number of MEAs that manages	2: UNFCCC and UNCCD.	
Topics that is working on	Issues relating to economic growth and development such as macroeconomic policy questions (including international trade, international financial system, and external debt sustainability), financing for development, sustainable development, human settlements, poverty eradication, globalization and interdependence, operational activities for development, and information and communication technologies for development.	
Website	http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/index.shtml	3

Actor	CSD (Commission for Sustainable Development).	
Year it was created	Year: December 1992.	
Location of its headquarters	New York, USA.	
Number of MEAs that manages	None described.	
Topics that is working on	Two-year cycles on selected thematic clusters of issues. 2010-2011: Transport, Chemicals, Waste Management (Hazardous & Solid Waste), Mining, a Ten Year Framework of Programs on Sustainable consumption and Production Patterns.	
Website	http://www.un.org/esa/dsd	4

Actor	DESA (Department of Economic and Social Affairs) Includes the DSD (Division for Sustainable Development), and the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests.	
Year it was created	Expanded in 1992.	
Location of its headquarters	New York, USA.	
Number of MEAs that manages	None described.	
Topics that is working on	Divided among 10 thematic divisions. The topics related to Sustainable Development are approached by the DSD (Division for sustainable Development) and are the same ones the Commission for Sustainable Development is working on, as DESA offers to it secretariat functions.	
Website	http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/index.html	5

Actor	OLA (Office of Legal Affairs) includes Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea.	
Year it was created	1946	
Location of its headquarters	New York, USA.	
Number of MEAs that manages	CCAMLR; UNCLOS; Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses.	
Topics that is working on	Topics: Marine Biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction; Ocean noise: peer-reviewed scientific studies; Ecosystemic approaches; Oceans and Climate Change; and Piracy.	
Website	http://www.un.org/Depts/los/index.htm	6

Actor	UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention to Combat Climate Change).	
Year it was created	1992	
Location of its headquarters	Bonn, Germany.	
Number of MEAs that manages	1: UNFCCC.	
Topics that is working on	Climate Change related.	
Website	http://unfccc.int/2860.php	7

Actor	CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity).	
Year it was created	1992	
Location of its headquarters	Montreal, Canada.	
Number of MEAs that manages	1: CBD.	
Topics that is working on	Conservation related.	
Website	http://www.cbd.int	8

Actor	UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification).	
Year it was created	1994	
Location of its headquarters	Bonn, Germany.	
Number of MEAs that manages	1: UNCCD.	
Topics that is working on	UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification).	
Website	http://www.unccd.int	9

Actor	UNCTAD (United Nation Conference on Trade and Development).	
Year it was created	1964.	
Location of its headquarters	Geneva, Switzerland	
Number of MEAs that manages	1: Indirectly it manages the ITTA.	
Topics that is working on	Climate Change; Commodities: Sustainability Claims Portal; Trade, Environment and Development (Market access; Environmental goods & services; Organic Agriculture; Traditional Knowledge; Multilateral Environmental Agreements & Trade).	
Website	http://www.unctad.org	10

Actor	<i>Actor:</i> ITTO (International Tropical Timber Organization).	
Year it was created	Year: 1986.	
Location of its headquarters	Yokohama, Japan.	
Number of MEAs that manages	1: ITTO, Timber Agreement 2001.	
Topics that is working on	Sustainable Forest Management; Economic information & market intelligence; Industry Development; Capacity building; Climate Change; CITES, CEEP (Children's environmental Education Program).	
Website	http://www.itto.int	11

Actor	IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature).	
Year it was created	1948.	
Location of its headquarters	Gland, Switzerland.	
Number of MEAs that manages	1: Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.	
Topics that is working on	Conservation Related.	
Website	http://www.iucn.org	12

Actor	FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations).	
Year it was created	1945.	
Location of its headquarters	Rome, Italy.	
Number of MEAs that manages	Half together with UNEP: <i>Rotterdam Convention</i> .	
Topics that is working on	It works with environmental issues when they are related to agriculture or food in some way.	
Website	http://www.fao.org	13

Actor	Environment Management Group	
Year it was created	1999.	
Location of its headquarters	Geneva, Switzerland	
Number of MEAs that manages	None Described.	
Topics that is working on	Concluded Issues: Atmosphere/Air Pollution and Industrial Development; International Industrial Initiatives; Environment Related Capacity Building; Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Capacity Building and Technology Support; Harmonization of Reporting for Bio-diversity related Conventions; Environmental aspects of Fresh Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements.	
Website	http://www.unemg.org	14

Annex 3: Members of UN-Energy, UN-Oceans and UN-Water.

Members of the UN-Energy

Economic Commission for Africa
Economic Commission for Europe
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
Food and Agriculture Organization
International Atomic Energy Agency
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (HABITAT)
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
United Nations Industrial Development Organization
United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
World Health Organization
World Meteorological Organization
World Bank
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
Chief Executive Board Secretariat

Members of UN-Oceans

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UN-DOALOS
Food and Agriculture Organization
IOC-UNESCO
United Nations Environment Programme
World Bank (IBRD)
International Maritime Organization
World Meteorological Organization
United Nations Development Programme
International Atomic Energy Agency
Convention on Biological Diversity
ISA
ILO
UNIDO
World Trade Organization
World Health Organization
United Nations Human Settlements Programme
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate change
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
United Nations University
OECD
IHO

Members of UN-water

Convention on Biological Diversity
Food and Agriculture Organization
International Atomic Energy Agency
International Fund for Agricultural Development
United Nations Children's Fund
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
United Nations Environment Programme
Secretariat of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
United Nations Human Settlements Programme
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
United Nations Industrial Development Organization
United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
United Nations University
The World Bank
World Health Organization
World Meteorological Organization
World Tourism Organization
International Labour Organization
United Nations Institute for Training and Research