



WCEL
WORLD COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL LAW
COMMISSION MONDIALE DE DROIT DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT
COMISION MUNDIAL DE DERECHO AMBIENTAL



Global Judicial Institute
on the Environment
Institut Judiciaire Mondial
de l'Environnement
Instituto Judicial Mundial
del Ambiente



Ministerio
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UN 
environment
programme

INFORMATIVE MEETING

Plastic Pollution, Law and Justice

Under the Auspices of the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment, the United Nations Environment Programme, the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law, and the Ministry of the Environment of Uruguay

1 December 2022 | 2:00 p.m. Uruguay time (GMT-3)

Context

Without urgent action, the estimated 11 million metric tons of plastic currently entering the ocean annually will triple in the next twenty years (UNEP, 2021). These data warn us that the problem is serious, and that meaningful regulatory action is needed. To address this issue, legal frameworks and environmental justice in the context of marine litter and plastic pollution, are topics receiving growing attention. Judicial systems are key to address this crisis, as they have been at the forefront of environmental protection in recent decades. Due to the emergence of many complex socio-environmental conflicts, landmark decisions have been adopted by national and regional courts protecting environmental rights, and the environment has become an integrating and strong pillar connecting the environmental, social, and ethical dimensions of sustainable development.

Nevertheless, increased waste generation, limited recycling of discarded materials, inadequate waste management practices, and lack of capacity to enforce policies and regulations are some drivers hindering the effective reduction of marine litter and plastic pollution (UNEP, 2022). We now have an opportunity to discuss and build at the global level on a comprehensive instrument addressing the full life cycle of plastics, considering new principles of environmental law and promoting sustainable production and consumption of plastics from product design to environmentally sound management through resource efficiency and circular economy approaches.

General Objective

The IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law works to enhance the development and strengthening the implementation of environmental law and policy. The Global Judicial Institute on the Environment (GJIE), an international organization incorporated in Geneva, Switzerland, is committed to judicial independence, transparency, and integrity to support the judiciary across the world to effectively handle cases concerning the environment. Together with the Ministry of Environment of Uruguay and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), both also committed to these goals, they are pleased to present a high-level dialogue among international experts in the field of plastic pollution. This informative event aims to highlight the essential role of law and justice to tackle plastic pollution, bringing to the table substantive inputs on potential elements on the legal design of the future treaty, including the scope and specific objectives of the instrument, principles of international law and new principles of circular economy, that will guide the implementation of the instrument, as well as procedures and mechanisms that might be relevant to furthering implementation and compliance under the future instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.



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Date, venue and language

Format: One-hour hybrid session

Date: Thursday 1 December, 2022

Time: 14.00 hs Uruguay Time (UTC-03:00)

Language: English and Spanish with simultaneous interpretation in both languages

Co-organized by the Global Judicial Institute on the Environment (GJIE), the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL), the Government of Uruguay, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Registration link: [Inscripción a la reunión - Zoom](#)

Programme

High level Opening | 20 min

Chair

- **Justice Luc Lavrysen**, President of the Constitutional Court of Belgium

Welcoming Remarks

- **Justice John Pérez Brignan**, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Justice of Uruguay
- **Justice Antonio Herman Benjamin**, National High Court of Brazil (ST), and President, Global Judicial Institute on the Environment
- **Christina Voigt**, Chair of the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law and Professor of Oslo University
- **Patricia Kameri-Mbote**, Director of the Law Division, United Nations Environment Programme, and Professor of Nairobi University

Panel | Plastic Pollution, Law and Justice | 30 min

Chair

- **Justice Brian Preston**, President, Land and Environment Court of New South Wales, Australia

Speakers

- **Justice Mansoor Ali Shah**, Supreme Court of Pakistan
- **Alexandra Harrington**, Chair IUCN/WCEL Task Force on Plastic Pollution (TBC)
- **Andrea Brusco**, UNEP Environmental Governance Regional Coordinator, Latin America and the Caribbean Office

Closing remarks | 10 min

- **Justice Ragnhild Noer**, Supreme Court of Norway
- **Mr. Marcelo Cousillas**, Legal Director of the Ministry of Environment of Uruguay and co-chair of the Montevideo Programme

Total | 60 min
