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Item 4 (b) of the provisional agenda*

Policy issues: emerging policy issues

**Internationally agreed environmental goals and objectives:
A preliminary compilation**

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The annex to the present note contains a preliminary compilation of existing internationally agreed environmental goals and objectives, which have been drawn from the outcome documents of relevant United Nations summits and conferences, resolutions of the General Assembly, decisions of other global intergovernmental conferences, multilateral environmental agreements and decisions of their governing bodies. The compilation is intended to provide a preliminary overview of existing internationally agreed environmental goals and objectives and is not intended as an exhaustive list of such goals and objectives.

A first draft of the compilation was prepared with the assistance of a small group of independent experts and was circulated at the Meeting of Senior Government Officials Expert in Environmental Law to Prepare a Fourth Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme IV), which was held in Nairobi from 29 September to 3 October 2008. Comments received from the secretariats of the following multilateral environmental agreements have been incorporated into the document as appropriate: Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa. Following the discussion of emerging policy issues during the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum the compilation will be further refined in 2009.

The compilation is presented without formal editing.

* UNEP/GC.25/1.

Annex

Internationally agreed environmental goals and objectives: Preliminary compilation

1. This document presents a compilation of internationally agreed environmental goals and objectives.
2. It contains global environmental goals and objectives. Where no global environmental goals and objectives exist, the compilation refers to regional environmental goals and objectives. It is noted that certain issues, such as fisheries, air and fresh water, are primarily addressed by regional instruments. In the absence of global instruments in those areas, the totality of those regional instruments provides a global perspective. Also, some regional agreements contain globally relevant environmental norms and principles in the areas where no global agreements are yet to be developed.
3. The existing international legally binding instruments and non-binding instruments are the sources from which the relevant goals and objectives are identified. The compilation presents the text of the relevant parts of those instruments.
4. The distinction between the legally binding goals and objectives and those of non-binding nature is shown in the compilation. The status of participation by countries in the respective legally binding instruments (e.g. a total number of countries that have ratified a treaty and for which it has entered into force) will be reflected in the compilation, in order to signify that the goals and objectives of such instruments have legally binding effects only on Parties to the respective instruments, by virtue of those instruments. It is possible that those goals and objectives may also comprise customary international law, in which case they may also legally bind States by virtue of that status. This document does not identify such situations.
5. Sustainable development is recognized as a common vision and ultimate goal, and the environment is one of its three pillars. However, no attempt will be made in the initial preparation of the compilation to present an overarching common goal under which various thematic goals and objectives might be presented. The compilation presents relevant goals and objectives under specific themes identified. "Principles" as set forth in the internationally negotiated and agreed instruments through a global process (e.g. Rio principles) are addressed in an appropriate manner in the various themes.
6. Since the existing international instruments often reflect delicately balanced packages of political compromises and commitments, the compilation presents the relevant goals and objectives in a manner designed to uphold the integrity of the respective instruments.
7. A comprehensive range of issues in the field of the environment is covered in the compilation. Themes are identified on the basis of environmental media (such as air or water), as well as processes and procedures regarding environmental matters. Such themes are not confined to the programmatic areas currently addressed by UNEP under its programme of work, but rather cover the areas addressed in general by States and relevant organizations. Some areas related to the environment that some might even consider to be "environmental" are not covered, such as plant health and environmental refugees.
8. The following are the thematic areas under which relevant goals and objectives are identified for the compilation:

- Air pollution and air quality;
- Biodiversity;
- Chemicals and waste;
- Climate change;
- Energy;
- Environmental governance;
- Forests;
- Freshwater;
- Oceans and seas;
- Soil, land use, land degradation and desertification.

1. Air pollution/quality

Focus	Goals, objectives	Target Time-frame	Binding (B), or Non-binding (NB)	Source
General goals	[Enhance cooperation at the international, regional and national levels] "to reduce air pollution, including transboundary air pollution, acid deposition and ozone depletion"		NB	Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the WSSD, para. 39
Chemicals	See Chemicals section below.			
Particles	Regional: (UN/ECE) "...control or reduction of nitrogen oxides and their transboundary fluxes." (Southeast Asia) "...prevent and monitor transboundary haze pollution as a result of land and/or forest fires..."		B B	Protocol to the 1979 Convention On Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution Concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides or Their Transboundary Fluxes, 1988 ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, 2002, Article 2
Climate	See Climate change section below.			
Energy	"...reduce adverse effects on the atmosphere from the energy sector by promoting policies or programmes, as appropriate, to increase the contribution of environmentally sound and cost-effective energy systems, particularly new and renewable ones, through less polluting and more efficient energy production, transmission, distribution and use."		NB	Agenda 21, chapter 9, para.11
Ozone	Protect human health and the environment against adverse effects resulting or likely to result from human activities which modify or are likely to modify the ozone layer. (see also Chemicals section below)		B	Vienna Convention, Article 2, para.1
Acid rain	Regional: (UN/ECE) "... control and reduce [...] sulphur emissions in order to protect human health and the environment from adverse effects, in particular acidifying effects..." "...control and reduce emissions of anthropogenic substances that are likely to cause adverse effects on human health, natural ecosystems, materials and crops due to acidification, eutrophication or ground-level ozone."		B B	Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions, 1994, Article 2 Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground Level Ozone, 1999

Focus	Goals, objectives	Target Time-frame	Binding (B), or Non-binding (NB)	Source
Transboundary air pollution	<p>Regional: “...protect man and his environment against air pollution and [...] endeavour to limit and, as far as possible, gradually reduce and prevent air pollution including long-range transboundary air pollution.”</p> <p>Global: Develop and apply pollution control and measurement technologies for stationary and mobile sources of air pollution and to develop alternative environmentally sound technologies;</p> <p>Observe and assess systematically the sources and extent of transboundary air pollution resulting from natural processes and anthropogenic activities;</p> <p>Strengthen the capabilities, particularly of developing countries, to measure, model and assess the fate and impacts of transboundary air pollution, through, inter alia, exchange of information and training of experts;</p> <p>Develop capabilities to assess and mitigate transboundary air pollution resulting from industrial and nuclear accidents, natural disasters and the deliberate and/or accidental destruction of natural resources;</p> <p>Encourage the establishment of new and the implementation of existing regional agreements for limiting transboundary air pollution;</p> <p>Develop strategies aiming at the reduction of emissions causing transboundary air pollution and their effects.</p>		B NB	<p>1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, Article 2</p> <p>Agenda 21, chapter 9, para. 27</p>
Indoor air	<p>“...protect present and future generations from the devastating health, social, environmental and economic consequences of tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke by providing a framework for tobacco control measures ... in order to reduce continually and substantially the prevalence of tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke”</p>		B	<p>Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, 2005, Article 3.</p>

2. Biodiversity

Focus	Goals, objectives	Targets Time-frame	Binding (B), or Non-binding (NB)	Source
General goals	“..the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources...”		B	Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Article 1
	“Parties commit themselves to a more effective and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on earth.”	2010	NB	CBD Conference of the Parties, Decision VI/26
	“...a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity..”	2010	NB	Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the WSSD, paragraph 44, World Summit Outcome, para.56.c
	“The genetic viability on the earth shall not be compromised; the population level of all life forms, wild and domesticated, must be at least sufficient for their survival, and to this end necessary habitats shall be safeguarded.”		NB	World Charter for Nature (GA resolution 37/7)
Trade in wild fauna and flora	“.. international co-operation is essential for the protection of certain species of wild fauna and flora against over-exploitation through international trade”		B	CITES, preamble
	“The Parties shall not allow trade in specimens of species included in Appendices I, II and III except in accordance with the provisions of the present Convention”		B	CITES, Article II, paragraph 4
Alien/invasive species	“Prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species”		B	Convention on Biological Diversity, Article 8, (h)
	Control threats from invasive alien species.		NB	CBD COP Decision VII/30
	“...prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment resulting fro [...] the intentional or accidental introduction of species, alien or new, to a particular part of the marine environment, which may cause significant and harmful changes thereto.”		B	UNCLOS, Article 196
Biosafety	“.. contribute to ensuring an adequate level of protection in the field of the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health, and specifically focusing on transboundary movements.”		B	Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, Article 1
Living resources	“Living resources shall not be utilized in excess of their natural capacity for regeneration.”		NB	World Charter for Nature (GA resolution 37/7)
	“Seek to prevent and control degradation and overexploitation of natural resources in poorly endowed, ecologically stressed areas.”		NB	World Food Summit Plan of Action, para. 33 (k)
Plant genetic resources	“...the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, for sustainable agriculture and food security.”		B	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, article 1, para. 1.1

Focus	Goals, objectives	Targets Time-frame	Binding (B), or Non-binding (NB)	Source
Animal genetic resources	“Promote the conservation and sustainable utilization of animal genetic resources”		NB	World Food Summit Plan of Action, para. 33 (f)
Wetlands	Promote the conservation of wetlands and waterfowl by establishing nature reserves on wetlands		B	Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Article 4
Migratory species	<p>“..conservation and effective management of migratory species of wild animals..”</p> <p>Regional Agreements under Article IV, paragraph 3 and paragraph 4, of the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), in accordance with CMS Article V:</p> <p>Regional: (Europe) “...conservation of bats in Europe.” European populations of Chiroptera (Rhinolophidae, Vespertilionidae and Tadarida teniotis)</p> <p>Inter-regional:</p> <p>Western Hemisphere: “The Contracting Governments shall adopt appropriate measures for the protection of migratory birds of economic or aesthetic value or to prevent the threatened extinction of any given species...”</p> <p>Europe – Northern Africa – Eastern Mediterranean: All cetaceans that frequent the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous area of the Atlantic Ocean west of the Straits of Gibraltar</p> <p>Eurasia – Africa: “...maintain African-Eurasian migratory waterbird species in a favorable conservation status or to restore them to such status.”</p> <p>Waterbirds that are ecologically dependent on wetlands in Africa and Eurasia, including the Middle-East, Greenland and parts of Canada (a precise definition is given in the Agreement itself)</p> <p>Africa - Asia – Oceania – Americas:</p> <p>To prevent population decline through the implementation of an Action Plan comprising research, monitoring and conservation measures such as reduction of incidental mortality in fisheries and maintenance of habitats.</p>		<p>B</p> <p>B</p> <p>B</p> <p>B</p> <p>B</p> <p>B</p> <p>B</p> <p>B</p>	<p>Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), 1979, preamble</p> <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Bats in Europe, 1991</p> <p>The Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere, 1940, Article 7</p> <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS), 2001</p> <p>Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), 1999</p> <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP),</p>

Focus	Goals, objectives	Targets Time-frame	Binding (B), or Non-binding (NB)	Source
	<p>Africa: Conservation of all species of Gorilla</p> <p>Europe: Conservation of <i>Phoca vitulina vitulina</i> (Common/Harbour Seal) occurring in the Wadden Sea</p> <p>Regional agreements under Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), in accordance with CMS Resolution 2.6 and CMS Resolution 2.7 and with CMS Article V, paragraph 2: Conservation of the Siberian Crane (<i>Grus leucogeranus</i>)</p> <p>Conservation of the Slender-billed Curlew (<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>)</p> <p>Conservation of Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa</p> <p>Conservation and Management of the Middle-European Population of the Great Bustard (<i>Otis tarda</i>)</p> <p>Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia</p>		<p>B</p> <p>B</p> <p>NB</p> <p>NB</p> <p>NB</p> <p>NB</p>	<p>2004</p> <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Gorillas and Their Habitats, type CMS Article IV (4), 2008</p> <p>Agreement on the Conservation of Seals in the Wadden Sea,, 1991</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane (<i>Grus leucogeranus</i>)</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Slender-billed Curlew (<i>Numenius tenuirostris</i>)</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for Marine Turtles of the Atlantic Coast of Africa</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of the Middle-European Population of the Great Bustard (<i>Otis tarda</i>)</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the</p>

Focus	Goals, objectives	Targets Time- frame	Binding (B), or Non- binding (NB)	Source
	<p>Conservation and Restoration of the Bukhara Deer (<i>Cervus elaphus bactrianus</i>)</p> <p>Conservation of the Aquatic Warbler (<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>)</p> <p>Conservation of the West African Populations of the African Elephant (<i>Loxodonta africana</i>)</p> <p>Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region</p> <p>Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (<i>Saiga tatarica tatarica</i>)</p> <p>Conservation of the Eastern Atlantic Populations of the Mediterranean Monk Seal (<i>Monachus monachus</i>)</p> <p>Conservation of the Ruddy-headed Goose (<i>Chloephaga rubidiceps</i>)</p>		<p>NB</p> <p>NB</p> <p>NB</p> <p>NB</p> <p>NB</p> <p>NB</p> <p>NB</p>	<p>Indian Ocean and South-East Asia</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation and Restoration of the Bukhara Deer (<i>Cervus elaphus bactrianus</i>)</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler (<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>)</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the West African Populations of the African Elephant (<i>Loxodonta africana</i>)</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding for the Conservation of Cetaceans and their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (<i>Saiga tatarica tatarica</i>)</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Eastern Atlantic Populations of the Mediterranean Monk Seal (<i>Monachus monachus</i>)</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding</p>

Focus	Goals, objectives	Targets Time- frame	Binding (B), or Non- binding (NB)	Source
	<p>Conservation and Management of Dugongs (<i>Dugong dugon</i>) and their Habitats throughout their Range</p> <p>Conservation of Southern South American Migratory Grassland Bird Species and Their Habitats</p> <p>(See also Oceans and seas section, straddling stocks and marine mammals below)</p>		<p>NB</p> <p>NB</p> <p>NB</p>	<p>concerning Conservation Measures for the Ruddy-headed Goose (<i>Chloephaga rubidiceps</i>)</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs (<i>Dugong dugon</i>) and their Habitats throughout their Range</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Southern South American Migratory Grassland Bird Species and Their Habitats</p>
Species and their habitat	<p>“Promote the protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of viable populations of species in natural surroundings”</p> <p>“Rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems and promote the recovery of threatened species”</p> <p>“Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes.”</p> <p>Regional: “...conserve wild fauna and flora and their natural habitats, especially those species and habitats whose conservation requires the cooperation of several States, and to promote such cooperation.”</p> <p>“...achieve protection of the polar bear as a significant resource of the Arctic region through further conservation and management measures.”</p> <p>“...achieve and maintain a favourable conservation status for migratory species”</p>		<p>B</p> <p>NB</p> <p>B</p> <p>B</p> <p>B</p>	<p>Convention on Biological Diversity, Article 8 (d), (f)</p> <p>CBD Conference of the Parties, Decision VII/30</p> <p>Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, Article 1</p> <p>Agreement on Conservation of Polar Bears, 1973</p> <p>Regional agreements under Article IV,</p>

Focus	Goals, objectives	Targets Time- frame	Binding (B), or Non- binding (NB)	Source
	<p>Inter-regional “The Governments of the American Republics, wishing to protect and preserve in their natural habitat representatives of all species and genera of their native flora and fauna, including migratory birds, in sufficient numbers and over areas extensive enough to assure them from becoming extinct through any agency within man’s control...have agreed upon the following articles.”</p>		B	<p>paragraph 3 and paragraph 4, of the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)</p> <p>Regional agreements under Article IV, paragraph 4, of the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), in accordance with CMS Resolution 2.6 and CMS Resolution 2.7 and with CMS Article V, paragraph 2 (see also migratory species above)</p> <p>The Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere, 1940, Preamble</p>
Forests	<p>“Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation; “Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people; “Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests; “Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management.”</p>	2015	NB	Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, General Assembly resolution 62/98, Section IV. Global objectives on forests, paragraph 5
Mountains	<p>Regional: “..preservation and protection of the Alps...”</p> <p>“...the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians with a view to inter alia improving quality of life, strengthening local economies and communities, and conservation of natural values and cultural heritage...”</p>		B B	<p>Convention on the Protection of the Alps, 1991, Article 2</p> <p>Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the</p>

Focus	Goals, objectives	Targets Time- frame	Binding (B), or Non- binding (NB)	Source
				Carpathians, 2003, Article 2
Natural and cultural heritage	<p>“...the protection of the cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value..”</p> <p>Maintain socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities.</p>		B NB	<p>Convention Concerning the Protection of The World Cultural And Natural Heritage, 1972, preamble</p> <p>CBD COP Decision VII/30</p>
Access to, and sharing of benefits from biodiversity	Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources.		B NB	<p>CBD, Article 1</p> <p>CBD COP Decision VII/30</p>
Interlinkage	<p>Address challenges to biodiversity from climate change, and pollution.</p> <p>Maintain capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods.</p>		NB	<p>CBD COP Decision VII/30</p> <p>CBD COP Decision VII/30</p>
Enforcement	<p>The Parties shall take appropriate measures to enforce the provisions of the present Convention and to prohibit trade in violation thereof. These shall include measures: to penalize trade in, or possession of, such specimens, or both; and to provide for the confiscation or return to the State of export of such specimens.</p> <p>Regional: (Africa) “...establish close cooperation between certain African countries with a view to reducing and ultimately eliminating illegal trade in wild fauna and flora...”</p> <p>Regional: (Southern Africa) “To establish within the Southern African Development Community Region and within the framework of the respective national laws of each State Party, common approaches to the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife resources and to assist with the effective enforcement of laws governing those resources.”</p>		B B B	<p>CITES, Article VIII, paragraph 1</p> <p>Lusaka Agreement on Co-Operative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora, 1994</p> <p>Protocol on Wildlife Conservation and Law Enforcement of the Southern African Development Community, 1999</p>

3. Chemicals and wastes

Focus		Goals, objectives	Targets Time-frame	Binding (B), or Non-binding (NB)	Source
General goals		“...sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle and of hazardous wastes for sustainable development as well as for the protection of human health and the environment,”	2020	NB	Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the WSSD, paragraph 23, 2005
		“...achieve, by 2020, the use and production of chemicals in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.”		NB	World Summit Outcome, paragraph 56 (k)
		“...achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle so that, by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment”	2020	NB	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, Overarching Policy Strategy, Para 13
Chemicals	POPs	“... protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.”		B	Stockholm Convention, article 1
	Heavy metals	Regional: (UN/ECE) “...control emissions of heavy metals caused by anthropogenic activities that are subject to long-range transboundary atmospheric transport and are likely to have significant adverse effects on human health or the environment...”		B	Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution on Heavy Metals, 1998, Article 2
		“Promote reduction of the risks posed by heavy metals that are harmful to human health and the environment [...]”		NB	Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the WSSD, para. 22 (g)
	Lead	“Reduce respiratory diseases and other health impacts resulting from air pollution, with particular attention to women and children, by [...] Supporting the phasing out of lead in gasoline”		NB	Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the WSSD, para. 56 (b)
		[We further commit ourselves to the objectives of] “Taking appropriate action to manage the use of heavy metals, particularly lead, safely and effectively and, where possible, eliminating uncontrolled exposure in order to protect human health and the environment;”		NB	The Habitat Agenda Goals and Principles, Commitments and the Global Plan of Action, section B para. 43(aa)
“Eliminating as soon as possible the use of lead in gasoline;”			NB	The Habitat Agenda Goals and Principles, Commitments and the Global Plan of Action, section B para. 43(bb)	
	“Governments...should as appropriate: Encourage countries, in particular developing countries, to cooperate in exchanging knowledge, experience and knowhow in the phasing out of lead gasoline, through, <i>inter alia</i> , the use of biomass ethanol as an environmentally sound substitute;”		NB	The Habitat Agenda Goals and Principles, Commitments and the Global Plan of Action, section C	

Focus		Goals, objectives	Targets Time-frame	Binding (B), or Non-binding (NB)	Source
Mercury		“Appropriate alternatives should be sought for those products where exposure to lead can be neither controlled nor managed.”		NB	para. 146(e) The Habitat Agenda Goals and Principles, Commitments and the Global Plan of Action, section C para. 132
		“Promoting reduction of risks from mercury and other chemicals of global concern so that they are minimized”		NB	SAICM Global Plan of Action, para. 8 (d)
Asbestos		“...the prevention and control of, and protection of workers against, health hazards due to occupational exposure to asbestos.”		B	ILO Convention concerning Safety in the Use of Asbestos, 1986, Article 3
Other hazardous chemicals, pesticides, Anti-foulents		Pesticides: “...shared responsibility of many sectors of society to work together so that the benefits to be derived from the necessary and acceptable use of pesticides are achieved without significant adverse effects on human health or the environment.”		NB	FAO International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides (revised 2002)
		“... reduce or eliminate adverse effects on the marine environment and human health caused by anti-fouling systems.”		B	International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships, 2001, Article 1
Ozone depleting substances		“... protect human health and the environment against adverse effects resulting from modifications of the ozone layer..”		B	Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, preamble
		“... protect the ozone layer by taking precautionary measures to control equitably total global emissions of substances that deplete it, with the ultimate objective of their elimination on the basis of developments in scientific knowledge, taking into account technical and economic considerations and bearing in mind the developmental needs of developing countries..”		B	Montreal Protocol, preamble
Chemical weapons		“Each State Party, during transportation, sampling, storage and destruction of chemical weapons, shall assign the highest priority to ensuring the safety of people and to protecting the environment.”		B	Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, 1992, para.10 of Article IV
Trade in chemicals		“...promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among Parties in the international trade of certain hazardous chemicals in order to protect human health and the environment from potential harm and to contribute to their environmentally sound use, by facilitating information exchange about		B	Rotterdam Convention, Article 1

Focus		Goals, objectives	Targets Time-frame	Binding (B), or Non-binding (NB)	Source
		their characteristics, by providing for a national decision making process on their import and export and by disseminating these decisions to Parties.”			
	GHS	“... implement the new globally harmonized system for the classification and labelling of chemicals as soon as possible with a view to having the system fully operational...”	2008	NB	Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the WSSD, para. 23 (c)
	Occupational safety	“...prevent or reduce the incidence of chemically induced illnesses and injuries at work...”		B	ILO Convention Concerning Safety in the Use of Chemicals at Work, 1990, preamble
	liability and compensation	<p>“... establish uniform international rules and procedures for determining questions of liability and compensation in respect of the damage caused by incidents in connection with the carriage by sea of hazardous and noxious substances.”</p> <p>“... ensure that adequate compensation is available to persons who suffer damage caused by pollution resulting from the escape or discharge of oil from ships”</p> <p>“... the economic consequences of pollution damage resulting from the carriage of oil in bulk at sea by ships should continue to be shared by the shipping industry and by the oil cargo interests”</p> <p>“States shall develop national law regarding liability and compensation for the victims of pollution and other environmental damage. States shall also cooperate in an expeditious and more determined manner to develop further international law regarding liability and compensation for adverse effects of environmental damage caused by activities within their jurisdiction or control to areas beyond their jurisdiction.”</p>		<p>B</p> <p>B</p> <p>B</p> <p>NB</p>	<p>International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea, 1996</p> <p>Civil Liability Convention, 1992, Article 3(1)</p> <p>The International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund, 1992, Preamble</p> <p>Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 13.</p>
Waste	Radioactive waste	<p>“...ensure that radioactive wastes are safely managed, transported, stored and disposed of, with a view to protecting human health and the environment, within a wider framework of an interactive and integrated approach to radioactive waste management and safety.”</p> <p>“...to achieve and maintain a high level of safety worldwide in spent fuel and radioactive waste management [...]; to ensure that during all stages of spent fuel and radioactive waste management there are effective defenses against potential hazards so that individuals, society and the environment are protected from harmful effects of ionizing radiation,</p>		<p>NB</p> <p>B</p>	<p>Agenda 21, chapter 22, para. 22.3</p> <p>Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste</p>

Focus	Goals, objectives	Targets Time-frame	Binding (B), or Non-binding (NB)	Source
	<p>“... provide for a comprehensive regime for liability and for adequate and prompt compensation for damage resulting from the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and other wastes and their disposal including illegal traffic in those wastes.”</p>			Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, preamble, Article 1
Disasters	<p>“...the prevention of major accidents involving hazardous substances and the limitation of the consequences of such accidents.”</p> <p>“...to achieve and maintain a high level of nuclear safety worldwide [...]; to establish and maintain effective defences in nuclear installations against potential radiological hazards in order to protect individuals, society and the environment from harmful effects of ionizing radiation from such installations; to prevent accidents with radiological consequences and to mitigate such consequences should they occur.”</p> <p>Regional: “...the prevention of, preparedness for and response to the transboundary effects of industrial accidents...” “...protect human beings and the environment against industrial accidents by preventing such accidents as far as possible, by reducing their frequency and severity and by mitigating their effects...”</p> <p>“The States Parties shall cooperate between themselves ... to facilitate prompt assistance in the event of a nuclear accident or radiological emergency to minimize its consequences and to protect life, property and the environment from the effects of radioactive releases.”</p> <p>“Parties undertake, individually or jointly, to take all appropriate measures in accordance with the provisions of this Convention and the Annex thereto to prepare for and respond to an oil pollution incident.”</p> <p>“States shall immediately notify other States of any natural disasters or other emergencies that are likely to produce sudden harmful effects on the environment of those States. Every effort shall be made by the international community to help States so afflicted.”</p>		<p>B</p> <p>B</p> <p>B</p> <p>B</p> <p>NB</p>	<p>ILO Convention Concerning The Prevention Of Major Industrial Accidents, 1993, Article 1, para.1</p> <p>Convention on Nuclear Safety, 1994, Article 1</p> <p>Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, 1992, preamble, Article 3</p> <p>Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency (Vienna) 1986, Article 1(1).</p> <p>International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness Response and Co-operation, 1990, Article 1(1)</p> <p>Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 18.</p>

4. Climate change

Focus	Goals, objectives	Targets Time-frame	Binding (B), or Non-binding (NB)	Source
General goals	<p>“The ultimate objective of this Convention and any related legal instruments that the Conference of the Parties may adopt is to achieve, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.”</p> <p>“The Parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind, on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Accordingly, the developed country Parties should take the lead in combating climate change and the adverse effects thereof.”</p> <p>“The specific needs and special circumstances of developing country Parties, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and of those Parties, especially developing country Parties, that would have to bear a disproportionate or abnormal burden under the Convention, should be given full consideration.”</p> <p>“The Parties should take precautionary measures to anticipate, prevent or minimize the causes of climate change and mitigate its adverse effects [...]”</p>		B B	<p>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Article 2</p> <p>UNFCCC, Article 3, paragraphs 1-3</p>
	<p>“Urges Governments, in keeping with their national policies, priorities and regulations, and intergovernmental organizations to collaborate in making every possible efforts to limit, reduce and prevent activities that could adversely affect climate, and calls upon nongovernmental organizations, industry and other productive sectors to play their due role”</p>		NB	<p>General Assembly of the United Nations, resolution 44/207 of 22 December 1989</p>
	<p>“Urges the international community to provide effective and timely support to countries affected by sea-level rise, particularly developing countries, in their efforts to develop and implement strategies to protect themselves and their vulnerable natural marine ecosystems from the particular threats of sea-level rise caused by climate change”</p>		NB	<p>General Assembly of the United Nations, resolution 44/206 of 22 December 1989</p>
	<p>Ensure that actual and potential atmospheric changes and their socio-economic and ecological impacts are fully taken into account in planning and implementing policies and programmes concerning terrestrial and marine resources utilization and land-use practices.</p>		NB	<p>Agenda 21, chapter 9, para. 20</p>
	<p>“Emphasize that climate change and its adverse impacts have to be addressed through cooperation at all levels, and welcome the efforts of all Parties to implement the Convention”</p>		NB	<p>Marrakesh Ministerial Declaration, paragraph 5, Decision 1/CP.7 of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC, November 2001</p>

Focus	Goals, objectives	Targets Time- frame	Binding (B), or Non- binding (NB)	Source
Adaptation	“Adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change is of high importance for all countries. Developing countries are particularly vulnerable, especially the least developed countries and small island developing States. Adaptation requires urgent attention and action on the part of all countries. Effective and result-based measures should be supported for the development of approaches at all levels on vulnerability and adaptation, as well as capacity-building for the integration of adaptation concerns into sustainable development strategies. The measures should include full implementation of existing commitments under the Convention and the Marrakesh Accords”		NB	Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, paragraph (e), Decision 1/CP.8 of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC, November 2002
Synergies	“Remain deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island States, face increased risk of negative impacts of climate change”; “Recognize that, in this context, the problems of poverty, land degradation, access to water and food and human health remain at the centre of global attention; therefore, the synergies between the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, should continue to be explored through various channels, in order to achieve sustainable development;”		NB	Marrakesh Ministerial Declaration, paragraph 2 and 3

5. Energy

Focus	Goals, objectives	Targets Time-frame	Binding (B), or Non-binding (NB)	Source
General goals	“...improve access to reliable and affordable energy services for sustainable development sufficient to facilitate the achievement of the Millennium development goals...”		NB	Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the WSSD, para.9
	[action on clean energy and climate change..] “..promote innovation, clean energy and energy efficiency and conservation; improve policy, regulatory and financing frameworks; and accelerate the deployment of cleaner technologies..” “..development and dissemination of affordable and cleaner energy efficiency and energy conservation technologies, as well as the transfer of such technologies..”		NB NB	2005 World Summit Outcome, para. 55 (a) 2005 World Summit Outcome, para. 56 (i)
Renewable energy	“Promoting and supporting greater efforts to develop renewable sources of energy, such as solar, wind and geothermal” “With a sense of urgency, substantially increase the global share of renewable energy sources with the objective of increasing its contribution to total energy supply” “...;substantially increase with a sense of urgency the global share of renewable energy in the total energy supply...”		NB NB NB	2005 World Summit Outcome, para. 60 (d) JPOI, para. 20 (c) Political Declaration of the International Conference for Renewable Energies, 2004
Fossil fuels	“Support the transition to the cleaner use of liquid and gaseous fossil fuels, where considered more environmentally sound, socially acceptable and cost-effective”		NB	JPOI, 9 (d)
Energy efficiency	Regional: (Europe) “To promote energy efficiency policies consistent with sustainable development, to create framework conditions which induce producer and consumers to use energy as economically, efficiently and environmentally soundly as possible, particularly through the organization of efficient energy markets and a fuller reflection of environmental costs and benefits, and to foster cooperation in the field of energy efficiency.”		B	Energy Charter Protocol on Energy Efficiency and Related Environmental Aspects, 1994
Technology transfer	Regional: (Europe) “...promote access to and transfer of energy technology on a commercial and non-discriminatory basis”		B	Energy Charter Treaty, 1994, Articles 8

6. Environmental governance

Focus	Goals, objectives	Targets Time-frame	Binding (B), or Non-binding (NB)	Source
General goals	<p>“We must spare no effort to free all of humanity, and above all our children and grandchildren, from the threat of living on a planet irredeemably spoilt by human activities, and whose resources would no longer be sufficient for their needs.”</p> <p>“..develop international understanding, commitment and resolve towards ensuring the sustainability of the global environment in accordance with the Rio principles..”</p> <p>“Fully implement the outcomes of the decision on international environmental governance adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its seventh special session...”</p>		NB NB NB	<p>UN Millennium Declaration (GA res. 55/2), para. 21</p> <p>UNEP GC decision SS.VII/1, para.39</p> <p>Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the WSSD, para.140 (c)</p>
	<p>“In the planning and implementation of social and economic development activities, due account shall be taken of the fact that the conservation of nature is an integral part of those activities.”</p>		NB	World Charter for Nature (GA resolution 37/7), 1982
Structure	<p>“...an institutional architecture that has the capacity to effectively address wide-ranging environmental threats in a globalizing world.”</p> <p>“Recognizing the need for more efficient environmental activities in the United Nations system, with enhanced coordination, improved policy advice and guidance, strengthened scientific knowledge, assessment and cooperation, better treaty compliance, while respecting the legal autonomy of the treaties, and better integration of environmental activities in the broader sustainable development framework at the operational level, including through capacity-building, we agree to explore the possibility of a more coherent institutional framework to address this need, including a more integrated structure, building on existing institutions and internationally agreed instruments, as well as the treaty bodies and the specialized agencies”</p>		NB NB	<p>Malmö Ministerial Declaration, para.24</p> <p>2005 World Summit Outcome paragraph 169</p>
Process	<p>Legislation:</p> <p>“States shall enact effective environmental legislation. Environmental standards, management objectives and priorities should reflect the environmental and development context to which they apply. Standards applied by some countries may be inappropriate and of unwarranted economic and social cost to other countries, in particular developing countries.”</p> <p>Access to Information, public participation, access to justice</p> <p>“...At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided.”</p> <p>Regional: (UN/ECE) Access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice: [In order to contribute to the protection of the right of every</p>		NB NB B	<p>Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 11.</p> <p>Rio Declaration, principle 10</p> <p>Convention on</p>

Focus	Goals, objectives	Targets Time- frame	Binding (B), or Non- binding (NB)	Source
	<p>person of present and future generations to live in an environment adequate to his or her health and well-being, each Party shall] “guarantee the rights of access to information, public participation in decision-making, and access to justice in environmental matters [...]” (Note: open for accession by States outside of the region)</p> <p>“... enhance public access to information through the establishment of coherent, integrated, nationwide pollutant release and transfer registers, which could facilitate public participation in environmental decision-making as well as contribute to the prevention and reduction of pollution of the environment.”</p> <p>Regional:</p> <p>“Each Party shall ensure that its laws, regulations, procedures and administrative rulings of general application respecting any matter covered by this Agreement are promptly published or otherwise made available in such a manner as to enable interested persons and Parties to become acquainted with them.”</p> <p>[Each Party shall ensure that its administrative, quasi-judicial and judicial proceedings... are fair, open and equitable, and to this end shall provide that such proceedings] “are open to the public, except where the administration of justice otherwise requires”</p> <p>[Each Party shall provide that final decisions on the merits of the case in such proceedings are] “in writing and preferably state the reasons on which the decisions are based;” “made available without undue delay to the parties to the proceedings and, consistent with its law, to the public”</p> <p>Environmental impact assessment: “...give explicit consideration to environmental factors at an early stage in the decision-making process by applying environmental impact assessment, at all appropriate administrative levels...” “...prevent, reduce and control significant adverse transboundary environmental impact from proposed activities...”</p> <p>Strategic environmental assessment: “...high level of protection of the environment (including health) by ensuring that environmental (including health) considerations are thoroughly taken into account in the development of plans and programmes”</p> <p>“Environmental impact assessment, as a national instrument, shall be undertaken for proposed activities that are likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment and are subject to a decision of a competent national authority.”</p>		<p>B</p> <p>B</p> <p>B</p> <p>B</p> <p>B</p> <p>B</p> <p>B</p> <p>NB</p>	<p>Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, 1998, Article 1</p> <p>Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, 2003, Article 1</p> <p>North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, 1993, Article 4(1).</p> <p>North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, 1993, Article 7(1)(b).</p> <p>North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, 1993, Article 7(2)(a) and (b).</p> <p>Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, 1991, Preamble, Article 2</p> <p>Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, 2003,</p>

Focus	Goals, objectives	Targets Time- frame	Binding (B), or Non- binding (NB)	Source
	<p>life, the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, food, adequate housing and work, access to information, and to safe drinking water and sanitation, public participation and the right to development”</p> <p>“Concerned that climate change poses an immediate and far-reaching threat to people and communities around the world and has implications for the full enjoyment of human rights,”</p> <p>“Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.”</p> <p>“The right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations.”</p> <p>“Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development”.</p> <p>“Indigenous people and their communities and other local communities have a vital role in environmental management and development because of their knowledge and traditional practices. States should recognize and duly support their identity, culture and interests and enable their effective participation in the achievement of sustainable development.”</p> <p>Social development: “Fulfil our responsibility for present and future generations by ensuring equity among generations and protecting the integrity and sustainable use of our environment”</p> <p>“Promote, in all educational and health policies and programmes, environmental awareness, including awareness of unsustainable patterns of consumption and production.”</p> <p>“... promote an enabling environment based on a people-centred approach to sustainable development, with the following features: [...] Protection and conservation of the natural environment in the context of people-centred sustainable development.”</p> <p>“Ensuring that, [...] broad-based, sustained economic growth and sustainable development respects the need to protect the environment and the interests of future generations”</p> <p>“...The right to development should be fulfilled so as to equitably meet the social development and environmental needs of present and future generations...”</p>		<p>NB</p>	<p>United Nations Human Rights Council, resolution 9/1, preamble, September 2008, also resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights at its sessions (e.g. 2004/27, para. 4)</p> <p>United Nations Human Rights Council, resolution 7/23, preamble</p> <p>Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 1</p> <p>Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 3</p> <p>Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 20.</p> <p>Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 22</p> <p>Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, para. 26, para. 29, commitment 6 (r)</p> <p>Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, para. 8 Para. 9 (j)</p>

Focus	Goals, objectives	Targets Time- frame	Binding (B), or Non- binding (NB)	Source
	<p>“Redesigning public investment policies that relate to infrastructure development, the management of natural resources and human resource development to benefit people living in poverty and to promote their compatibility with the long-term improvement of livelihoods”</p> <p>“The opportunities for income generation, diversification of activities and increase of productivity in low-income and poor communities should be enhanced by: [...] Improving the competitiveness of natural products with environmental advantages and strengthening the impact that this could have on promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns...”</p> <p>“Governments should implement the commitments that have been made to meet the basic needs of all [...], including, inter alia, the following: [...] Providing, on a sustainable basis, access to safe drinking water in sufficient quantities, and proper sanitation for all”</p> <p>Military activities: “Military activities damaging to nature shall be avoided.”</p> <p>“Warfare is inherently destructive of sustainable development. States shall therefore respect international law providing protection for the environment in times of armed conflict and cooperate in its further development, as necessary.”</p> <p>“Governments should ascertain that their military establishments conform to their nationally applicable environmental norms in the treatment and disposal of hazardous wastes.”</p> <p>[General Assembly] “Reaffirms that international disarmament forums should take fully into account the relevant environmental norms in negotiating treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms limitation and that all States, through their actions, should contribute fully to ensuring compliance with the aforementioned norms in the implementation of treaties and conventions to which they are parties”</p> <p>Peace and environment: “The environment and natural resources of people under oppression, domination and occupation shall be protected.”</p> <p>“Peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible.”</p> <p>Dispute settlement: “States shall resolve all their environmental disputes peacefully and by appropriate means in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.”</p>		<p>NB</p>	<p>Para. 17 (c)</p> <p>Para. 26 (b)</p> <p>Para. 31, (i)</p> <p>Para. 36 (l)</p> <p>World Charter for Nature (GA resolution 37/7, annex) Para. 20</p> <p>Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 24</p> <p>Agenda 21, chapter 20, para. 20.22 (h)</p> <p>GA resolution 62/28, para. 1</p> <p>Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 23.</p> <p>Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 25.</p>

Focus	Goals, objectives	Targets Time- frame	Binding (B), or Non- binding (NB)	Source
			NB	Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 26.
Cooperation	<p>“States shall cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystem. In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities. The developed countries acknowledge the responsibility that they bear in the international pursuit to sustainable development in view of the pressures their societies place on the global environment and of the technologies and financial resources they command.”</p> <p>“The special situation and needs of developing countries, particularly the least developed and those most environmentally vulnerable, shall be given special priority. International actions in the field of environment and development should also address the interests and needs of all countries.”</p> <p>“States should cooperate to strengthen endogenous capacity-building for sustainable development by improving scientific understanding through exchanges of scientific and technological knowledge, and by enhancing the development, adaptation, diffusion and transfer of technologies, including new and innovative technologies.”</p> <p>“States should effectively cooperate to discourage or prevent the relocation and transfer to other States of any activities and substances that cause severe environmental degradation or are found to be harmful to human health.”</p> <p>“States shall provide prior and timely notification and relevant information to potentially affected States on activities that may have a significant adverse transboundary environmental effect and shall consult with those States at an early stage and in good faith.”</p> <p>“States and people shall cooperate in good faith and in a spirit of partnership in the fulfilment of the principles embodied in this Declaration and in the further development of international law in the field of sustainable development.”</p> <p>“The creativity, ideals and courage of the youth of the world should be mobilized to forge a global partnership in order to achieve sustainable development and ensure a better future for all.”</p>		NB NB NB NB NB	<p>Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 7.</p> <p>Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 6.</p> <p>Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 9.</p> <p>Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 14.</p> <p>Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 19.</p> <p>Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 27.</p> <p>Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 21.</p>

Focus	Goals, objectives	Targets Time-frame	Binding (B), or Non-binding (NB)	Source
Responsibility	<p>Patterns of production and consumption:</p> <p>“To achieve sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all people, States should reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and promote appropriate demographic policies.”</p> <p>Precautionary approach:</p> <p>“In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.”</p> <p>Polluter pays principle:</p> <p>“National authorities should endeavour to promote the internalization of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments, taking into account the approach that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution, with due regard to the public interest and without distorting international trade and investment.”</p> <p>State responsibility:</p> <p>States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.</p>		<p>NB</p> <p>NB</p> <p>NB</p> <p>NB</p>	<p>Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 8.</p> <p>Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 15.</p> <p>Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 16.</p> <p>Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 2, see also Stockholm Principle 21.</p>
Enforcement	<p>Regional: (Europe)</p> <p>“...establish a unified approach for taking effective measures to apply criminal law to offences committed by infringing environmental laws and regulations...”</p>		B	Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law, 1998
Disaster prevention	<p>“Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation”</p> <p>“Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.”</p>		NB	Hyogo Framework for Action, Disaster Reduction, 2005-2015, Part 3B para 14(1)and(2)
Polar regions	<p>Antarctic environment:</p> <p>“... it is in the interest of all mankind that Antarctica shall continue forever to be used exclusively for peaceful purposes and shall not become the scene or object of international discord”</p> <p>“The protection of the Antarctic environment...and the intrinsic value of Antarctica, including its wilderness and aesthetic values and its value as an area for the conduct of scientific research, in particular research essential to understanding the global environment, shall be fundamental considerations in the planning and conduct of all activities in the Antarctic Treaty area.”</p>		<p>B</p> <p>B</p>	<p>The Antarctic Treaty, Washington, 1959</p> <p>Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty on Environmental Protection, Madrid, 1991, Article 3(1)</p>

Focus	Goals, objectives	Targets Time- frame	Binding (B), or Non- binding (NB)	Source
	<p>[The contracting parties] “Recognising the importance of safeguarding the environment and protecting the integrity of the ecosystem of the seas surrounding Antarctica”</p> <p>“Conscious of the urgency of ensuring the conservation of Antarctic marine living resources”</p>		B	<p>Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, Canberra, 1980, Preamble</p>

7. Forests

Focus	Goals, objectives	Targets Time-frame	Binding (B), or Non-binding (NB)	Source
General goals	<p>“Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation.</p> <p>“Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people.</p> <p>“Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests.</p> <p>“Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management.”</p>	2015	NB	Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (General Assembly resolution 62/98), Section IV. Global objectives on forests, paragraph 5
Plantation forests	<p>“...encourage to develop national policies aimed at sustainable utilization and conservation of timber-producing forests and their genetic resources and at maintaining the ecological balance in the region concerned, in the context of tropical timber trade...”</p>		B	International Tropical Timber Agreement, 1994
Forests and food security	<p>“Reduce the deforestation rate and increase forest coverage, maintain and develop the multiple contributions of forests, trees and forestry to food security for the conservation and sustainable use of land and water resources, including the protection of watersheds, and as reservoirs of biological diversity...”</p>		NB	World Food Summit Plan of Action, para. 33 (g)

8. Freshwater

Focus	Goals, objectives	Targets Time-frame	Binding (B), or Non-binding (NB)	Source
General goals	Protect and preserve the ecosystems of international watercourses, and prevent, reduce and control the pollution of an international watercourse.		B Not in force yet	Convention on Non-navigational uses of transboundary water courses Articles 20, 21
	“To stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources by developing water management strategies at the regional, national and local levels, which promote both equitable access and adequate supplies.”		NB	UN Millennium Declaration, para.23
	Intensify water pollution prevention to reduce health hazards and protect ecosystems by introducing technologies for affordable sanitation and industrial and domestic wastewater treatment, by mitigating the effects of groundwater contamination and by establishing, at the national level, monitoring systems and effective legal frameworks. Improve the efficient use of water resources and promote their allocation among competing uses in a way that gives priority to the satisfaction of basic human needs and balances the requirement of preserving or restoring ecosystems and their functions, in particular in fragile environments, with human domestic, industrial and agriculture needs, including safeguarding drinking water quality.		NB NB	Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the WSSD (JPOI), para. 25 d JPOI, para. 26 c.
Drinking water	Halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water. “Promoting access for all people to safe drinking water, sanitation and other basic services, facilities and amenities, especially for people living in poverty, women and those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups”	2015	NB NB	Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the WSSD, paragraph 7, a The Habitat Agenda, para. 40 (c)
Transboundary water pollution	Regional: (UN/ECE) “...prevent, control and reduce pollution of waters causing or likely to cause transboundary impact; [...] ensure that transboundary waters are used with the aim of ecologically sound and rational water management, conservation of water resources and environmental protection; [...] ensure that transboundary waters are used in a reasonable and equitable way, taking into particular account their transboundary character, in the case of activities which cause or are likely to cause transboundary impact;[...] ensure conservation and, where necessary, restoration of ecosystems...”		B	Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, 1992
Water and health	Regional: (UN/ECE) “...promote at all appropriate levels, nationally as well as in transboundary and international contexts, the protection of human health and well-being, both individual and collective, within a framework of sustainable development, through improving water management, including the protection of water ecosystems, and through preventing, controlling and reducing water-related disease.”		B	Protocol on Water and Health to the 1992 Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International

Focus	Goals, objectives	Targets Time- frame	Binding (B), or Non- binding (NB)	Source
				Lakes, 1999, Article 1
Fisheries	Regional: East Africa: “...foster cooperation among the Contracting Parties, harmonize national measures for the sustainable utilization of the living resources of Lake Victoria and to develop and adopt conservation and management measures.”		B	Convention for the Establishment of the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization, 1994
Regional cooperation	Regional: Europe: “...maintain cooperation between the riparian States in preventing pollution and improving the quality of the waters of the Rhine.” “...ensure sustainable and equitable water management of the Danube River, including the conservation, improvement and the rational use of surface waters and ground water in the catchment area; to control the hazards originating from accidents; and to contribute to reducing the pollution loads of the Black Sea from sources in the catchment area.” Southeast Asia: “...cooperation for sustainable development, utilization, conservation and management of the Mekong River Basin water and related resources.” Southern Africa: “...foster closer cooperation for judicious, sustainable and coordinated management, protection and utilization of shared watercourses...”		B B B	Agreement concerning the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine Against Pollution, 1963 Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the Danube River, 1994 Agreement on the Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin, 1995 Revised Protocol on Shared Watercourses of the Southern African Development Community, 2000

9. Oceans and seas

Focus	Goals, objectives	Targets Time-frame	Binding (B), or Non-binding (NB)	Source
General goals	<p>“..protect and preserve the marine environment.”</p> <p>Regional (multiple regions) Protect the marine environment, coastal zones and related internal waters</p> <p>“...the protection and enhancement of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea Area.”</p>		<p>B</p> <p>B</p> <p>B</p>	<p>United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) Part XII, article 192</p> <p>Regional seas conventions: Mediterranean Sea, North-East Atlantic (OSPAR), Wider Caribbean, East Africa, West Africa, Black Sea, North-east Pacific, South-east Pacific, South Pacific</p> <p>Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, 1992</p>
	Achieve sustainable development of oceans, coastal areas and seas.		NB	Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the WSSD, paragraph 30
High seas	“All States have the duty to take, or to cooperate with other States in taking, such measures for their respective nationals as may be necessary for the conservation of the living resources of the high seas.”		B	UNCLOS, Article 117, North-East Atlantic (OSPAR).
Coastal zones	Regional (multiple regions) Protect the marine environment, coastal zones and related internal waters		B	Regional seas conventions: Mediterranean Sea, North-East Atlantic (OSPAR), Wider Caribbean, East Africa, West Africa, Black Sea, North-east Pacific, South-east Pacific, South Pacific
Seabed and ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction	“...to ensure effective protection for the marine environment from harmful effects which may arise from [activities in the Area] . [...] the prevention, reduction and control of pollution and other hazards to the marine environment, including the coastline, and of interference with the ecological balance of the marine environment, particular attention being paid to the need for protection from harmful effects of such activities as drilling, dredging, excavation, disposal of waste, construction and operation or maintenance		B	UNCLOS, Article 145 North-East Atlantic (OSPAR),

Focus	Goals, objectives		Targets Time-frame	Binding (B), or Non-binding (NB)	Source	
	<p>of installations, pipelines and other devices related to such activities; [...] the protection and conservation of the natural resources of the Area and the prevention of damage to the flora and fauna of the marine environment.”</p> <p>“...the seabed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction... as well as the resources of the Area, are the common heritage of mankind”</p>			B	Agreement Relating to the Implementation of Part XI of UNCLOS (Seabed Mining), 1994, Preamble	
Biodiversity Conservation	<p>“Habitat protection Parties shall endeavour to establish and manage specially protected areas for cetaceans corresponding to the areas which serve as habitats of cetaceans and/or which provide important food resources for them. Such specially protected areas should be established within the framework of the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution, 1976, and its relevant protocol, or within the framework of other appropriate instruments.”</p>			B	ACCOBAMS Conservation Plan Chapter 2	
Aquatic non-living resources	<p>[for activities in seabed and ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, see above]</p> <p>Regional: “...prevent and control marine pollution from exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf.”</p> <p>“...protect and preserve the Mediterranean Sea from pollution resulting from exploration and exploitation activities.”</p> <p>“...to assess the possible impact on the environment of Antarctic mineral resource activities; to determine the acceptability of those activities; to govern the conduct of the activities; and to ensure that all such activities are undertaken in conformity with the Convention, the aim of the Convention being to prohibit activities that would cause damage to the environment or ecosystems of the Antarctic or affect global or regional climate patterns.”</p>			B B B	<p>Protocol [to the Kuwait Regional Convention] Concerning Marine Pollution Resulting From Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf, 1989</p> <p>Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed And Its Subsoil, 1994</p> <p>Convention on the Regulation of Antarctic Mineral Resource Activities, 1988</p>	
Aquatic living resources	Fisheries	General goals	<p>“States commit themselves to the conservation and sustainable use of marine living resources under national jurisdiction”</p> <p>Achieve sustainable fisheries, maintain or restore stocks to levels that can produce the</p>	2015	NB NB	<p>Agenda 21, chapter17, para. 17.74</p> <p>Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the WSSD,</p>

Focus	Goals, objectives		Targets Time- frame	Binding (B), or Non- binding (NB)	Source
		<p>maximum sustainable yield with the aim of achieving these goals for depleted stocks...</p> <p>“States and users of living aquatic resources should conserve aquatic ecosystems. The right to fish carries with it the obligation to do so in a responsible manner so as to ensure effective conservation and management of the living aquatic resources.”</p> <p>“Fisheries management should promote the maintenance of the quality, diversity and availability of fishery resources in sufficient quantities for present and future generations in the context of food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable development. Management measures should not only ensure the conservation of target species but also of species belonging to the same ecosystem or associated with or dependent upon the target species.”</p> <p>“States and subregional and regional fisheries management organizations should apply a precautionary approach widely to conservation, management and exploitation of living aquatic resources in order to protect them and preserve the aquatic environment, taking account of the best scientific evidence available.”</p> <p>“Parties shall: ...develop and implement measures to minimize adverse effects of fisheries on the conservation status of cetaceans. In particular, work out and implement measures to minimize the fishing negative effects on the conservation of cetacean. Most particularly, no vessels will be authorized to keep on board or to use any drift nets. “</p>		<p>NB</p> <p>NB</p> <p>NB</p> <p>B</p>	<p>para. 31 a.</p> <p>FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, para. 6.1</p> <p>FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, para. 6.2</p> <p>FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, para. 6.5</p> <p>ACCOBAMS Conservation plan Chapter 1a)</p>
	Stocks	“...to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks...”		B	Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the

Focus	Goals, objectives		Targets Time- frame	Binding (B), or Non- binding (NB)	Source
		Regional: (South-East Atlantic) “...ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources covered by the Convention and apply the precautionary approach”		B	Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, 1995, Article 2 Convention on the Conservation and Management of Fishery Resources in the South-East Atlantic Ocean, 2001
	Fishing practices	“Selective and environmentally safe fishing gear and practices should be further developed and applied, to the extent practicable, in order to maintain biodiversity and to conserve the population structure and aquatic ecosystems and protect fish quality.” Drift nets: Restrict and prohibit the use of drift nets in the South Pacific region in order to conserve marine living resources.		NB B	FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, para. 6.6 Convention for the Prohibition of Fishing with Long Drift Nets in the South Pacific, 1989, Article 3
	Marine mammals			B B B	UNCLOS, Article 65 Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic and North Seas, 1992, Article 2.1 ACCOBAMS , Art II 1)

Focus	Goals, objectives	Targets Time-frame	Binding (B), or Non-binding (NB)	Source
		other than oil following a maritime casualty”		Article 1
	Land-based sources	<p>“...prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment from land-based sources, including rivers, estuaries, pipelines and outfall structures...”</p> <p>“...preventing the degradation of the marine environment from land-based activities by facilitating the realization of the duty of States to preserve and protect the marine environment...”</p>	B NB	<p>UNCLOS, article 207, para.1</p> <p>Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities, para.3</p>
	Seabed activities	“Coastal States [...] to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment arising from or in connection with seabed activities subject to their jurisdiction and from artificial islands, installations and structures under their jurisdiction	B	UNCLOS, article 208
	Dumping	<p>“...prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment by dumping.”</p> <p>“To protect and preserve the marine environment from all sources of pollution and to take effective measures, [...], to prevent, reduce and where practicable eliminate pollution caused by dumping or incineration at sea of wastes and other matter...”</p> <p>Regional: “...control the dumping of harmful substances from ships and aircraft in the sea.”</p>	B B	<p>UNCLOS, article 210</p> <p>1996 Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter</p> <p>Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft, 1972 (amended 1989)</p>
	Vessels	<p>“...prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment from vessels..”</p> <p>“...preserve the marine environment by achieving the complete elimination of international pollution by oil and other harmful substances and the minimization of accidental discharge of such substances.”</p>	B B	<p>UNCLOS, article 211</p> <p>Protocol of 1978 Relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973</p>
	Pollution from or through the atmosphere	“...prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment from or through the atmosphere...”	B	UNCLOS, article 212

Focus	Goals, objectives	Targets Time- frame	Binding (B), or Non- binding (NB)	Source
Alien species	“...prevent, reduce and control pollution of the marine environment resulting fro [...] the intentional or accidental introduction of species, alien or new, to a particular part of the marine environment, which may cause significant and harmful changes thereto.”		B	UNCLOS, Article 196

10. Soil, land use, land degradation and desertification

Focus	Goals, objectives	Targets Time-frame	Binding (B), or Non-binding (NB)	Source
General goals	<p>Protect ecosystems and achieve integrated management of land, water and living resources in order to reverse the current trend in natural resource degradation.</p> <p>“..to promote the transition to a sustainable and integrated management of land resources..”</p> <p>Desertification:</p> <p>“Combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, through effective action at all levels, supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements, in the framework of an integrated approach which is consistent with Agenda 21, with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in affected areas”</p>		<p>NB</p> <p>NB</p> <p>B</p>	<p>Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the WSSD (JPOI), para.24 Agenda 21, chapter 10, para. 10.5</p> <p>UN Convention to Combat Desertification, Article 2</p>
Agriculture	“Agriculture, grazing, forestry and fisheries practices shall be adapted to the natural characteristics and constraints of given areas”		NB	World Charter for Nature (GA resolution 37/7)
	“Develop and implement integrated land management and water-use plans that are based on sustainable use of renewable resources and on integrated assessments of socio-economic and environmental potentials...”		NB	JPOI para.40 (b)
	[Promote programmes to] “enhance in a sustainable manner the productivity of land and the efficient use of water resources in agriculture,..., especially through indigenous and local community-based approaches..”		NB	JPOI para.40 (d)
	“Enhance the participation of women in all aspects and at all levels relating to sustainable agriculture and food security”		NB	JPOI para.40 (f)
	“Strengthen and improve coordination of existing initiatives to enhance sustainable agricultural production and food security”		NB	JPOI para.40 (p)
Desertification	“the naturally occurring phenomenon that exists when precipitation has been significantly below normal recorded levels, causing serious hydrological imbalances that adversely affect land resource production systems”		B	UN Convention to Combat Desertification, Article 1
Drought	“the naturally occurring phenomenon that exists when precipitation has been significantly below normal recorded levels, causing serious hydrological imbalances that adversely affect land resource production systems”		B	UN Convention to Combat Desertification, Article 1
Land degradation	“reduction or loss, in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, of the biological or economic productivity and productivity and complexity of rainfed cropland, irrigated cropland, or range, pasture, forest and woodlands resulting from land uses or from a process or combination of processes, including processes arising from human activities and habitation patterns, such as: (i) soil erosion caused by wind and/or water; (ii) deterioration of the physical, chemical and biological or economic properties of soil; and (iii) long-term loss of natural vegetation”		B	UN Convention to Combat Desertification, Article 1
Soil protection	“the productivity of soil shall be maintained or enhanced through measures which safeguard their long-term fertility and the process of organic decomposition ”		NB	World Charter for Nature (GA resolution 37/7)

Focus	Goals, objectives	Targets Time- frame	Binding (B), or Non- binding (NB)	Source
	[Promote programmes for] “the environmentally sound, effective and efficient use of soil fertility improvement practices and agricultural pest control”		NB	JPOI para.40 (o)
Affected areas	“arid, semi-arid and/or dry sub-humid areas affected or threatened by desertification”		B	UN Convention to Combat Desertification, Article 1
Affected countries	“countries whose lands include, in whole or in part, affected areas”		B	UN Convention to Combat Desertification, Article 1