



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente

Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



International meeting on environmental norms and military activities

Geneva, 10 and 11 December 2009

Notification by the secretariat

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will convene an international meeting on environmental norms and military activities at the International Conference Centre, Geneva, on 10 and 11 December 2009. The meeting will be opened at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 10 December 2009, and its working languages will be English, French and Spanish.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide Governments and relevant stakeholders with an opportunity to exchange information and share experiences concerning the application of environmental norms by military establishments, as envisaged under the Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the First Decade of the Twenty-First Century (Montevideo Programme III), adopted by the UNEP Governing Council in decision 21/23, and also the UNEP programme of work for the present biennium. In accordance with chapter 20 of Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and in follow-up to relevant decisions of the UNEP Governing Council, the meeting participants will review in particular the following issues:

- (a) A national environmental policy for the military sector, and national activities, including the application of national laws, standards and procedures, to ascertain that military establishments in the country conform to national environmental norms;
- (b) The contribution of the military sector to the achievement of national environmental policies, goals and objectives aiming at sustainable development;
- (c) Assessments of the damage to the environment caused by military activities, including all sources of pollution that could affect the environment and human health, and the need for and feasibility of the clean-up and restoration of such areas.

The meeting will be conducted in an informal atmosphere through dialogue facilitated by a series of presentations and panel discussions. Participants will include government officials from the environment and military or defence sectors from countries worldwide, and also representatives from relevant organizations. The documents for the meeting and relevant background material will be available from the following website:
<http://www.unep.org/law>.

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**To: All Governments and relevant organizations through the
official channels of communication of UNEP**

The outcome of the regional meetings for African States and Asian and Pacific States on the application of environmental norms by military establishments convened by UNEP in Nairobi in October 2007 and in Bangkok in January 2008, respectively, will be presented at the meeting to provide background on the recent trends in the field. The outcome of an international civil society workshop on environmental norms and military activities scheduled for late November 2009 will also be presented. It is hoped that further information on recent activities and trends will be reported by Governments and relevant organizations at the meeting, thereby updating the information previously made available through a global survey conducted by UNEP in accordance with Governing Council decision 17/5 and a meeting on military activities and the environment convened by UNEP in cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and hosted by the Government of Sweden in Linköping in June 1995.

The outcome of the meeting will become a preliminary report on the status of the application of environmental norms, standards and procedures to military activities, and will form the basis for a future global survey on the subject under the fourth Montevideo Programme, which will begin in 2010 in accordance with decision 25/11 of the Governing Council.

Governments of States Members of the United Nations, specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency are invited to nominate an official or officials from the military or defence sector responsible for environmental matters and an official or officials from the environment sector responsible for military or defence-related environmental matters to attend this meeting. Limited funds are available to support the participation of representatives of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Furthermore, representatives of organizations competent or having expertise in the issues discussed at the meeting which are accredited to the UNEP Governing Council, other relevant bodies of the United Nations or other relevant intergovernmental bodies (such as multilateral environmental agreements or other international treaties) are also invited to attend the meeting.

The name, title and contact details of the representative(s) (including postal address, telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address) should be communicated in writing to the following contact persons at the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, UNEP, Nairobi, Kenya, by 25 November 2009: Mr. Masa Nagai, Senior Legal Officer (e-mail: Masa.Nagai@unep.org) and Ms. Cristina Zucca, Legal Officer (e-mail: Cristina.Zucca@unep.org), Fax: +254-20-762-4260.

Bakary Kante
Director, Division of Environmental Law and
Conventions
26 October 2009