



InforMEA

UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION PORTAL ON
MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

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About InforMEA



14th InforMEA Steering Committee Meeting

The 14th InforMEA Steering Committee Meeting was held in-person on 11-13 June 2024 in Montreux, Switzerland. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss among the Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) representatives the way forward for the 4th Project Phase of InforMEA and its workstreams, with the benefit of the report of the end-term review of InforMEA's 3rd Phase. The meeting also sought to obtain the MEA members' guidance on Knowledge Management priorities in general; on recent encouraging developments on generative Artificial Intelligence tools based on public MEA documents such as national strategic plans and reports; and in the context of the governance of the InforMEA Initiative.

[Access all InforMEA Meeting reports here](#)



E-Learning Course updates

Introductory Course to the
International Treaty on Plant
Genetic Resources for Food and
Agriculture

This course introduces learners to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Adopted in 2001, the International Treaty provides a legally binding framework for the conservation and sustainable use of all plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA), balancing the interests of developed and developing countries, as well as a broad range of further stakeholders. The course replaces an older version, and was re-launched in May 2024.



[Link to syllabus](#)

[Link to course](#)

Introductory Course to the BBNJ Agreement

Areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) are home to rich biodiversity and provide us with many goods and services, from the fish we eat to the regulation of the global climate cycle. Yet, they suffer from cumulative anthropogenic pressures, such as overfishing and destructive fishing practices, the effects of climate change and pollution from various sources. States began a process in 2004 and, following nearly two decades of negotiations, adopted the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement). This course provides an overview of this process, a detailed synopsis of relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), as well as an overview of the issues addressed by the BBNJ Agreement.



[Link to syllabus](#)

[Link to course](#)

Introductory Course on SDG 16 and access rights, the Aarhus Convention, and the Escazú Agreement

New translations are available for the introductory course to SDG 16. This course explores the environmental dimension of SDG 16, honing in on the targets and indicators linked to access rights – access to information, public participation, and access to justice, supported by safeguards for environmental defenders. After introducing access rights, this course looks in greater depth at three Multilateral Environmental Agreements stemming from Rio Principle 10 – the Aarhus Convention and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, and the Escazu Agreement; that further develop these rights to empower societies to address existential challenges and protect our planet. In addition to the existing English,



French, and Spanish versions, this course is now available in Chinese, Russian, and Arabic.

[Link to syllabus](#)

[Link to course](#)

Introductory Course to the Basel Convention

A new translation is available for the introductory course to the Basel Convention. This course introduces the history of the Basel Convention and how it works to regulate the movement and disposal of hazardous and other wastes across international boundaries. In addition to the existing English version, this course is now available in French.



[Link to syllabus](#)

[Link to course](#)

Upcoming Events

10-12 September 2024, Denmark

[10th Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans in the Baltic, Northeast Atlantic, Irish and North Seas \(ASCOBANS\)](#)

23 - 27 September 2024 – Peru

[IWC69 | IWC Biennial Commission Meeting](#)

23 - 27 September 2024 – Rome, Italy

[Twentieth meeting of the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee of the Stockholm Convention \(POPRC-20\)](#)

21 October - 01 November 2024 – Cali, Colombia

[Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity](#)

28 October - 1 November 2024–Bangkok, Thailand

[Combined 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and 36th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol](#)

02 - 13 December 2024, Saudi Arabia

[UNCCD 16th session of the Conference of the Parties, in Riyadh.](#)

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