

University of Eastern Finland -  
United Nations Environment Programme

## Course on Multilateral Environmental Agreements



First Announcement (11 April 2018)

### University of Eastern Finland – UN Environment Course on Multilateral Environmental Agreements

15<sup>th</sup> Course, 20 to 30 August 2018, Joensuu, Finland

**The University of Eastern Finland (UEF) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment)** are jointly organizing a high profile two-week Course on international environmental law-making and diplomacy. The course will take place from 20 to 30 August 2018 at the University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu, Finland. The course is organized in collaboration with the Government of Finland.

The Course seeks to transfer past experience in the field of international environmental law to current and future negotiators of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). Each Course is based on a specific theme. The Course also provides a forum to foster North-South co-operation and to take stock of recent developments in multilateral negotiations as well as in the implementation of MEAs and diplomatic practices in the international environmental arena.

**This is the 15th year** that the Course will be held and, as in previous years, lectures will be given by experienced hands-on diplomats, government officials, international civil servants and members of academia.

**The special theme** of this year's course will be "The Environment and Human Rights". Under that theme, a broad range of subjects will be addressed including human rights in multilateral environmental agreements, environmental protection in human rights instruments and mechanisms (including regional human rights systems), and the mainstreaming of environmental human rights in business, finance, trade and investment, and the situation of environmental human rights defenders. In addition, general issues relating to international environmental law-making and diplomacy will be dealt with. The Course employs interactive teaching methods.

**Confirmed speakers include** Prof **James R. May** (Delaware Law School), Prof **Stephen Stec** (Central European University), Ms. **Sabina Timco** (UN Environment Finance Initiative), Ms. **Jannie Staffanson** (Saami Council), Prof **Armand de Mestral**, CM (McGill University), Prof **Konstantia Koutouki** (Université de Montréal, Nomomente Institute), Ms. **Johannah Bernstein** (International Environmental Lawyer).

**The Course is intended for** experienced government officials engaged in international environmental negotiations. In addition, other stakeholders, such as representatives of non-governmental organizations and the private sector, may apply to the Course. Researchers and academics in the field of international environmental law are also eligible. As the 2018 Course's thematic focus is environment and human rights, candidates with experience in this field are encouraged to apply.

**Approximately 30 participants**, with an equal distribution from the North and South and taking into account gender balance will be admitted to the Course. Participants that successfully complete the Course will be awarded a Diploma.

The **Draft Programme** will be published on the Course website by May 2018. The application deadline is **31 May 2018**. Participants are expected to pay their travel and other expenses and a tuition fee of 1000 euro. Candidates from developing countries and from countries with economies in transition can apply for a full or partial fellowship for expenses arising from **travel and accommodation**. Kindly note, however, that there is only a **very limited amount** of fellowships available and that participants with a full or partial fellowship are expected to cover minor expenses that arise from e.g. meals not included in the course programme.

#### Further information

Course website:

<http://www.uef.fi/unep> or  
<http://www.unep.org/training>

Contact address:

[mea-course@uef.fi](mailto:mea-course@uef.fi) or [Law.Division@unep.org](mailto:Law.Division@unep.org)

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