

International Council of Environmental law (ICEL)

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Since its establishment in 1969 in New Delhi, the International Council of Environmental Law has advanced knowledge on international environmental law and the legal foundations for sustainable development.¹ As an international, non-governmental organization accredited to the UN Economic and Social Council since 1973, ICEL has shared its expertise with ECOSOC, UN Members States, and international organizations. ICEL's members are senior experts drawn from all UN regions and all legal traditions: civil law, common law, socialist law, Islamic law, and customary law. ICEL is also an accredited observer with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat, the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as well as other international and regional organizations.

Chapeau

At the outset, ICEL provides the rationale for its input to the zero draft. To do so, ICEL adheres to the main observation made by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), in the Summit of the Future Policy Brief dated November 2023:

Environmental issues have so far been largely absent from the Our Common Agenda process, and have not featured prominently in the discussions on the scope for the Summit of the Future, with none of the policy briefs produced to inform the summit focusing on environmental issues. As there can be no future without nature IUCN considers it essential

¹ ICEL was founded in New Delhi in 1969 and was originally constituted under Article 60 of the Swiss Civil Code. ICEL reconstituted in Madrid in 2020, under Spain's Organic Law 1/2002, recognized on May 28, 2021. It maintains representatives in Bonn, Geneva

b. "We reaffirm our commitment to effectively address the triple planetary crisis through a rights-based approach, and commit to promote, protect and fulfil the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment".

Accordingly, below please find additional suggested language for the Chapeau and/or the other sections based on IUCN's Declaration on the Rule of Law

Five key principles enjoying global consensus in international law provide the foundation for States' positive obligation for the stewardship of the shared biosphere and the climate system. These principles are elucidated by international case law, treaties,

The rule of law in environmental matters is essential for the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Strengthening the rule of law is critical to protecting environmental, social, and cultural values and to achieving ecologically sustainable development, and provides the basis for improving environmental governance.

The environmental rule of law and robust institutions are essential to respond to increasing environmental pressures that threaten the ecological integrity of the Earth, in a way that respects fundamental rights and principles of justice and fairness,

environmental degradation on women and girls, and their key role in achieving sustainability.

Participation of Minority and Vulnerable Groups The inclusion of minority and vulnerable groups and perspectives across generations, shall be actively addressed with regard to effective access to information, open and inclusive participation in decision-making, and equal access to justice.