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**Yale Center for  
Environmental Law and  
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Sciences Po Paris, the  
Alliance Program and the  
Observatoire de l'écopolitique  
international**

## **International Environmental Governance**

**Conference, Paris, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March 2004**

### **Call for paper**

This is a call for paper for a conference on International Environmental Governance organized by *l'Institut du développement durable et des relations internationales* (IDDRI, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations) in collaboration with UICN and with the support of *Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy* and the *Chaire développement durable de Sciences Po Paris*. The conference will take place in Paris on March , 15 and 16, 2004.

IDDRI is a policy research institute based in Paris and supported by the French government, business, as well as French research institutes. IDDRI works on major issues of governance for sustainable development in cooperation with international research networks.

The programme of the conference is divided into 3 plenary sessions—I) Building a common vision; II) Going beyond the divergence of perceptions; III) What architecture for renewed International governance system—and 2 series of parallel sessions. This call for paper targets only the latter. These 7 workshops will focus on available tools to build a collective action for an equitable, efficient and legitimate system of environmental governance, theirs limits and lessons to learn from their implementation and the way to provide this collective action. Papers are invited on the following more precise description of the two series of parallel workshops.

## **1. Building collective action**

For a number of observers, implementation is still the key issue. Agreements about implementation often lag behind. Are available instruments adequately designed? What kind of policy mix is needed? Four parallel workshops will address these questions from a variety of perspectives.

### ***A. Legal instruments: How hard, how soft?***

After twenty to thirty years of elaboration of international legal tools for environmental protection, how far are we gone towards implementation? What are the main enforcement issues? Can we have efficient legal instruments without sanctions? Is implementation possible if problems such as capacity, financial resources, balance between environmental commitments and development opportunities are not addressed? What is the prioritisation and hierarchy of international legal tools?

### ***B. Economic instruments: How far we can go?***

Economic theory suggests several types of instruments to correct market failures and develop incentives to protect the environment. How far have these instruments been implemented in practice?

### ***C. Information: A new strategic field?***

Information is of course critical to monitor implementation of MEAs but also to trigger alerts. Various clearing house mechanisms and databases are created for this purpose. This workshop will address the issue of information, including the function of indicators: Who produce them and how? How will do indicators match the goals of MEAs? Transparency and participation in the use of databases and Clearing House Mechanisms will also be discussed.

### ***D. Scientific expertise: A questioned legitimacy?***

Building a scientific community on global issues seemed a promising approach to identify and quantify environmental problems. Is this approach still relevant when the legitimacy of these communities is not determined? How can such legitimacy be firmed up?

## **2. Providing collective action**

The current international governance system has demonstrated that to both the elaboration of a common view on the issue at stake and the identification of tools implementation facilitating are necessary but not sufficient conditions to trigger collective action. Ensuring the effectiveness, the equity and the legitimacy of the international governance system requires the proper design of institutions and procedures with respect to three dimensions: The

coherence and constituency of international norms, the articulation between the various levels of governance and the compatibility with other international governance systems. Finally, this design has to be evaluated through its impacts on the environment.

### ***E. Coherence and constituency of international norms***

How can the effectiveness, legitimacy, and equity of the process of elaboration of standards and instruments be ensured? How can various systems of control and (enforcement) be put in place especially when they are founded on very different principles (WTO vs MEAs)? How can disagreements involving environmental stakes be settled?

### ***F. Articulation and coherence between the various levels of governance***

How can the various levels of governance (local, national, regional and international) interact in mutually supportive and complementary ways? How can synergy between instruments at each level be achieved? What role should capacity building play in the strengthening the synergy between the various levels of governance? What other strategies are needed?

### ***G. Articulation and coherence with the other international governance systems***

Environmental governance cannot be isolated from what happens outside the environmental arena. There is a serious risk of environmental issues becoming marginal on the international agenda. How can the linkage between the environmental agenda and other agendas such as Millennium Development Goals, the World Summit on Sustainable Development Action Plan and Monterrey commitments be strengthened?

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Papers should be original and previously unpublished. Abstract of around 500 words should be submitted, by electronically, to Benoît Martimort-Asso ([benoit.martimortasso@internet.uqam.ca](mailto:benoit.martimortasso@internet.uqam.ca)), with a reference to the specific workshop(s), before February 8. Abstract will then be peer reviewed by the scientific committee of the conference.

Selected authors will be invited to speak at the Paris conference and asked to submit full version of their paper.

For further information please visit our Web site ([www.iddri.org](http://www.iddri.org)) or contact Valérie Hanauer ([iddri@iddri.org](mailto:iddri@iddri.org), Tel: 33 1 53 70 22 10, Fax: 33 1 53 70 21 45).

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