

Important funding agencies are the World Bank as largest source of development assistance and the Global Environmental Facility financing environmentally beneficial activities.

The United Nations Organization (UN) is the most important institution for global cooperation and plays a major role in the development of international environmental law and policy. Among its principal organs are the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) complements to UNEP with an environmental strategy intended to improve water governance, access to sustainable energy services, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The General Assembly has the power to adopt non legally-binding resolutions, convene law-making conferences and initiate codification projects.

Non-governmental organizations are important actors as they influence decision-making in international law and policy. They may participate in COPs and other international meetings as observers. This was obvious on the Rio Conference 1992, when more than 8000 NGOs participated.

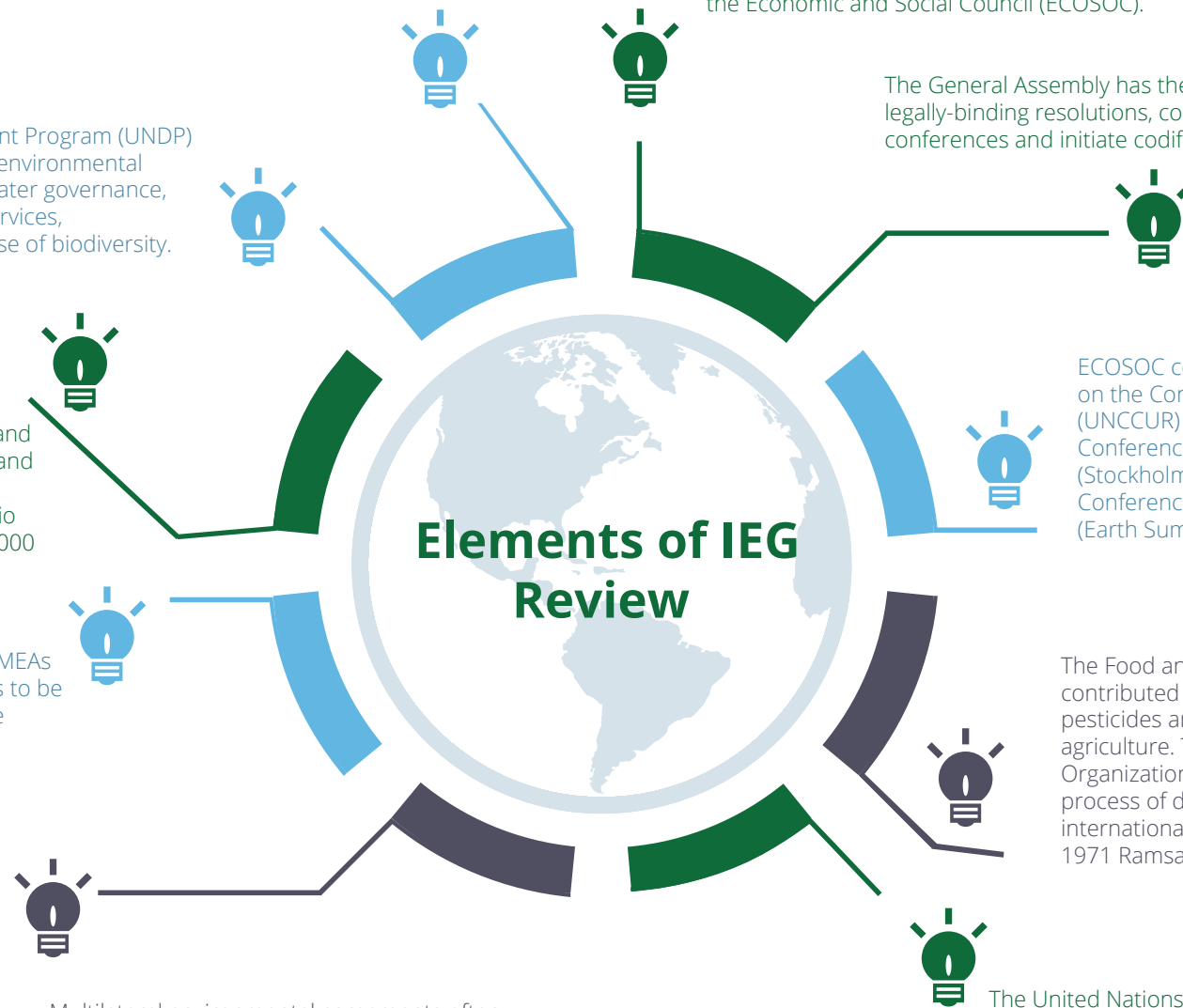
ECOSOC convened in 1949 a scientific conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Resources (UNCCUR) which was the predecessor of the Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Conference, 1972) and the UN Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit in Rio 1992).

Compliance mechanisms included in MEAs provide for procedures and measures to be taken, in case compliance needs to be enforced.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has contributed significantly to guidelines on pesticides and genetic resources for food and agriculture. The UN Education and Scientific Organization (UNESCO) played a major role in the process of developing important MEAs in international environmental law, for instance the 1971 Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

Multilateral environmental agreements often designate bodies with a policy-making character. Those bodies like the Conference of the Parties (COPs) meet regularly, take political and sometimes legal decisions on how to understand and implement the agreed treaty. MEA secretariats monitor and evaluate the implementation of the agreements by analyzing countries' reports on the implementation.

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) is the UN body with the mandate to set a global environmental agenda. Promoting partnership in caring for the environment, monitoring and analyzing the environmental situation, UNEP has contributed to the emergence of global environmental treaties like for instance the Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Convention on Biological Diversity.



Elements of IEG Review