



First Announcement (2025)

## University of Eastern Finland – United Nations Environment Programme Course on Multilateral Environmental Agreements

Nineteenth (19<sup>th</sup>) Course on MEAs, *One Atmosphere – Climate change, air pollution and ozone depletion*  
24 March – 3 April 2025, Bangkok, Thailand

The University of Eastern Finland (UEF) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) are jointly organising a two-week course on international environmental law-making and diplomacy. The course is held with funding from the Government of Finland.

The course seeks to transfer knowledge and experiences in the field of international environmental law to current and future negotiators of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). It also provides a forum to foster North-South cooperation and take stock of recent developments in MEAs as well as diplomatic practices in the international environmental arena.

The course has two main objectives.

First, it provides participants with an in-depth understanding of the interconnected challenges of climate change, air pollution, and ozone depletion. These issues are closely linked in terms of their sources, impacts and legal responses. For instance, short-lived climate pollutants like methane and black carbon affect both climate and air quality and are addressed in several MEAs, including the UNECE's Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement. In addition, the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer is expected to further increase the contribution of the Protocol to ambitious climate action and lead to significant climate gains. The 2025 UEF-UNEP Course addresses the complex interplay between MEAs relating to the protection of the atmosphere, explores opportunities to enhance these connections, and identifies pathways for more holistic and effective strategies to achieve co-benefits. The Course also covers crosscutting issues across MEAs, for instance financial support, effectiveness and others.

Second, the course provides a platform for knowledge exchange, empowering diplomats and government officials to navigate the intricacies of international environmental negotiations. The 2025 UEF-UNEP Course on MEAs is delivered by international environmental legal experts and experienced resource persons from the UN. The course is designed to be highly

interactive. It employs a diverse range of teaching methods, including expert lectures, roundtables, interactive sessions, training in negotiation skills and management, and a two-day negotiation simulation.

The course is intended for **experienced government officials engaged in international environmental negotiations**. In addition, applications from other stakeholders, including academia, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, will also be considered.

We are committed to promoting diversity and inclusivity. Therefore, approximately 30 participants will be selected, ensuring an equal representation from developed and developing countries, and maintaining a gender-balanced cohort. The course prioritizes accessibility, ensuring that valuable knowledge is available to all interested individuals.

Upon successful completion of the course, participants will be conferred with a Diploma.

The **Draft Programme** will be published on the Course website in February 2025. The application deadline is 9 December 2024.

### Further information

Course website:  
<https://sites.uef.fi/cceel/uef-unesp/> or  
<http://unenvironment.org>

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