

The Role of International Conferences in Outlining Global Environmental Policies

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Abstract

The international community has focused on the human environment in different sectors. It was obvious that this concern came to the attention of the international community through international conferences which set the mechanism for international co-operation in combating environmental risks.

The Stockholm Conference held in 1972 was considered the first international step to protect the environment, with concluded principles and recommendations. Many international environmental conventions were held through which the international community has boosted and activated international principles that govern environmental protection and outlining global environmental policy as far as this area is concerned.

It is unquestionable that incessant international efforts will participate in achieving invalid protection for human environment as it is the biological venue for various human activities. Protecting the environment is the responsibility of all.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is one of the most important achievements of the Stockholm Conference of 1972. This program aims to develop international environmental law, and to encourage the international environmental agreements and conduct comparative studies at the national level on environmental laws, while providing technical assistance to developing countries for the development of environmental legislation, and the development of international environmental co-operation methods

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International conferences have established a number of international principles that have contributed to the protection of the environment, including: the principle of international co-operation to protect the environment, and the principle of media coverage of any reported serious incidents that threaten the environment so that intervention during environmental disasters can assist affected countries, as well as the right of everyone to have access to information from those national bodies relating to industrial activities and hazardous materials, and the need to take necessary measures to prevent environmental degradation.

These principles contribute to the protection of the environment as a common heritage of all humanity, in order to activate the rules of international environmental law and so as to protect the human environment.