

**IUCN - The World Conservation Union**  
**UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme**  
**OECD – Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development**  
**European Environmental Law Association**  
**Italian Environmental Law Association**  
**ICEF – International Court of the Environment Foundation**

*In collaboration with: Italian Council of the Judiciary*

**Symposium on Environmental Law for Judges**

**JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT NEXT STEPS:**  
*The Role of the Judiciary in the Implementation and Enforcement  
of Environmental Law*

**Rome**  
**Italian Council of the Judiciary**  
**Friday 9 & Saturday 10 May, 2003**

**‘Rome Statement’**

From 9 – 10 May 2003 judges and experts from various countries in Europe and from across the globe met in Rome to advance the implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, insofar as it relates to the role of the judiciary in achieving sustainable development, and the UNEP Global Judicial Symposium and to further progress the recommendations made in the ‘London Bridge Statement’.

The Rome Symposium noted:

1. The outcome of the Global Judges’ Symposium on the Role of Law and Sustainable Development, convened by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Johannesburg, South Africa on 18-20 August 2002 as a parallel event to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and Decision 22/17(11)A of the Governing Council of UNEP, which called on the Executive Director of UNEP in partnership with IUCN – The World Conservation Union (IUCN) and other competent organisations to implement the outcome of the Global Judges’ Symposium in regard to capacity building of judges and other legal stakeholders in the field of environmental law.
2. The ‘London Bridge Statement’ agreed by acclamation at the Symposium on Environmental Law for European Judges, held in London on October 10-11 2002.

The Rome Symposium agreed by acclamation to:

1. Endorse the need to draw upon fellow members of the judiciary and competent organisations, including the sponsors of the Rome Symposium, to work actively with the judiciary at all levels to help enhance its knowledge and skills base in environmental law in the context of sustainable development.
2. Confirm the establishment of the European Judicial Forum to progress the outcomes of judges symposia, with its membership expanded to include the additional European members of the judiciary who attended the Rome Symposium.
3. Invite the IUCN and UNEP to continue to collaborate with the European Judicial Forum to facilitate co-ordination of the work of the Forum with broader global initiatives and

encourage judges from across Europe to actively participate in the UNEP/IUCN Judicial Portal.

4. Support the value of selecting through consultation with members of the European Judicial Forum a limited number of key substantive issues for inclusion in the agenda for a follow up Symposium including the:
  - pros and cons of establishing specialist environment courts or tribunals.
  - the ability of citizens to obtain access to the courts to further enhance the effective implementation, compliance with, and enforcement of, environmental laws.
  - consideration of environmental scientific evidence and the fashioning of appropriate remedies, including restoration of the environment.
5. Called on the International Court of the Environment Foundation (ICEF) to join in partnership with UNEP, IUCN and other organisations in developing and implementing needs-responsive judicial capacity building activities that could lead to more effective interpretation, implementation and enforcement of environmental law in the context of sustainable development.
6. Extend a vote of thanks to ICEF for taking the initiative in convening the Rome Symposium, to each of the cosponsors and to the Italian Council of the Judiciary, the Italian Constitutional Court, the Italian Supreme Court, the Italian Council of State and all of the other collaborating institutions, in particular the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers for their co-operation and hospitality in supporting this event.

Rome, May 10, 2003