



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Legal Officer, P-4
Legal Affairs Division,
Intergovernmental and Programme Support Subdivision

Deadline for application	Announcement number	Expected date for entry on duty	Duration of appointment	Duty Station
22 September 2024 23:59 hrs CET	VA 24/063/LA	As soon as possible	1 year with possibility of extension	Bonn, Germany

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The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the focus of the political process to address climate change. The UNFCCC secretariat supports the Convention, its Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement through a range of activities, including substantive and organizational support to meetings of the Parties and the implementation of commitments. It is a dynamic organization working in a politically challenging environment to help resolve one of the defining environmental issues of our time.

Where you will be working

This position is located in the Legal Affairs Division of the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The incumbent will report to the Director of the Legal Affairs Division.

The Legal Affairs Division provides legal and procedural advice and services to support (1) the intergovernmental negotiation process and the implementation of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, and (2) the administration and operations of the UNFCCC secretariat.

The Intergovernmental and Programme Support subdivision of the Legal Affairs Division provides legal support to governing, subsidiary and constituted bodies with respect to the intergovernmental negotiations and the implementation of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

The Legal Officer will serve in the Intergovernmental and Programme Support subdivision.

Your responsibilities

The Legal Officer reports to the Director of the Legal Affairs Division and has the following responsibilities:

- Serve as the secretary of the Kyoto Protocol Compliance Committee and the Paris Agreement Implementation and Compliance Committee and provides strategic leadership to the Committees;
- Organize and supervise the provision of substantive, legal, and procedural advice to the Kyoto Protocol Compliance Committee and the Paris Agreement Implementation and Compliance Committee, as well as the substantive and logistical preparation, delivery, and follow-up of their meetings;
- Serve as the lead legal officer in one or more areas of work, and independently handle a wide range of multi-discipline, highly and often sensitive legal matters as regards climate change law;



- Advise governing, subsidiary and constituted bodies on substantive and procedural questions of considerable complexity in the context of the Conference of the Parties (COP), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) and the Subsidiary Bodies (SBs). This involves the provision of independent, authoritative and timely legal advice to the Parties and secretariat divisions regarding the intergovernmental climate change negotiation process.;
- Lead and manage team members working under their responsibility;
- Provide expert legal advice to other divisions of the UNFCCC secretariat on complex legal questions arising in international climate change law and the UNFCCC process;
- Liaise with representatives of the Parties, the presidency and observers and provide expert legal advice on legal, procedural and institutional issues related to the UNFCCC process;
- Organize and supervise research studies and the preparation of legal opinions, as well as perform extensive legal research and analysis on highly complex or novel legal issues/questions and prepare legal opinions, studies, briefs, reports, and correspondence;
- Organize and supervise capacity-building activities, such as workshops, courses, and training;
- Represent the Legal Affairs division in external meetings of experts, conferences and seminars;
- Service diplomatic conferences, committees, task forces, expert groups and other bodies, including the preparation of background materials, summaries of issues and views of delegations, meeting reports, etc.;
- Contribute to review and design of new, or different innovative applications of, legal instruments, policy, guidelines, etc.;
- Review, advise on and draft institutional and operational modalities and other legal documents; develop new legal modalities to meet unique needs/circumstances;
- Perform other duties as assigned.

Competencies:

Being Responsive to Clients and Partners: Identifies the work unit's key partners and clients, and communicates information about these groups regularly to staff members; Takes swift action to address insufficient client service; Works with partners and clients to define client service standards, monitors the work unit's performance and reviews standards on a regular and ongoing basis; Thinks ahead to anticipate the needs of clients and other key stakeholders; Focuses systems and processes on the delivery of excellent client service, and acts quickly to address any barriers to success.

Working with Teams: Identifies, recognizes and shows appreciation for the unique contribution of each team member; Builds teams with a diverse mix of skills, experience and views and actively welcomes members regardless of their gender, nationality, religion or other backgrounds; Models collaboration in relationships with individual staff at all levels, as well as the wider team; Recognizes and celebrates team accomplishments; Creates cross functional linkages to foster wider internal and



external collaboration; Works across organizational boundaries, overcoming barriers and obstacles to enhance cooperation.

Delivering results: Creates policies, programmes, or processes which are mindful of minimizing potential negative social, economic and/or environmental impacts; Identifies the resources needed to deliver results, and manages their use to ensure the utmost efficiency, effectiveness and impact; Creates an environment where staff, regardless of their gender, family situation or other circumstances, are able to perform at their best; Promotes a mindset of results orientation, aligns systems and processes to support the achievement of results, and holds staff members to account for their commitment; Holds regular reviews to assess the results achieved against targets; Manages, reduces or mitigates risks without compromising results, where possible.

Managerial Competencies:

Exercising Sound Judgment and Decision-Making: Makes decisions in line with overall organizational priorities and department / office goals; Consults with stakeholders on decisions that affect them; Consults with stakeholders on decisions that affect them Demonstrates the ability to make and defend difficult decisions; Identifies urgent decisions and makes them expeditiously in light of available information; Shows openness to reconsider a course of action as a situation evolves and to modify decisions if that would allow for a better outcome; Identifies the key issues in complex situations, and gathers relevant facts, data and evidence to fully address those issues. Considers the positive and negative impact of decisions, and analyses the different options and alternatives before reaching a sound conclusion.

Your qualifications

Educational Background:

Required: Advanced University degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in law, with a specialization in international law. A first level university degree in combination with an additional two years of qualifying experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree.

Experience:

Required: A minimum of seven (7) years of progressively responsible experience in law, including legal analysis, research and writing is required. Experience in the area of public international law is desirable. At least five (5) years in an international environment, preferably in a United Nations common system organization or other intergovernmental organization, is desirable. Additional experience in providing substantive support to government or intergovernmental bodies, including subsidiary bodies thereof, is desirable.

Language skills:

Required: Fluency in English (both oral and written) is required.

Desirable: Knowledge of another UN official language is an advantage.



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What is the selection process?

Evaluation of qualified candidates may include an assessment exercise which may be followed by a competency-based interview. The above listed set of competencies will be applied for this particular post.

How to apply:

Candidates, whose qualifications and experience match what we are looking for, should use the online application system available at <http://unfccc.int/secretariat/employment/recruitment>

Please note:

1. Service is limited to the UNFCCC secretariat.
2. We will confirm receipt of your application. However, only candidates under serious consideration and contacted for an interview will receive notice of the final outcome of the selection process.
3. Indicative net annual salary and allowances:
US\$ 77,326
(plus variable post adjustment, currently 43.8% of net salary),
plus other UN benefits as indicated in the link below:
<https://unfccc.int/secretariat/employment/conditions-of-employment.html>

UNFCCC secretariat is committed to diversity and inclusion within its workforce, and encourages candidates, irrespective of gender, nationality, religious and ethnic backgrounds, including persons with disabilities to apply.