

University center Abdelhafid Boussouf- Mila

Faculty of law & political sciences

Department of Law

Lecture four: Environmental Law and Sustainable Development



Addressed To Third Year Public Law Students-Semester 1

Prepared & Presented by:

Ms. Sara MEZHOUD

Teacher of English language

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What is Environmental Law? (ما هو قانون البيئة؟)

Environmental Law refers to the body of legal rules, regulations, and treaties aimed at managing human activities in ways that protect the natural environment. This branch of law includes laws and policies on air and water pollution, waste management, biodiversity conservation, and climate change. The primary goal of environmental law is to safeguard ecosystems and natural resources, ensuring that they remain viable for future generations.

Key Principles of Environmental Law (المبادئ الرئيسية في قانون البيئة)

Precautionary Principle (مبدأ الحذر): This principle advises that when there is a risk of serious or irreversible damage to the environment, the absence of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason to postpone measures to prevent environmental harm.

Polluter Pays Principle (مبدأ أن يدفع الملوث): This principle holds that those who cause pollution should bear the costs of managing and rectifying the damage caused by their activities.

Sustainable Use of Resources (الاستخدام المستدام للموارد): Environmental law encourages the responsible use of natural resources, ensuring they are available for future generations without depleting or damaging ecosystems.

Biodiversity Conservation (حفظ التنوع البيولوجي): Protecting the diversity of life, including species, ecosystems, and genetic resources, is a key principle in environmental law, which focuses on preserving habitats and endangered species.

Right to a Healthy Environment (الحق في بيئة صحية): This principle asserts that every individual has the right to live in an environment that is not harmful to their health and well-being.

What is Sustainable Development? (ما هي التنمية المستدامة؟)

Sustainable Development refers to development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It involves balancing economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection. The concept of sustainable development is often encapsulated in the three pillars: economic development, social inclusion, and environmental protection.

Key Goals of Sustainable Development (الأهداف الرئيسية للتنمية المستدامة)

Economic Growth (النمو الاقتصادي): Sustainable development promotes economic growth that provides job opportunities and enhances the living standards of all individuals without exploiting natural resources beyond their capacity.

Social Inclusion (الاندماج الاجتماعي): This involves reducing inequality, ensuring access to basic needs like education, healthcare, and clean water, and empowering marginalized groups in society.

Environmental Protection (حماية البيئة): Sustainable development ensures the conservation of ecosystems, biodiversity, and natural resources, and addresses issues like pollution, climate change, and resource depletion.

Intergenerational Equity (العدالة بين الأجيال): This principle highlights the importance of ensuring that future generations inherit a planet capable of sustaining their needs.

International Frameworks for Environmental Law and Sustainable Development (الإطارات الدولية لقانون البيئة والتنمية المستدامة)

Several international agreements and frameworks guide environmental law and sustainable development:

The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (إعلان ريو بشأن البيئة والتنمية): Adopted in 1992, this declaration established 27 principles that guide countries in balancing environmental protection and sustainable development. It emphasizes the importance of integrating environmental considerations into decision-making.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (أهداف التنمية المستدامة للأمم المتحدة): In 2015, the United Nations adopted 17 goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all. These goals encompass various environmental, social, and economic targets that aim to promote sustainability on a global scale.

The Paris Agreement on Climate Change (اتفاق باريس بشأن تغير المناخ): Adopted in 2015, this global agreement aims to limit global warming to below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. It sets

goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing renewable energy use, and adapting to climate impacts.

Convention on Biological Diversity (اتفاقية التنوع البيولوجي): This treaty, adopted in 1992, focuses on preserving biodiversity, ensuring its sustainable use, and fairly sharing the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.

التحديات في (Challenges in Environmental Law and Sustainable Development) (قانون البيئة والتنمية المستدامة)

Climate Change (تغير المناخ): One of the greatest challenges to both environmental law and sustainable development is combating climate change. Global warming, extreme weather events, and rising sea levels threaten ecosystems, livelihoods, and economic stability.

Resource Depletion (استنفاد الموارد): Unsustainable resource extraction and consumption practices, such as deforestation, overfishing, and mining, deplete natural resources, impacting biodiversity and hindering future development.

Pollution (التلوث): Air, water, and soil pollution are significant barriers to achieving sustainability. Industries and agriculture contribute to environmental damage through waste and emissions.

Inequality (عدم المساواة): Sustainable development requires addressing social inequality. Many of the most vulnerable populations, especially in developing countries, are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation.

Lack of Enforcement (نقص التنفيذ): While international agreements and national laws are in place, enforcement remains a major issue. Governments may lack the political will or resources to effectively enforce environmental regulations.

Terminology

Environmental Law - قانون البيئة

Sustainable Development - التنمية المستدامة

Climate Change - تغير المناخ

Biodiversity - التنوع البيولوجي

Pollution - التلوث

Greenhouse Gases - الغازات الدفيئة

Ecosystem - النظام البيئي

Renewable Energy - الطاقة المتجددة

Resource Management - إدارة الموارد

Waste Management - إدارة النفايات

Sustainable Agriculture - الزراعة المستدامة

Carbon Footprint - بصمة الكربون

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) - تقييم الأثر البيئي

Environmental Protection - حماية البيئة

Natural Resources - الموارد الطبيعية

International Environmental Law - القانون البيئي الدولي

Conservation - الحفاظ على الموارد

Deforestation - إزالة الغابات

Polluter Pays Principle - مبدأ أن يدفع الملوث

Green Economy - الاقتصاد الأخضر

