



# AFTrain'25

Yusuf Ziya Öner Science High School Model United Nations Conference

## The Threaty Of Paris Agreement Agenda Item: Regulating policies of ecocide under the Constitution of Rome Statute

CO-Under Secretary General:

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# **1. Letter From the Secretariat**

Distinguished delegates,

It is with profound honor and an enduring sense of purpose that we extend our warmest welcome to you all for AFTRAIN'25. As the Secretaries General, we are genuinely honored to see this conference once again gather bright young minds who share a belief in dialogue, diplomacy, and cooperation.

First and foremost, gratitude must be extended to our dedicated academic and organization teams. Without their unwavering efforts, the vision we aim to share with our generation would have never come to life.

We live in a time when global knots grow more complex every day, yet it is also a time filled with opportunities. The work you will do here represents what diplomacy truly means, the ability to seek solutions, wind up those complications and connect them across tough conditions.

On behalf of the Secretariat, we wish you an inspiring and memorable experience. Let us bow our heads, the king is back!

Kind regards,

Kaan Muştu & Ömer T. Demirel

Co-Secretaries-General

## **2. Letter From the Under Secretary Generals**

A) Sacit Eren TUNCER

Distinguished participants of this committee,

As you all are familiar with, I am Sacit Eren TUNCER and I would like to honorably welcome you all to the “The Treaty of Paris Agreement”. In our committee I will be serving as your Under-Secretary-General, during the long awaited days of this prestigious conference.

We created this glorious committee with my fellow Under-Secretary-General, Derin Akyürek, in order to ensure our delegates with a better perspective on international politics. While doing so, we wanted to emphasize the significance of Rules Of Procedure and the legal system in the processing of treaties. In order to maintain that importance we elaborated all of the relevant aspects of the process that coherent with our agenda item. I fully encourage you to pay your attention to this study guide and do further research when it is necessary.

I frankly wish this committee will be an unforgettable and productive experience that contributes to your career and skills.

If you have any kind of questions prior to the conference, do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach me through my e-mail, [erentcr999@gmail.com](mailto:erentcr999@gmail.com)

**Sincerely,  
Sacit Eren TUNCER**

B) Derin AKYÜREK

It is my distinct privilege to welcome you all to the Treaty of Paris Agreement committee. As your Under-Secretary-General for this session, I am honored to oversee what promises to be one of the most intellectually stimulating and diplomatically rigorous experiences of this conference.

This committee was envisioned and brought to life alongside my fellow Under-Secretary-General with a singular goal: to provide a profound and nuanced perspective on the intricacies of international statecraft. In drafting our agenda, we have placed a deliberate emphasis on the Rules of Procedure and the intricate legal frameworks that govern the creation and implementation of global treaties. Understanding these mechanisms is not merely a technical requirement; it is the foundation upon which lasting international peace and cooperation are built. My sincere hope is that this committee serves as a transformative milestone in your academic and professional journeys, offering you a productive environment to hone your diplomatic skills. Should you have any questions or require clarification regarding the committee's direction prior to our first session, please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email [@derin.akyurekk@gmail.com](mailto:@derin.akyurekk@gmail.com)

I look forward to witnessing your contributions to this prestigious assembly.

**Warm regards,  
Derin Akyürek**

### **3. Introduction of the Paris Agreement**

#### **3.1 Introduction to ICC**

The International Criminal Court (ICC) investigates and, where warranted, tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression. As a court of last resort, it seeks to complement, not replace, national Courts. Governed by an international treaty called the Rome Statute, The Assembly of States Parties the Assembly is the Court's management oversight and legislative body

and is composed of representatives of the States which have ratified or acceded to the Rome Statute. The ICC leads its way towards stability and lasting peace as the former United Nations Secretary General said **"This cause ... is the cause of all humanity"**.

### **3.2 Introduction of the Agenda Item**

Dear members of the Rome Statute,

In September it was proposed to the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court that ecocide be formally classified as an international crime. Simultaneously, legal challenges emerging throughout international law have intensified curiosity and concern regarding the environment's place within this evolving legal landscape. Ecocide refers to the act of deliberately harming the environment. The term was debated in specific international law circles between the 1970s and 1990s, and re-entered international discourse when Scottish barrister and environmental lobbyist Polly Higgins submitted a proposal in 2019 to amend the Rome Statute to include ecocide as a crime. The Rome Statute is the international treaty and foundation of the International Criminal Court (ICC). It creates a legal framework for prosecuting individuals for international crimes.

## **4. Rules of Procedure**

### **4.1 General Rules**

**The rules are not subject to change and shall be considered adopted prior to the beginning of the conference.**

**Language,** English shall be the official working language of the conference. No representative may address the forum or submit a document in a language other than English.

**Courtesy,** All members of the Court must show courtesy and respect to the Secretary General, chairpersons, committee staff, advisors and fellow delegates. The chairperson will immediately call to order any member who fails to comply with this rule.

**Bureau,** The chairpersons/presidents and the registrar shall constitute the committee bureau. A chairperson shall declare the opening and closure of each meeting of the committee, shall direct its discussions, and ensure compliance with the Rules of Procedure. He/she shall compose the speaker's list, accord the right to speak, propose the limitation of time for debate, and announce decisions. Furthermore, he/she shall have the right to advise delegates on the possible course of debate. The chairperson may also close or suspend the meeting and may temporarily transfer his/her duties to another member of the bureau. In exercise of these functions, the chairperson shall at

all times follow the Rules of Procedure and report to the Secretary General. Bureau decisions may be overruled with a two-thirds majority

**Attendance**, Members of the Court are required to attend all scheduled committee meetings. In the case of a member leaving the room during a session under any circumstances, said member shall place their placard in such a way that their name is facing down. This is in order to signal absence from any vote. Should a member be absent for more than two half-day sessions and/or during the distribution of certificates, the delegate may be denied the right to receive the conference certificate. Attendance will be sampled at the beginning of every session by calling upon the members of the Court, followed by the observers, in alphabetical order. When their name is called out, judges shall declare themselves “present”. Members arriving late shall pass a written note to the chairperson stating that they are “present”.

## **RULES GOVERNING THE DEBATE**

**The order of the proceedings is the following,**

**1. Presentation of Case** The President and Vice-President will present the case to the Court. Judges will have an opportunity to ask questions. The session of the Court will be declared formally open by the President after the presentation.

**2. General Floor Debate.** This is where Judges will provide an overview of their stances of the agenda item. This time may be used to discuss the relevant legal issues and to prepare a list of questions to be resolved. Thereafter, once debate commences, a judge may be added to the speaker’s list only by passing a written request to one of the chairpersons. After the judge finished his/her speech, the judge may add himself to the speaker’s list again by passing a written request to one of the chairpersons. The speaker’s list will be continuously open.

**3. Opening speeches** Judges present their general legal opinions on the case in alphabetical order according to surnames. Judges may pass on the first round, but must speak on the second (Each judge is given a maximum of 2.5 minutes).

**4. Deliberations** The Court will have an opportunity to discuss the case. The Court should try to agree on the facts and the legal issues to be resolved. This is also the time when Notes are drafted by the judges. The Court will proceed following a speakers list and by motioning for moderated caucuses or suspension of the meeting. All motions will be accepted at the discretion of the President.

**5. Formal Deliberations** After the introduction of a Note, the Court moves to Formal Deliberations to discuss it. During this time, no new Note may be presented. Questions can be posed and judges will justify their positions. This is an important opportunity to influence members of the Court who are not in favor of the Note. The Court will proceed following a newly-composed speakers list and by motioning for moderated caucuses and suspension of the meeting. All motions will be accepted at the discretion of the President. Formal Deliberations are closed, as soon as a motion to Vote for Judgment passes.

## **RULES GOVERNING SPEECH**

**Speeches** No judge may address a committee without having previously obtained the permission of the chairperson. The president may call a speaker to order if his/her remarks do not follow the rules agreed upon, are not relevant to the subject under discussion, or are offensive to any delegate or staff member. The time limit for speeches is always subject to the president's approval. If a judge exceeds the permitted time, the president may call the speaker to order.

## **RULES GOVERNING SUBSTANSIVE MATTERS**

**Notes**, Notes serve as draft Judgments. They differ from Judgments in that they do not include the parties' submissions or the summary of the proceedings. Notes are non-binding and will help form the basis of the final judgment. During the debate, they are referred to as "Notes." Only one Note, which will be signed by the President, will be in order at any given time. Upon introduction, the Note is distributed to the Court and judges are given an adequate amount of time to read it. A vote will follow this reading to decide if the Note will be the subject of Formal Deliberations. Each judge has the obligation to write at least one note and have a burden of proof. The burden of proof for the note can be said during the debate. Each note has to have a different burden of proof.

**Non-Binding Poll** Motions for non-binding polls of the Court will be accepted during Deliberations and Formal Deliberations at the discretion of the President. These "votes" do not bind the judges to their opinion and serve to make the Court aware of the progress. Non-Binding Poll Motions for non-binding polls of the Court will be accepted during Deliberations and Formal Deliberations at the discretion of the President. These "votes" do not bind the judges to their opinion and serve to make the Court aware of the progress.

**Motion to Dismiss Note/ Motion to Vote for Judgment** Formal Deliberations may be closed via one of two motions: A motion to Dismiss Note and a motion to Vote for Judgment. A motion to Dismiss Note will pass with a simple majority. If the motion passes, the Court returns to the initial Deliberation phase and will continue with the speakers list. If the motion fails, the Court will return to Formal Deliberations. A motion to Vote for Judgment requires a two-thirds majority to pass. If the motion passes, the Court will automatically proceed to the Vote on Judgment. If the motion fails, the Court will return to Formal Deliberations.

**Vote on Judgment** The vote on making the Note a Judgment is carried out in the form of a Roll-call vote in alphabetical order according to surnames, in which each judge is given a maximum of one minute to comment on his/her choice. These comments should include a general overview of the judge's written opinion.

## **RULES GOVERNING VOTING**



**Quorum,** A Quorum is the number of members of the Court present necessary for any vote to be taken. The chairperson may declare a meeting open and permit the debate to proceed when at least one third of the expected number of members in the committee are present. The presence of two thirds of the members will be required for any substantive vote to be taken.

**Voting,** Each judge will have one vote on both substantive and procedural matters. All matters will be voted upon by a show of placards, except in the case of a roll call vote. After the president has announced the beginning of voting procedure, no judge is allowed to leave the room or to interrupt the procedure except for a point of order regarding the conduct of voting. All motions require a simple majority of members present to pass, except the motion to Vote for Judgment, which requires a two-thirds majority. No judge may abstain from any vote at any time during procedural matters or substantive matters. a.) Voting on Substantive Matters The only substantive voting at the simulation will be the final voting on notes and the judgment. Passage requires a simple majority of the total number of voting judges. No abstentions are permitted. b.) Voting on Procedural Matters Apart from the final voting on notes and the judgment, all voting done at the simulation will be considered procedural voting. Procedural voting requires a simple majority for passage. c.) Roll Call Vote During a roll call vote delegates are called upon in alphabetical order. Each delegate then shall answer with either "Yes"/"In favor" or "No"/"Against".

## **MOTIONS & POINTS**

**Motions may be raised at any time during discussions. Motions on procedural matters are accepted at the discretion of the president, who may put it to a vote.**

**Suspension of the Meeting** During a central debate , deliberations or formal deliberations a judge may raise a motion to suspend the meeting - and all committee functions for the proposed time - by stating the purpose of the suspension and specifying a time for reconvening, which is subject to the president's approval. This suspension of the meeting enables the judges to discuss important matters such as Notes in an informal manner and without the restrictions of formal debate or moderated caucus. Once the suspension of the meeting is over, the proceedings move back to the stage prior to the suspension.

**Point of Order** Any judge may raise a point of order to signal the Court about improper action or other issues that are important to the Court by raising his/her placard. The president, in accordance with the rules of procedure, will immediately decide on the point of order. A point of order may not interrupt a speaker. Points of order that are dilatory or improper may be ruled out of order by the president.

**Point of Information** Any judge may raise a point of information to pose questions regarding the proceedings of the Court or rules of procedure by raising his/her placard. Judges are asked to use the point of information with discretion and should pose questions on rules of procedure during a break or suspension.

**Precedence of Motions/Points** Motions and points will be considered in the following order of precedence:

a.) Points indicated below shall have precedence above all motions at all times in the following order:

- Point of Order
- Right of Reply
- Point of Information

b.) Motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order:

- Motion to Vote for Judgment
- Motion to Dismiss Note
- Motion to Suspend the Meeting
- Motion to Move to a Caucus
- Motion to Terminate a Caucus
- Motion for a Roll Call Vote

## **5. Causes, Drivers and Impacts of Environmental Crimes**

### **5.1 Petroleum products**

All types of oil differ by their chemical composition, weight, prior refinement, concentration of heavy metals, sulphur, and other impurities. Oil spills involve accidental contamination by oil ranging from various grades of crude oil to different refined products, from heavy fuel oil to light, less persistent, but very toxic fuels. The chemical composition of the spilled oil, and the associated weathering reactions, determine their fate, behaviour, and impact in the marine environments. Oil spills are of great concern due to the long period of oil and gas exploitation and the adverse impacts of the marine environment and these various undesirable repercussions have been documented.

On February 15, 1996 the oil tanker “Sea Empress” lost 72,000 t of crude light oil and 370 t of heavy fuel oil of her cargo in the North Sea. Over 100 km of coastline were affected. Estimates suggest that overall, 200 km of coastline has been affected. A further 25,000 tons of waste were created by the clean-up operation. The “Sea Empress” ranks as one of the world’s top 10 oil spills.

The 2010 “Deepwater Horizon” oil spill is considered the largest marine environmental disaster in North America. Over 200 million gallons of oil poured into the Gulf and contaminated the coast. It is estimated that up to 170,000 people worked to clean up the Gulf oil spill. This event is now considered to be the worst environmental disaster in US history, with massive ecotoxic effects on sea life and human habitats. The ecological effects were drastic and longstanding, affecting all biota of all trophic levels ranging from microorganisms and algae to pelagic fish, marine invertebrates, mammals, and seabird populations, marine mammals from whales to otters, and plankton populations.

Crude oil releases the most harmful toxins into the water and air within a short time. The rest of the toxins are broken down by microorganisms in the sea water, but before this, crabs, shellfish and fish concentrate toxins in their bodies. The toxins are then **bioaccumulated** in higher trophic levels. It could take decades to understand how oil affects the next generation of whales, coral, sea turtles, birds, fish, and other marine life.

The toxic effects of oil spills to wildlife can be categorized as lethal and sublethal. Basically, assessments of environmental impacts of oil spills are based on evaluating concentrations of pollutants required to kill 50% of individuals in test animals’ toxicological experiments to estimate lethal concentrations or other effective concentrations. In this way considerable research was conducted to assess traditional biomarkers of biological endpoint and to develop and apply suites of sublethal indicators of aquatic biota health in order to understand the induction of health effects involving immune system function, genomic changes, reproductive success, growth effects, and impairment of various organ systems in affected species.

Most often, research on pollutant effects on gene expression is conducted with model organisms. At the sub-molecular level, chemical and physical effects can lead to genetic rearrangements (mutations); destructive ionization in the tissues of every living being, sometimes with completely unexpected consequences for humans.

Deep-water colonial corals together with ophiuroid symbionts may provide a more sensitive indicator of the impact from petroleum hydrocarbons. They are important habitats for shrimp, crabs and other marine life. Coral colonies present widespread signs of stress, including varying degrees of tissue loss, sclerite enlargement, excess mucus production, bleached commensal ophiuroids, and are covered by brown flocculent material.

Shellfish can digest oil, which could cause changes in reproduction, growth rates or even death. Fish in oil spill areas show reduced reproduction even years after the spill, because oil remaining in the environment is still toxic to fish larvae. Oil exposure in fish can lead to

cancer and eventually to death, but it can also result in reproductive changes. Particularly the nesting habitats of sea turtles are affected. At least 402,000 were exposed to oil during the spill. Sea turtles are extremely sensitive to the effects of contact with oil. Young and juvenile turtles have been found to starve to death when their beak and oesophagus have become blocked with petroleum residue. Birds were among the hardest-hit animals immediately after the spill. The oil coating their feathers had reduced their ability to regulate their body temperatures due to feather damage. Marine mammals face a more expansive threat than most other coastal biota due to their large geographical range. Physical contact with oil has shown to have substantial negative and lethal effects on many varieties of marine mammals, although the cumulative long-term effects of consumption of petroleum-laden food sources are ongoing. Thousands of dolphins died in the months following the spill, after they ingested toxins. They are important indicators of the overall health of the ocean. Humans suffer from oil-related cancers. For many other species, the damage is not clear. Many species have been difficult to study. That's because scientists knew little about the habits of many deepwater marine mammals before the spill, so have trouble detecting changes from current data.

## 5.2 Pesticides

Pests are the most serious problem in agricultural production. Since the discovery of DDT, farmers have used pesticides as the most effective means against destruction of crop production. Pesticides significantly damage the environment as well as humans, they damage water and soil quality, which has a dangerous effect on animals, birds, plants and humans.

The **degree of pesticide** toxicity strongly depends on its environmental behaviour. They enter in the ecosystems by two different pathways depending on their solubility. Water-soluble pesticides enter groundwater, streams, rivers and lakes and in this way harm non-target species. Fat-soluble pesticides enter organisms along food chains and have a strong tendency towards biomagnification. They are absorbed in the fatty tissues and result in persistence of pesticides in food chains for very long periods. These persistent pollutants are transferred up the food chain faster than they are broken down or are excreted. Therefore, the higher trophic levels of the food chains will contain higher pesticide concentration. This disrupts the normal functioning of

the whole ecosystem as the species in higher trophic levels will die due to greater toxicity.

The threats associated with the use of these toxins cannot be ignored. It is of paramount importance to study the pesticide impact on populations of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. Accumulation of pesticides along food chains is of greatest concern as it directly affects terrestrial predators and raptors. Indirectly, pesticides can also reduce the quantity of plants and primary consumers, on which higher orders feed. Spraying with insecticides, herbicides and fungicides has also been associated with reduction in the population of rare species of animals and birds.

Pesticides enter the water via rain, by runoff, leaching through the soil or they may be applied directly to water surfaces, for instance, for the purpose of controlling mosquitoes. Water contaminated with pesticides is a **serious** threat to aquatic life forms. It can affect aquatic plants, decrease dissolved oxygen in the water and can cause physiological and behavioural changes in fish populations. These pesticides are not only toxic themselves but also interact with stressors which include harmful blooms of algae. Aquatic animals are exposed to pesticides in three ways: direct absorption via skin; uptake via gills during breathing and via drinking contaminated water.

Pesticides in terrestrial ecosystems are able to cause sublethal and lethal effects on plants. As early as **1977 Kelley and South (1977)** note that herbicides cause considerable damage to fungal species in soil by inhibiting the growth of symbiotic mycorrhizal fungi that help plant nutrient uptake. Glyphosate, a broad-spectrum herbicide, reduces the growth and activity of nitrogen-fixing bacteria in soil.

Even low doses of herbicides have a great impact on the productivity and diversity of the natural plant communities and wildlife. Beneficial insects like bees and beetles can experience significant population decline due to the use of broad-spectrum insecticides. Synergistic effects of fungicides and neonicotinoid insecticides are very harmful to bees. Even a low dose of them reflects negatively on their feeding behaviour. Since 2006, each year, honeybee populations have dropped by **29–36%**. Some reports have confirmed that only about 10% of pesticides reach the target groups of organisms in crops. The majority of pesticides react with non-target organisms. If the toxicity expression of a pesticide is measurable, the non-target organisms can be used as bioindicators. There are various options on the choice of species for pesticide monitoring. They depend mostly on the feeding habitat of the species. The non-targeted part of an applied pesticide moves through the ecosystem and a significant portion of it accumulates in the lower trophic levels. By the mechanisms of bioaccumulation, it reaches higher trophic level organisms and affects normal physiological processes of the organisms, thereby putting the whole ecosystem at risk.



Due to specific morphological features, bees can carry pesticides which may be brought to the hive. Thus beehives may also be polluted. The spraying of beehives during honey collection may be the reason for pesticide adulteration of honey and beeswax. This indicates the use of honey bees as a potential bioindicator to determine the amount of pesticide levels in pollinator communities.

Earthworms are common organisms in the soil ecosystem and play an important role in soil health. They play a significant role as bioindicators of soil contamination and as models for soil toxicity. Their reduction may alter the nutrient cycling and nutrient availability to plants. Pesticides produce neurotoxic effects in earthworms and after exposure they are strongly physiologically damaged, with DNA damage, changes on feeding activity and loss of vitality.

Bird feathers are one of the best indicators for the presence of pesticides in the body. Several studies showed a significant correlation between the contamination level in seabirds' food and their feathers. Feather collection is easy and minimally invasive and is very important from the viewpoint of conservation biology. Moreover, feathers indicate toxicant exposure during an annual cycle. There is a wide concentration range of pesticides that can be traced using feathers from birds in Patagonia to relatively high concentration in birds from Spain. Feathers can be used as bioindicators throughout the wide range of different geographic regions of the world. For biomonitoring of OCPs in Antarctica, penguin feathers are a very good tool.

A lot of studies show that herbivorous mammals, and especially rodents, are one of the best species that fulfil the requirements for a good bioindicator for pesticide contamination due to their large population number, good representation of spatial and ecological niches, sufficient knowledge about their physiology, great reproductive potential, as well as their dietary composition.

Since use of pesticides is unavoidable, early monitoring is essential to prevent or control the damage caused by pesticides to humans and ecosystems. It is a timely need to integrate the studies of different disciplines including toxicology, environmental chemistry, population biology, community ecology, conservation biology and landscape ecology to understand the direct and indirect effects of pesticides on the environment. In the future, chemical pesticides can be used in combination with natural treatments and remedies, resulting in more sustainable elimination of pests. This combination not only promises environmental health, but also has diverse applications in controlling urban pests and invasive species. Nowadays, it is very important to control the use of pesticides and to find ways to apply appropriate substances; to encourage farmers to **reduce pesticide overuse**. It is essential to develop and apply various techniques for remediation of pesticides from the environment.

Adsorption and bioremediation have been found to be most suitable as environmentally friendly, cost-effective and less toxic by-products. Environmental protection organisations, farmers, health professionals, producers, and governments have to commit to and adopt joint initiatives to reduce the negative effects of pesticides. Immediate action is needed to effectively control pesticides and to adopt strict laws and regulations in this area. Integrated pest management is very useful for the management and further application of pesticides, as well as for their best control.

## **6. The Fight Against Environmental Crime**

### **6.1 Combatting Environmental Crimes**

Environmental crime is a growing threat to the environment, biodiversity and public health but also to international security.

It contributes to tensions in societies and is often linked to other types of crime that it fuels (criminal or terrorist financing, corruption and money laundering, murders).

All countries in the world are affected, including countries of origin, transit and destination. Yet, environmental crime is still not very present in national legislation.

Moreover, law enforcement officers and magistrates rarely have specific training. That is why police, customs and justice cooperation and legislation harmonization mechanisms have been introduced to identify and punish environmental criminals more effectively.

Triple planetary environmental crisis, The Convention forms part of comprehensive efforts by the Council of Europe in the field of the environment, as laid out notably in its Strategy on Environment, and reflects a collective response to the “triple planetary crisis” of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. This new treaty focuses on the criminal dimensions of environmental damage and establishes a robust legal framework to combat serious environmental crimes that have, at times, gone unpunished or under-prosecuted.

Elaborated by Council of Europe member states alongside contributions from the Holy See, the European Union, the United Nations, INTERPOL, as well as civil society, this new treaty sends a powerful message: environmental destruction is not only a policy failure but may also

constitute a crime, requiring strong legal tools and international cooperation. The signature by the European Union confirms the EU's support for the aims of the convention.

## **6.2 Historical Timeline**

**2013: The Prosecutor of the ICC considers environmental damage in assessing the gravity of Rome Statute crimes (Policy Paper on Preliminary Examinations)**

**2016: The Prosecutor of the ICC will give particular consideration to prosecuting crimes committed by means of or resulting in the destruction of the environment (Policy Paper on Case Selection and Prioritisation)**

**2018: Entry into force of 4th Rome Statute crime: crime of aggression**

**2019: Vanuatu and the Maldives call for consideration of adding the crime of 'ecocide' to the Rome Statute at 18th Meeting of the ICC Assembly of States Parties**

**2020: Belgium calls for consideration of adding the crime of 'ecocide' to the Rome Statute at 19th Meeting of the ICC Assembly of States Parties**

**June 2021: Proposed draft of amendment to the Rome Statute to include a crime of 'ecocide' completed by the Independent Expert Panel, convened by the Stop Ecocide Foundation, for the Legal Definition of Ecocide.**

**June 2021: Cross-party support for ecocide law in Scottish parliamentary motion.**

**June 2021: Bangladesh environment committee asks the government to legislate for ecocide.**

**October 2021:** A proposal was registered at the Spanish Ecological Transition Committee of the Congress asking the government to support the creation of ecocide crime.

**November 2021:** Mexican government asked to recognise ecocide as the fifth Crime against World Peace and Security.

**November 2021:** The provisional government of West Papua launches its Green State Vision in Glasgow during COP26, explicitly including the criminalisation of ecocide.

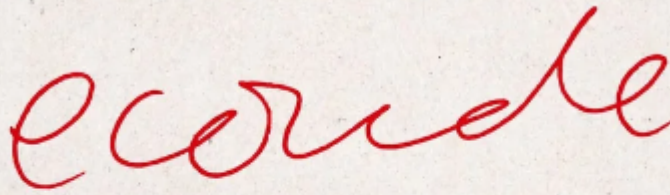
**December 2021:** Belgium supports raising awareness of ecocide internationally in an official statement to the ICC's Assembly.

**December 2021:** Finland's foreign minister supports the ecocide conversation at the ICC in an official statement to the Assembly of States Parties..

**March 2025:** Penal code amendment to criminalise ecocide proposed in Türkiye.

**April 2025:** A new bill in Argentina's Chamber of Deputies is introduced, addressing environmental crimes, including ecocide, using the definition developed by the Independent Expert Panel in 2021.

## **7. Legal Definition and Commentary**

The word "ecocide" is written in a cursive, handwritten style in red ink on a light-colored, slightly textured background.

*“ecocide” means unlawful or wanton acts committed with knowledge that there is a substantial likelihood of severe and either widespread or long-term damage to the environment being caused by those acts.*

For the purpose of this Statute, “ecocide” means unlawful or wanton acts committed with knowledge that there is a substantial likelihood of severe and either widespread or long-term damage to the environment being caused by those acts. Which directly led to the argument of ecocide being included as an international crime.

The inclusion of ecocide in the Rome Statute would add a new crime to international criminal law. This would be the first to be adopted since 1945. It would build on the existing crime of severe damage to the environment during armed conflict, whilst reflecting the fact that today, most severe environmental damage occurs during times of peace, a situation that currently falls outside the jurisdiction of the ICC. This definition of ecocide offers the States Parties to the Rome Statute the opportunity to meet current challenges.

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