

EDITORIAL

As you may realise, this issue quickly follows our last, Volume 36, Number 5. Our ability to not be bound by strict delivery dates has always been appreciated by our readers, as it gives us the opportunity to capture the results of recent and significant events without too much delay.

We informed you in the last editorial that this issue was already in its layout stage and would report on the 61st Session of the UN General Assembly. In fact, this issue only reports on developments in the GA up till publication. The GA wraps up just before the end of December, and we will thus only be able to report on the final outcome in a second report, to follow in Vol. 37, No. 1.

In addition, I am happy to report to our readers that issue Number 1 will be the first “regular” issue of 2007. A special issue, Number 2-3 of Volume 37, will report on the 2nd International Elizabeth Haub Symposium 2006. The event, convened by the Haub family and organised by ICEL and KSSF, featured paper presentations and discussions among the recipients of the Elizabeth Haub Prize for Environmental Law or Environmental Diplomacy from around the world.

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This issue contains a great variety of subjects. However, we still could not cover everything that we would have liked, such as the 12th COP to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the 2nd MOP to the Kyoto Protocol, and the 18th MOP to the Montreal Protocol. We intend to cover these events soon.

In this connection it must be stated that public awareness of climate change and ozone problems continues to increase. For the layman, the rising temperature of the earth’s atmosphere is already known to have negative effects. Yet, to scientifically prove this phenomenon seems more difficult. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is presently compiling and evaluating scientific studies to form a clearer picture of the issue. Effects of climate change are incredibly diverse and are regionally specific. Sea-level rise is not the only result. Many others are occurring around the world.

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We are very concerned that in many recent discussions concerning landmines, there has only been reference made to the impacts on human life and little mention made and attention given to their effects on the environment. The impacts of landmines on wildlife and habitats – ecologically important per se, but also often vital to human livelihoods – continue to be greatly underestimated.

With best wishes for 2007,

7 December 2006

- Wolfgang B. Sauer -