

Posting Title : SENIOR LEGAL OFFICER,P5
Job Code Title : SENIOR LEGAL OFFICER
Department/ Office : United Nations Environment Programme
Location : NAIROBI
Posting Period : 27 May 2015-26 July 2015
Job Opening number : 15-LEG-UNEP-41493-R-NAIROBI (X)

United Nations Core Values: Integrity, Professionalism, Respect for Diversity

Special Notice

Appointment against this post is for an initial period of one year and may be subject to extension. Staff members are subject to the authority of the Secretary-General and to assignment by him or her. In this context, all staff are expected to move periodically to new functions in their careers in accordance with established rules and procedures. All applicants are strongly encouraged to apply on-line as soon as possible after the job opening has been posted and well before the deadline stated in the job opening. On-line applications will be acknowledged where an email address has been provided. If you do not receive an email acknowledgement within 24 hours of submission, your application may not have been received.. If the problem persists, please seek technical assistance through the Inspira "Need Help?" link.

Org .Setting And Reporting

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. This position is located in UNEP's Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (DELIC), at its Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. DELIC is the lead Division charged with carrying out the functions of UNEP in the field of environmental law, governance and related policy issues, including those related to multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). The incumbent will report to the Director.

Responsibilities

Within delegated authority, the Senior Legal Officer will be responsible for the following duties: 1. Serve as a recognized expert and direct programme/projects in national environmental law, including MEAs implementation, environmental rule of law and the law

of natural transboundary resources. 2. Handle a wide range of multi-discipline, highly complex, and often sensitive and/or conflicting legal matters involving issues relating to regional and national environmental law, including the interpretation and application of instruments; 3. Coordinate and direct teams of other legal officers, guide and supervise the work of junior officers; assist the Director/Deputy Director in general management and administration of the Division, organizing and prioritizing the workload and providing general coordination and supervision of assignments as regards the legal work. 4. Make various types of recommendations to senior officials of substantive units with respect to actions. 5. Provide authoritative legal advice on diverse range of highly complex or novel substantive and procedural questions of law. 6. 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. 7. Advise on and supervise the review, negotiation and drafting of legal documents; develop new legal modalities to meet unique needs/circumstances. 8. Direct services for relevant international meetings, workshops and training programmes in the field of national environmental law, including preparation of background materials, summaries of issues and views of delegations, meeting reports. 9. Provide and direct other legal/programme officers to provide legal advice and other technical assistance in the field of national environmental law. 10. Promote the work of UNEP and represent the organization at meetings, conferences and seminars. 11. Plan, manage and review the development and implementation of projects in the field of national environmental law. 12. Supervise and participate in preparing legal publications of the Division. 13. Provide advice on legal issues concerning a range of institutional, political and procedural matters. 14. Perform other duties as required.

Competencies

Professionalism: Knowledge of environmental law, legal procedures and instruments, including multilateral environmental agreements. Ability to apply legal expertise to analyzing a diverse range of complex legal issues in the field of the environment and in developing innovative and creative legal response in addressing environmental issues. Strong analytical skills and ability to conduct comprehensive legal research on a range of issues, including those of a unique and/or complex nature; proficiency in legal writing and expression and ability to prepare legal briefs, opinions, and a variety of legal instruments and related documents. Discretion and sound judgment in applying legal expertise to sensitive, complex legal issues. Ability to work to tight deadlines and handle multiple concurrent projects/cases. Knowledge of diverse national legal systems in different countries, contemporary international relations and of UN system, organization and interrelationships. Shows pride in work and in achievements; demonstrates professional competence and mastery of subject matter; is conscientious and efficient in meeting commitments, observing deadlines and achieving results; is motivated by professional rather than personal concerns; shows persistence when faced with difficult problems or challenges; remains calm in stressful situations. Takes responsibility for incorporating gender perspectives and ensuring the equal participation of women and men in all areas of work.

Communication: Speaks and writes clearly and effectively; listens to others, correctly interprets messages from others and responds appropriately; asks questions to clarify, and exhibits interest in having two-way communication; tailors language, tone, style and format to match audience; demonstrates openness in sharing information and keeping people informed.

Planning & Organizing:

Develops clear goals that are consistent with agreed strategies; identifies priority activities and assignments; adjusts priorities as required; allocates appropriate amount of time and resources for completing work; foresees risks and allows for contingencies when planning; monitors and adjusts plans and actions as necessary; uses time efficiently. Leadership: Serves as a role model that other people want to follow; empowers others to translate vision into results; is proactive in developing strategies to accomplish objectives; establishes and maintains relationships with a broad range of people to understand needs and gain support; anticipates and resolves conflicts by pursuing mutually agreeable solutions; drives for change and improvements; does not accept the status quo; shows the courage to take unpopular stands. Provides leadership and takes responsibility for incorporating gender perspectives and ensuring the equal participation of women and men in all areas of work; demonstrates knowledge of strategies and commitment to the goal of gender balance in staffing. Judgment/Decision-making: Identifies the key issues in a complex situation, and comes to the heart of the problem quickly; gathers relevant information before making a decision; considers positive and negative impacts of decisions prior to making them; takes decisions with an eye to the impact on others and on the Organization; proposes a course of action or makes a recommendation based on all available information; checks assumptions against facts; determines the actions proposed will satisfy the expressed and underlying needs for the decision; makes tough decisions when necessary.

Education

Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in law, environmental law or related fields. A first-level university degree in law in combination with two years of qualifying experience may be accepted in lieu of the advanced university degree.

Work Experience

A minimum of ten years of progressively responsible experience in the field of environmental law, including legal analysis, research and writing.

Languages

English and French are the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. For the position advertised, fluency in English (both oral and written) is required. Working knowledge of French is an asset.

Assessment Method

Evaluation of qualified candidates for this position may include a substantive assessment which will be followed by a competency-based interview.

United Nations Considerations

Job openings posted on the Careers Portal are taken off at midnight (New York time) on the deadline date. Applications are automatically pre-screened according to the published evaluation criteria of the job opening on the basis of the information provided by applicants. Applications cannot be amended following submission and incomplete applications shall not be considered. The selected candidate will be subject to a reference checking process to verify

the information provided in the application. Applicants are urged to follow carefully all instructions available in the online recruitment platform, inspira. For more detailed guidance, applicants may refer to the At-a-Glance on "The Application Process" and the Instructional Manual for the Applicants, which can be accessed by clicking on "Manuals" on the upper right side of the browser on Inspira. The United Nations shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs. (Charter of the United Nations - Chapter 3, article 8). The United Nations Secretariat is a non-smoking environment. Candidates will be required to meet the requirements of Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter as well as the requirements of the position. The United Nations is committed to the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity for all its human resources, including but not limited to respect for international human rights and humanitarian law. Candidates may be subject to screening against these standards, including but not limited to whether they have committed, or are alleged to have committed criminal offences and/or violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

No Fee

THE UNITED NATIONS DOES NOT CHARGE A FEE AT ANY STAGE OF THE RECRUITMENT PROCESS (APPLICATION, INTERVIEW MEETING, PROCESSING, OR TRAINING). THE UNITED NATIONS DOES NOT CONCERN ITSELF WITH INFORMATION ON APPLICANTS' BANK ACCOUNTS.