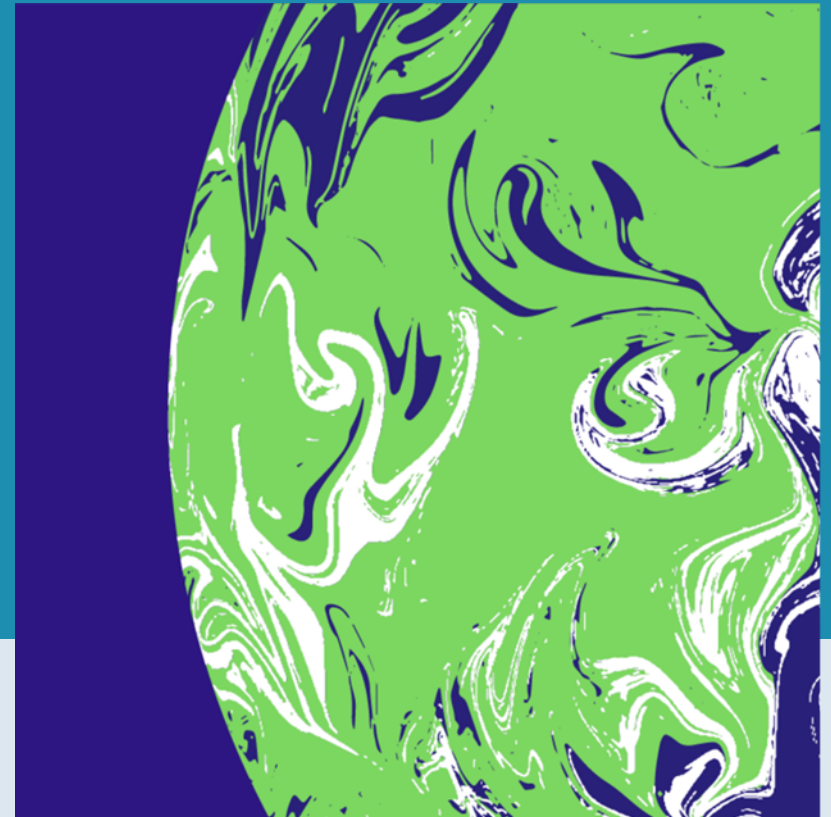


# International Organisations and the Development of International Environmental Law

An Account of the Exercise of International  
Public Authority

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## I. The concept of international public authority

The law-based capacity to influence the freedom of other actors in the pursuance of a common interest

## II. Three characteristics of international organisations and their institutional decision-making processes that contribute to the authority of their instruments

(i) the scientific and technical expertise of the organisation and other participants — epistemic authority;

(ii) the wide range of participants and capacity to generate shared understandings in broad and inclusive discursive processes — interactional authority;

(iii) the development of procedural and institutional norms necessary for implementation and compliance with existing obligations — regulatory authority.

## III. A practical application: the Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries and Related Instruments

*examples of epistemic, interactional and regulatory authority*