



Handbook for the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer

Eighth Edition (2009)

Celebrating universal ratification in 2009



**Ozone Secretariat
United Nations Environment Programme**

Handbook for the
Vienna Convention for the
Protection of the Ozone Layer
(1985)

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Foreword

The regime established by the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer stands as one of the most successful examples of international cooperation to tackle a major global environmental threat. Although most of the focus today is on the Montreal Protocol, and its phase-out targets for categories of ozone-depleting substances, it should not be forgotten that the Vienna Convention, adopted in 1985, provided the essential framework within which to negotiate those targets and the more detailed provisions of the Protocol.

Among the objectives set out in the Convention is for Parties to promote cooperation by means of systematic observations, research and information exchange on the effects of human activities on the ozone layer and to adopt legislative or administrative measures against activities likely to have adverse effects on the ozone layer. This objective has largely been achieved – according to the latest scientific assessment of ozone depletion, the ozone layer over the mid-latitudes (30–60 degrees north and south) should recover by 2049, and over the Antarctic by 2065. The ozone layer outside the polar regions is already showing signs of recovery – a significant achievement.

And the Vienna Convention is still an important part of the international ozone regime, providing the forum, for example, for discussions on scientific research and observations of the ozone layer.

The publication of this eighth edition of the *Handbook for the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (1985)* incorporates the full text of the treaty and an updated list of all decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention up to 2008.

I commend this Handbook to all prospective users and hope that they will continue to find it a valuable source of information on the decisions of the Parties and relevant information on the science of the recovery of the ozone layer.

Achim Steiner
Executive Secretary
United Nations Environment Programme

Introduction

Welcome to the eighth edition of the Handbook for the Vienna Convention which is published shortly after the Convention achieved universal ratification by 196 Parties on 16 September 2009. The universal ratification of the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol is a culmination of more than 22 years of efforts by the international community to ensure that ozone protection treaties achieve global support and implementation. They are the first treaties of any kind in the history of the United Nations system to achieve that aspiration. On this occasion, the Ozone Secretariat would like to extend humble congratulations to all the countries in the world for this achievement.

This edition contains the full text of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (1985) in Section 1. Section 2 updates the text of the decisions of the Conferences of the Parties by incorporating the decisions adopted at the Eighth Conference of the Parties in Doha, Qatar, in November 2008. The decisions are presented in sub-sections relating to each article of the Convention.

Section 3 of the Handbook contains the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and the Meetings of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol. Finally, the General Index, in Section 4, covers important information on key words and terminologies used in the Handbook.

As with the last edition of the Handbook, the Handbook for the Montreal Protocol is being published separately, to keep the size of both volumes more manageable.

The Handbook has continued to be a useful reference guide and will continue to be updated as necessary. For the first time, is being published only in electronic form to take advantage of improved communication technology and to save the environment by being economical on paper usage.

The Secretariat welcomes any suggestions for any further improvement of the format of this Handbook in the future – especially in respect of the expanding volume of information that has to be updated periodically.

Marco Gonzalez
Executive Secretary
Ozone Secretariat, UNEP

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