

Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol

As at 31 December, 195 States and the EU were parties to the 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer [YUN 1985, p. 804], which entered into force in 1988 [YUN 1988, p. 810].

Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, which was adopted in 1987 [YUN 1987, p. 686], stood at 195 States and the EU. Parties to the 1990 Amendment to the Protocol [YUN 1990, p. 522] numbered 194 States and the EU, with Lesotho becoming a party in 2010. Parties to the 1992 Amendment [YUN 1992, p. 684] numbered 191 States and the EU, with Lesotho becoming a party. Parties to the 1997 Amendment [YUN 1997, p. 1049] numbered 181 States and the EU, with China, Lesotho and Mozambique becoming parties. Parties to the 1999 Amendment [YUN 1999, p. 986] numbered 165 States and the EU, with Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, China, Lesotho and Mozambique becoming parties.

The twenty-second meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (Bangkok, Thailand, 8–12 November) [UNEP/OzL.Pro.22/9] adopted 26 decisions. It approved the terms of reference for an evaluation of the Protocol's financial mechanism and for the study on the 2012–2014 replenishment of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol; and it approved the revised 2010 budget and the 2011 budget. It also adopted decisions relating to essential-use nominations for controlled substances for 2011; essential-use exemptions for chlorofluorocarbon 113 for aerospace applications in the Russian Federation; critical-use exemptions for methyl bromide for 2011 and 2012; global laboratory and analytical use exemption; uses of controlled substances as process agents; hydrochlorofluorocarbons preblended in polyols; destruction technologies with regard to ozone-depleting substances; progress in the transition for the use of halon; and treatment of stockpiled ozone-depleting substances. Other decisions dealt with the situation in Haiti following the devastating earthquake that occurred there on 12 January and the export of ozone-depleting substances to that country; non-compliance with the Protocol; and administrative matters.

The Implementation Committee under the Non-Compliance Procedure for the Montreal Protocol held its forty-fourth (Geneva, 21–22 June) [UNEP/OzL.Pro/ImpCom/44/5] and forty-fifth (Bangkok, 4–5 November) [UNEP/OzL.Pro/ImpCom/45/5] sessions.

Convention on air pollution

As at 31 December, the number of parties to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution [YUN 1979, p. 710], which entered into force in 1983 [YUN 1983, p. 645], remained at 50 States

and the EU. Eight protocols to the Convention dealt with the programme for monitoring and evaluation of pollutants in Europe (1984); the reduction of sulphur emissions or their transboundary fluxes by at least 30 per cent (1985); the control of emissions of nitrogen oxides or their transboundary fluxes (1988); the control of volatile organic compounds or their transboundary fluxes (1991); the further reduction of sulphur emissions (1994); heavy metals (1998); persistent organic pollutants (1998); and the abatement of acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone (1999). Amendments to the protocol on persistent organic pollutants were adopted in 2009 [YUN 2009, p. 1018].

The twenty-eighth session of the Executive Body for the Convention (Geneva, 13–17 December) [ECE/EB.AIR/106 & Corr.1 & Add.1,2] adopted 19 decisions. It revised the mandate for the Task Force on the Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution; decided to include consideration of black carbon in the revision of the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone, and requested the Working Group on Strategies and Review to prepare the text of a revised Protocol; established a Coordinating Group on promotion of actions towards implementation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia; adopted the long-term strategy for the Convention and requested the Bureau of the Executive Body to develop an action plan for its implementation; and adopted rules of procedure to aid the effective operation of the Convention and its Protocols. Other decisions dealt with compliance issues.

Convention on Biological Diversity

As at 31 December, 192 States and the EU were parties to the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity [YUN 1992, p. 683], which entered into force in 1993 [YUN 1993, p. 810].

At year's end, the number of parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which was adopted in 2000 [YUN 2000, p. 973] and entered into force in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 1051], rose to 159 States and the EU. Guinea-Bissau and Somalia became parties during the year.

The fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (Nairobi, 10–21 May) [UNEP/CBD/COP/10/3] adopted 17 recommendations for consideration by the tenth (2010) meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Nagoya, Japan, 18–29 October) [UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27] adopted the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic