

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL TO DATE



While the work of the Montreal Protocol is not done and much more remains to be accomplished before we can assure the protection of the ozone layer for this and future generations, the Parties to the Protocol has accomplished a great deal in the 20 years of its existence:

- **Global participation:** In terms of cooperation, over 190 countries and the European Community have ratified the Protocol. This high degree of participation has contributed to global compliance with the Montreal Protocol targets;
- **Elimination of ozone depleting substances:** As of 2005, the Parties to the Protocol had phased out the production and consumption of over 95 per cent of all of the chemicals controlled by the Protocol;
- **Healing the ozone layer:** Global observations have verified that atmospheric levels of key ozone depleting substances are going down and it is believed that with implementation of the Protocol's provisions the ozone layer should return to pre-1980 levels by 2050 to 2075;
- **Supporting developing countries:** With the assistance of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, developing countries have permanently phased out, as of 2005, over 190,000 tonnes of ozone depleting substances that had been used to produce various products and have eliminated over 116,000 tonnes of production of ozone depleting substances, constituting over 70 per cent of developing country totals. Further, projects designed to reduce over 90 per cent of the remaining developing country production have already been agreed;
- **High rates of compliance:** In the process of the phase-out many countries, both developed and developing, have met their phase-out targets well ahead of schedule;
- **Health benefits:** In terms of health benefits, controls implemented under the Montreal Protocol have enabled the global community to avoid millions of cases of fatal skin cancer and tens of millions of cases of non fatal skin cancer and cataracts. The United States estimates that by the year 2165 more than 6.3 million skin cancer deaths will have been avoided in that country alone and that efforts to protect the ozone layer will have saved it an estimated \$4.2 trillion in health care costs over the period 1990–2165;
- **Climate change benefits:** The Protocol has also delivered substantial climate benefits. Because ozone depleting substances are also global warming gases, the reduction in ozone depleting substances between 1990, when they reached peak levels, and the year 2000 has yielded a net integrated reduction of approximately 25 billion tonnes of CO₂ weighted global warming gases. These significant reductions make the Montreal Protocol one of the prime global contributors in the fight against global warming.
- **Global recognition:** In 1995, recognition of the importance of the ozone issue and the contribution of science to ozone layer protection efforts came in the form of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry, which was awarded to Sherwood Rowland, Mario Molina and Paul Crutzen for their pioneering work on ozone depletion. In addition, in 2003, political recognition of the Protocol came in the statement of then United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, who termed the Montreal Protocol "perhaps the single most successful international environmental agreement to date".