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BUREAU OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
VIENNA CONVENTION FOR THE
PROTECTION OF THE OZONE LAYER
First meeting
Geneva, 22 March 1996

REPORT OF THE BUREAU OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE
OF THE PARTIES TO THE VIENNA CONVENTION FOR THE
PROTECTION OF THE OZONE LAYER ON THE
WORK OF ITS FIRST MEETING

INTRODUCTION

1. The first meeting of the Bureau of the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer was held at the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) headquarters in Geneva on 22 March 1996.

I. OPENING OF THE MEETING

2. The meeting was opened at 2.15 p.m. on Friday, 22 March 1996, by Mr. Mario Lopez (Peru), who, in the absence of the President of the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention, served as Acting President at the request of the other members of the Bureau.

3. The meeting was attended by the following members of the Bureau, who had been elected to their respective posts by the Conference of the Parties at its third meeting, held in Bangkok on 23 November 1993:

Vice-Presidents: Mr. Mario Lopez (Peru)
Mr. Hugo-Maria Schally (Austria)

Rapporteur: Ms. Etto Rachel M'Mangisa (Malawi)

4. At the invitation of the Bureau, representatives of the WMO secretariat attended the meeting.

II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The following provisional agenda as contained in document UNEP/OzL.Conv.3/Bur.1/1 was adopted unanimously:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Action taken on the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention at its third meeting (Bangkok, 23 November 1993)
4. Conclusions of the Research Managers Meeting (Geneva, 19-21 March 1996)
5. Other matters
6. Adoption of the report
7. Closing of the meeting

III. ACTION TAKEN ON THE DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE VIENNA CONVENTION AT ITS THIRD MEETING (BANGKOK, 23 NOVEMBER 1993)

6. In relation to decision III/1 (Adjustments and Amendments to the Montreal Protocol), the Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the status of ratifications. Since the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention, 20 States ratified the Vienna Convention (154 Parties), 23 the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (153 Parties), 31 the London Amendment (106 Parties) and 41 the Copenhagen Amendment (56 Parties). The Bureau took note of this information and expressed the view that as very few countries remained non-Parties, they should be encouraged by the Secretariat to ratify the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol and its amendments. The Bureau asked the Secretariat to encourage all Parties to the Montreal Protocol that had not yet ratified its Amendments, to do so expeditiously.

7. With regard to decision III/1 (Reports of the Assessment Panels), the Secretariat informed the Bureau of the reports submitted by the three Panels, seven Technical Options Committees and three Working Groups. These reports provided the necessary information for the adjustments to the Protocol and the decisions adopted by the Seventh Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, held in Vienna from 5 to 7 December 1995.

8. The Bureau noted the adjustments made to the Montreal Protocol in Vienna and suggested that the Parties should note the Assessment Panels reports with appreciation and record the important role of coordination of the scientific Assessment Panel report by WMO and the substantial contributions by national agencies such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the United States. The Bureau encouraged the ongoing work of the Scientific, Environmental Effects and Technology and Economic Assessment Panels.

9. The Bureau noted that decision III/3 (Amendment procedure under the Vienna Convention) had not required any follow-up action.

10. With respect to decision III/4 (Reporting for the purposes of Annex I to the Vienna Convention) the Bureau was informed that the countries monitoring HFCs would provide this information to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

11. With respect to decision III/5 (Recommendations of the second meeting of the Ozone Research Managers), the Bureau took note of an oral report by the Secretariat on the situation concerning contributions to the World Meteorological Organization's Special Fund for Environmental Monitoring for the Global Ozone Monitoring System (GO₃OS) and expressed regret that only three countries has responded, which meant that much less funding than needed had been provided. While the overall request to finance maintenance activities was approximately US\$200,000 per year, only US\$150,000 had been contributed during the previous three years. The long-term observations of ozone and precursors and ultraviolet radiation (UV-B) were of direct interest to the Vienna Convention and were the only means of verification of the implementation of the Montreal Protocol.

12. The Bureau very strongly stressed that support to GO₃OS is of direct interest to the Convention both for ozone-related species and UV-B. It, therefore, suggested that the next Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention may increase by US\$200,000 per year the budget for monitoring activities of developing countries, with WMO acting as the facilitating agency.

13. With regard to decision III/6 (Budgets and financial matters) the Bureau took note with concern of the considerable arrears in contributions by certain countries and encouraged the countries in arrears to pay their contributions in full. It requested the president to address a letter to the Parties reminding them of the need for timely payment of their contributions and to urge Parties in arrears to pay them promptly.

14. In relation to decision III/7 (Fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer), the Bureau expressed its gratitude to the Government of Austria for the excellent arrangements made for the organization of the of the Seventh Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol and for hosting the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Convention including the International Workshop on the Ozone Treaties and their Influence on the Building of the International Environment Regimes. The Bureau also thanked Austria for organizing the

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function for awarding the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Ozone Awards to 20 individuals and organizations for their outstanding contribution to the protection of the ozone layer.

15. The Bureau felt that the Ozone Secretariat should consider arranging, from 19 to 22 November in San Jose, Costa Rica, a joint preparatory meeting for the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and the Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol. It also suggested that the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention should precede the meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol. General debates were not anticipated, and only concrete discussions of the main issues were foreseen. Efforts should be directed so that, in the future, meetings of the Conference of the Parties of the Vienna Convention and meetings of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol be integrated into one event. This would give additional convenience for discussions. Legal implications should be explored in order to streamline efforts and expenditure in a cost-effective way for participants.

16. The Bureau noted that the third meeting of the Ozone Research Managers had been held in accordance to decision III/8 (Future meetings of the Ozone Research Managers).

17. The fourth meeting of the Ozone Research Managers should be arranged just after the release of the next UNEP/WMO Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion, in nearly three years time.

IV. CONCLUSIONS OF THE RESEARCH MANAGERS MEETING (GENEVA, 19-21 MARCH 1996)

18. The Bureau noted with appreciation the recommendations of the third meeting of the Ozone Research Managers and expressed overall agreement with the thrust of the agreement and proposed that it be submitted to the Parties of the Convention for endorsement. It agreed that long-term ozone observations went beyond research and were intimately linked to the Vienna Convention and its Montreal Protocol.

19. Furthermore, the Bureau, in light of the discussion at the third meeting of the Ozone Research Managers, emphasized the need for the Global Environment Facility to look more favourably at the project proposals emphasizing the monitoring of ozone and UV-B and the maintenance of the WMO Global Ozone Observing System (GO₃OS).

V. OTHER MATTERS

20. The Bureau was informed of the very good collaboration between the WMO and UNEP Ozone Secretariat and expressed the hope that it would continue.

VI. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

21. After an exchange of courtesies, the Acting President declared the meeting closed at 4.45 p.m. on Friday, 22 March 1996.

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