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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
VIENNA CONVENTION FOR THE  
PROTECTION OF THE OZONE  
LAYER

Fourth meeting  
San José, 25 November 1996

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE  
PARTIES TO THE VIENNA CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION  
OF THE OZONE LAYER AT ITS FOURTH MEETING

Introduction

1. The present report, which covers the period from the conclusion of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention, held in Bangkok from 23 to 24 November 1993, reviews the status of ratification and implementation of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and actions that have been taken to implement the decisions adopted at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties. It proposes further action that might be taken by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting, to be held in San José on 25 November 1996.

A. Implementation of the decisions adopted at the  
third meeting of the Conference

2. The status of the implementation of the decisions adopted at the third meeting of the Conference (see UNEP/OzL.Conv.3/6, para.23) is annexed to the present report. The following issues, arising out of the implementation of the decisions of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties, are placed before the Conference for consideration and decision.

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B. Status of ratification

3. At the time of the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties, there were a total of 132 Parties to the Vienna Convention. Since then, an additional 27 States have become party to the Convention, bringing the total number of Parties to the Convention to 159 as of 31 July 1996. The status of ratification for both the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol and both the London and Copenhagen Amendments to the Protocol is circulated to all Governments quarterly.

4. Proposal for action. The Conference of the Parties may wish to urge all States that have not yet done so to become party to the Convention and its Montreal Protocol and the Amendments thereto.

C. Adjustments and Amendments to the Montreal Protocol

5. The Adjustments to the Montreal Protocol adopted in Vienna in December 1995 were communicated to all Parties by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as Depositary of the Protocol, on 5 February 1996 and entered into force for all Parties on 5 August 1996, in the case of those Adjustments relating to controlled substances in Annexes A and B of the Montreal Protocol, and on 1 January 1997, in the case of those relating to Annexes C and E.

6. It is a matter of some concern that only 57 Parties had ratified the Copenhagen Amendment as of 31 July 1996, almost four years after this Amendment was adopted.

7. Proposal for action. No action is necessary.

D. Reports of the Assessments Panels

8. The Scientific, the Environmental Effects and the Technology and Economic Assessment Panels and the latter's technical options committees submitted the reports requested of them in November 1994, March 1995, November 1995, March 1996 and June 1996. These reports were distributed to all Parties to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol.

9. Proposal for action. The Conference may wish to note with appreciation the Assessment Panel reports and record the important role played by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in coordinating the Scientific Assessment Panel's report, 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. Additionally, the Conference may wish to encourage the ongoing work of the Scientific, the Environmental Effects and the Technology and Economic Assessment Panels.

E. Third meeting of the Ozone Research Managers

10. The report of the third meeting of the Ozone Research Managers 1/ was distributed to all Parties in July 1996.

11. The third meeting of the Ozone Research Managers adopted several recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties. The meeting re-emphasized that the overall goal of research of activities is to understand the physics, chemistry and transport process of atmospheric ozone, with particular emphasis on accurate assessment of possible perturbations caused by human activities as well as by natural phenomena. 2/ It further stated that this will require continuity of a comprehensive programme of systematic observations, process studies, emissions scenario development, and predictive modelling. Continuity in each of these activities, in particular, the ground-based and satellite observations, is essential.

12. The Ozone Research Managers also made several recommendations, including:

(a) Maintenance and further development of monitoring and archiving of measurements of stratospheric and tropospheric ozone, including vertical profiles and other trace species and aerosols are essential and the development and implementation of new observational capabilities such as aircraft and satellite-based measurements should be pursued;

(b) Increased investigation and quantification of stratospheric and tropospheric processes through routine monitoring and experimental campaigns are necessary to understand current changes and to further develop and implement predictions on stratospheric change both for the short and long term;

(c) The interactions between ozone and climate and the impact of aircraft emissions need to receive a high priority in research;

(d) It is essential that WMO continues to work towards coordinated and compatible UV-B measurements and their archiving;

(e) Research on the effects of UV-B, and efforts to monitor such effects, need to be enhanced substantially. It is necessary to establish baseline data on biological systems and international coordination and cooperation across all areas of impacts as well as to establish the interactions with other environmental factors such as climate change;

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1/ Report of the Third Meeting of the Ozone Research Managers of the Parties to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, Geneva, 19-21 March 1996 (WMO Global Ozone Research and Monitoring Project, Report No. 41).

2/ Ibid., para. 7.1.1.

(f) WMO and UNEP should pursue ways to enhance training and baseline monitoring of ozone, UV-B radiation and related research in developing countries. International funding mechanisms, such as the Global Environment Facility, and the Parties to the Convention should also directly support such programmes using appropriate mechanisms.

13. The full text of the recommendations is contained in the report of the meeting.

14. Proposal for action. The Conference of the Parties may wish to endorse the recommendations of the third meeting of the Ozone Research Managers.

F. Financial reports for the Secretariat for the years 1993, 1994 and 1995 and the approved 1996, revised 1997 and proposed 1998, 1999 and 2000 budgets for the Vienna Convention Trust Fund

15. The relevant financial reports have been communicated to all Parties. The approved 1996, the revised 1997 and the proposed 1998, 1999 and 2000 budgets are contained in document UNEP/OzL.Conv.4/4. They take account of the decision to hold meetings of the Conference of the Parties only once every three years. Approval of the budgets up to 2000 will allow timely contributions to the Trust Fund by the Parties under the Convention until the next meeting, in 1999. The amounts proposed for 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000 are explained in detail in the explanatory notes attached to the budgets. In accordance with the recommendations of the third meeting of the Ozone Research Managers, who emphasized the need for long-term observations of ozone and precursors and ultraviolet radiation (UV-B), and the recommendation of the Bureau of the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties,<sup>3/</sup> the budget for future years has been increased by \$200,000 in 1997, \$210,000 in 1998, \$220,000 in 1999 and \$230,000 in 2000 to assist the monitoring activities of developing countries.

16. Proposal for action. The Conference of the Parties may wish:

(a) To take note of the certified and audited accounts of the Trust Fund for expenditures under the Trust Fund for 1993, 1994 and 1995;

(b) To take note of the financial report on the Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention for the biennium 1994-1995 ended 31 December 1995;

(c) To approve the final budgets of \$587,090 for 1997, \$714,695 for 1998, \$1,656,861 for 1999, and \$786,930 for 2000.

(d) To urge all Parties to pay their outstanding contributions on time and in full, in accordance with the formula for contributions by Parties.

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<sup>3/</sup> See UNEP/OzL.Conv.3/Bur.1/3, paras. 11 and 12.

G. Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

17. It will be recalled that, by its decision II/8, the Conference of the Parties decided to meet once every three years.

18. Proposal for action. The Parties may wish to decide to convene the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention in 1999 in conjunction with the Eleventh Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol and at the same venue.

Annex

ACTION TAKEN ON THE DECISIONS OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE  
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE VIENNA CONVENTION

Decision III/1. Adjustments and Amendments to the Montreal Protocol

1. In 1994, 1995 and 1996, the Secretariat wrote a letter to all non-Parties requesting them to ratify the ozone treaties. The Secretariat has communicated to all non-Party Governments a paper entitled "The implications of becoming or not becoming a Party to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer" (UNEP/OzL.Pro/1994/Inf.1) and urged them to ratify the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol.

2. The Secretariat and the Inter-State Ecological Council of the Commonwealth of Independent States with financial support from the Global Environment Facility and in collaboration with UNEP, the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and the Industry Cooperation for Ozone Layer Protection held a meeting in Minsk, from 15 to 17 August 1994, where countries of former USSR, both Parties and non-Parties, participated. The non-Parties were invited to ratify the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol and its Amendments.

3. Since the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties, 27 States have become party to the Vienna Convention, 29 have become party to the Montreal Protocol, 37 to the London Amendment and 46 to the Copenhagen Amendment.

Decision III/2. Reports of the Assessments Panels

4. The Scientific, the Environmental Effects, and the Technology and Economic Assessment Panels and the latter's Technical Options Committees submitted the various reports requested of them in November 1994, March 1995, November 1995, March 1996 and June 1996.

5. These reports provided the necessary information for the Adjustments to the Montreal Protocol and decisions adopted by the Seventh Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, held in Vienna from 5 to 7 December 1995. They also provide input, for the decisions that will be adopted by the Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, to be held in San José from 25 to 27 November 1996.

Decision III/3. Amendment procedure under the  
Vienna Convention

6. No action was required of the Secretariat on decision III/3.

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Decision III/4. Reporting for the purposes of Annex I  
to the Vienna Convention

7. Reporting guidelines on hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are being developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The Panel is revising the IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories with the help provided by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the International Energy Agency (IEA). The HFCs fall under chapter 2 (Industrial Processes) of the Guidelines.

8. Some Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change are reporting data on HFCs to the Secretariat of that Convention.

Decision III/5. Recommendations of the second meeting  
of the Ozone Research Managers

9. In paragraph 2 of decision III/5, the Parties were requested to make voluntary contributions to the World Meteorological Organization's Special Fund for Environment Monitoring for the Global Ozone Observing System in order to expand the station network in developing countries.

10. From total funds of \$2,918,377 received up to November 1995, only \$90,277 were contributed for the calibration of existing ozone instruments (a very important part for quality control of ozone records), and another \$122,045 were contributed for the establishment of ozone-sounding operations at one WMO-Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) station in the tropics.

11. In paragraph 3 of the decision, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was requested to give the consideration to funding the installation of a limited number of additional stations in the tropical belt and in any other regions not adequately covered, in light of recommendations of the Ozone Research Managers, and where the requesting country deems such station a priority.

12. The World Meteorological Organization continues the implementation of six new GAW stations of global importance and 11 new stations in the Southern Cone of South America, both funded from GEF.

13. The Secretariat contacted the GEF Coordination Unit of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the issue was addressed in the draft GEF research strategy paper (UNEP/GEF/STAP/4/4), which had been prepared by UNEP for discussion at the fourth and fifth sessions of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP). In annex I of the draft strategy paper, the purchase and installation of equipment required for participation of developing countries in research activities supported by GEF is specifically mentioned as one of the potentially eligible activities which may be supported in the framework of the GEF strategy for targeted research. Likewise, annex 2 of the same document lists ozone monitoring at low latitudes as one of the potentially eligible research topics which may be considered for GEF support.

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14. The Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel reviewed the status of the papers submitted by the working groups on targeted research and decided that one consolidated document will be presented to the GEF Council at its meeting in October 1996.

15. The Parties may wish to request a close cooperation between the Scientific and Environmental Effects Assessment Panels and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility.

16. In paragraph 3 of decision III/5, the World Meteorological Organization was requested, in cooperation with United Nations Environment Programme, to investigate and evaluate available monitoring equipment so as to equip such stations as appropriate using best available technologies for measuring both ozone and UV-B.

17. With reference to this request, the information available from the International Ozone Commission of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) and the WMO Global Ozone Observing System (GO<sub>3</sub>OS) indicated the following:

(a) For total ozone measurements, the most robust instrument is the Dobson spectrophotometer used as the backbone of the Global Ozone Observing System (GO<sub>3</sub>OS) for more than 40 years. It also allows Umkehr measurements to be carried out for deducting the vertical ozone profile;

(b) There is also the more modern Brewer monochromator, which has nearly the same characteristics as the Dobson but can also measure UV-B radiation. In addition, there is now available an automated narrow-band filter instrument which provides total ozone and UV-B readings;

(c) With reference to the UV-B radiation, there exist a number of broad-band filter instruments which are not precise for specific spectral wavelengths;

(d) A spectral scanning radiometer (used, for example, at six funded National Science Foundation (NSF) stations and at two GAW stations) so far has proven to be the most stable for long-term operations, although there are other similar instruments that have not yet been field-tested.

Decision III/6. Budgets and financial matters

18. In paragraph 3 of decision III/6, the Parties were urged to pay their outstanding 1990-1993 contributions and also to pay their future contributions promptly.

19. The contributions to the Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention for the period 1993-1995 were as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Collections to the Trust Fund for previous</u>	<u>Collections to the Trust Fund for current and</u>	<u>Cumulative arrears</u>
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		<u>years</u>	<u>future years</u>	
1993	877,445	146,070	566,375	373,823
1994	297,246	169,180	306,103	238,031
1995	609,690	112,201	340,787	349,591

20. The status of the contributions to the Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention as on 31 October 1996 will be presented to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting.

21. In paragraph 6 of the decision, the Secretariat was urged to furnish the Parties with an estimation of the current three years needs and, in the same format, the actual expenditures of the previous three years so that the Parties would have a good understanding of the Secretariat's budgetary requirements. In response, the Secretariat has provided this information to all the Parties every year.

Decision III/7. Fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer

22. In paragraph 1 of decision III/7, the Secretariat was requested to convene the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention in 1996 in conjunction with the Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol and at the same venue.

23. In paragraph 2 of decision III/7, the Parties accepted with appreciation the offer of the Government of Austria to host a celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Convention in conjunction with the Seventh Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol in 1995 in Vienna. This celebration, which included an International Workshop on the Ozone Treaties and their influence on the Building of International Environmental Regimes, was held in Vienna on 4 December 1995. The proceedings of the Workshop, for which Professor Winfried Lang of Austria acted as Coordinator and General Rapporteur, have been circulated as document UNEP/OzL.Pro.7/INF.1. In addition, awards were presented to 17 individuals and 3 organizations for their contribution to the protection of the ozone layer. An exhibition on the protection of the ozone layer was also arranged, with the participation of the Implementing Agencies of the Multilateral Fund - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNEP, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Bank - other organizations and many industries.

24. The Parties may wish to thank the Government of the Republic of the Austria for hosting the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Convention and the Seventh Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol.

25. The fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and the Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol will be held in San José, Costa Rica, on 25 November 1996 in accordance with decision VII/38 of the Seventh Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol and at the invitation of the Government of Costa Rica.

26. The Parties may wish to express their gratitude to the Government of Costa Rica for hosting the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention.

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Decision III/8. Future meetings of the Ozone Research Managers

27. Pursuant to decision III/8, the Third Ozone Research managers meeting was held in Geneva from 19 to 21 March 1996. The report of the meeting was distributed to all Parties in July 1996.

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