



**United Nations  
Environment  
Programme**

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**Eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the  
Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer**

**Twentieth Meeting of the Parties to the  
Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete  
the Ozone Layer**

**Doha, Qatar 16-20 November 2008**

### **INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS**

#### **Venue**

The eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and the Twentieth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol will be held in Doha, Qatar, from 16-20 November 2008 at the following venue:

**Sheraton Doha Resort & Convention Hotel  
Al Corniche Street  
P.O. Box 6000  
Doha  
Qatar  
Tel: + 974 48 54444  
Fax: + 974 48 32323**

#### **Registration and identification name badges**

Registration of participants will be at the venue from 8 a.m., 14 through to 19 November 2008.

All participants are encouraged to pre-register online through the Secretariat's website (<http://ozone.unep.org>) from 1 September 2008. Based on the duly completed pre-registration forms received by the Secretariat, name badges will be issued on site upon the presentation of a valid passport or an identification card with a photograph.

For those participants who do not have access to the internet, please contact the Secretariat on telephone number +254 20 762 5129 or fax +254 20 7624691-3 to receive a registration form by mail or fax.

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

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For security reasons, name badges must be displayed at all times, both to gain admission to the venue of the meeting and when inside.

### **Financial assistance to developing countries**

Limited funds are available to assist the participation of representatives from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, Parties to the Montreal Protocol. Should your Government require such assistance, please submit the official government's written request to the Secretariat. In order to facilitate timely action on requests for funding, please make such requests well before 6 October 2008, and include in the request the details of the participant to be assisted. Please note that only one participant's travel using the most appropriate economical fares and United Nations daily subsistence allowance may be disbursed per country selected for assistance. For further enquiries regarding the financial assistance to be provided to one representative of your Government, please contact Ms. Ruth Batten (e-mail: [ruth.batten@unep.org](mailto:ruth.batten@unep.org) or fax +254 20 7624691-3).

### **Opening of the meeting**

The official opening of the preparatory segment of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and the Twentieth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol will take place at 10 a.m. on Sunday, 16 November 2008. The formal sessions of the meeting will be held daily from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The opening of the High-level segment of the meeting will take place at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 19 November 2008.

### **Pre-session meeting documents**

For those parties who have opted to receive documentation via post, all official pre-session documents will be sent to the Parties' contacts as these appear in the official address list of the Ozone Secretariat. For those who have elected for the use of internet for distribution of meeting documents, notifications will be sent by e-mail upon their availability.

All documents may be downloaded from the Ozone Secretariat website (<http://ozone.unep.org>) at anytime. In an additional effort to use less paper at the meetings, meeting documentation will be distributed in electronic format during the proceedings. Delegates who would like to use hard copies for reference are kindly reminded to bring their own copies of the pre-session documents for the meeting.

### **Hotel information**

Due to the meetings taking place during the peak tourist season in Qatar, hotels during the conference period are in great demand. Please make your bookings promptly and in any case before 15 September 2008, if possible.

For a list of recommended hotels, please visit the Government of Qatar information website <http://www.qatarozone.com/> or see the official list as of 23 October 2008 at the end of this document.

### **Health**

There are numerous hospitals in Qatar, the most recent and modern being the Hamad General Hospital. Charges are high and health insurance is necessary - participants must ensure they take out travel insurance (including health) from their home country for the duration of their stay in Qatar. As a precaution against the intense heat, visitors should sustain a high salt and fluid intake.

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Please note that water used for drinking, brushing teeth or making ice should first have been boiled or otherwise sterilised.

Both typhoid fever and hepatitis A exist, and precautions should be taken. Hepatitis B is widespread, and *cutaneous leishmaniasis* (a skin infection) occurs. For more information on prevention of these conditions, please visit <http://www.who.int>

Rabies is also present and some may consider vaccination before arrival. If you are bitten, please seek medical advice without delay.

### **Weather and local time information**

The country has a moderate desert climate with mild winters and hot summers. In winter time, from November to March, the temperatures are at their mildest. Rainfall is scarce (average 70 mm per year), falling on isolated days mainly between October and March. In Doha, the humidity can be quite high.

Lightweight cottons and linens are worn during summer months, with warm clothes for cooler evenings and during the winter. Rainwear is advisable during winter.

Qatar local time is three hours ahead of GMT, which is also known as Universal Coordinated Time. It is fixed across the country and there is no summer time savings.

### **Local Currency and Foreign Exchange Rates**

The official currency is the Qatari Riyal (QR), which is divided into 100 Dirhams. The current exchange parity has currently been set at the fixed rate of US\$1= QR3.65. For up-to-date exchange rates information, please visit the Government of Qatar information website <http://www.qatarozone.com>

### **Language and Religion**

The Official Language of the Country is Arabic, but English is widely spoken and understood. Islam is the official religion of the country.

### **Hours of Business**

The working week in Qatar runs from Sunday to Thursday, with Friday (the holy day for Muslims) and Saturday being the days off. Government ministries' working hours are from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Sunday to Thursday.

Some private businesses follow a one-shift workday, but many have two shifts: roughly 7.30 a.m. to noon and 3.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Shop times vary, but are generally 8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m., although shopping malls tend to be non-stop between the hours of 10.00 am to 10.00 pm. Some shops do not operate at all on Fridays, while others open for a couple of hours early in the morning and re-open in the late afternoon; most malls and shopping centres open only around 4.00 p.m. on this day.

### **Common Courtesies in Qatar**

Please dress modestly when out in public. Both men and women should wear clothing that covers the knees, and sleeveless tops that expose the shoulders or upper arms should be avoided. Tight or revealing clothing is unseemly for both men and women. Normal swimwear (including bikinis) is acceptable on the beach or by the pool, but cover up when you move away from these areas. Topless

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sunbathing is prohibited. Public displays of affection between men and women are discouraged and behaviour that is considered immoral could result in prosecution.

## **Transport**

The Country is served by Doha International Airport. Metered taxis and limousines are easy to find at the airport, and a new, comprehensive transport system, including a bus service, was recently introduced.

Taxis, known as “Karwa Taxis” in Qatar (bright turquoise in colour), are regulated by the Government. They are clean, safe and metered. Their local telephone contact is: 458 8888.

## **Accident, Medical & Emergencies**

The number for emergencies - fire, police or ambulance - is 999.

## **Worldwide Emergency Phone Number**

There is a worldwide emergency number for GSM users and this may be helpful if you move outside the normal network coverage area. Dial 112 and your mobile will search for any existing network to establish an emergency service for you.

## **Visa information, Airport and Arrivals**

### Visa information for Qatar

Please note that the following information has been sent by the Government of Qatar and can be found online at <http://www.qatarozone.com>.

Nationals of the following 33 countries can receive a visit-visa on arrival for a period of two weeks: the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the French Republic, the Republic of Italy, the Federal Republic of Germany, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Swiss Confederation, the Republic of Austria, the Kingdom of Sweden, the Kingdom of Norway, the Kingdom of Denmark, the Portuguese Republic, Ireland, the Hellenic Republic, the Republic of Finland, the Kingdom of Spain, the Principality of Monaco, the Holy See, the Republic of Iceland, the Principality of Andorra, the Republic of San Marino, the Principality of Liechtenstein, Brunei Darussalam, the Republic of Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China and the Republic of Korea.

Cost of the visa for single entry, for the above nationals, is USD 27/QR 100 per person per passport - visa cost is non-refundable. Payment can be made at any of the immigration desks with the following cards - Visa, Visa-Electron, MasterCard, Maestro & E-Cash (a pre-paid credit card that can be bought in the arrival lounge with cash). You may contact your local Qatar Airways office for further information. For longer period visas, an application should be made before flying to Qatar.

All other persons entering Qatar require a visa except for nationals of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the State of Kuwait, the Sultanate of Oman, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and transit passengers.

Official hotels (please see official list as of 23 October 2008 at the end of this document or online at <http://www.qatarozone.com>.) will provide a visa application service. The rates for visa application vary from QR200 to QR350 and may take up to 12 working days. Please apply in advance and preferably when reserving the hotel.

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## Doha International Airport

Some airport numbers that may be useful are:

General enquiries	465 6666
Flight enquires	465 6516
Information Desk	465 6391
Departures	465 6391
Customs	465 6408
Airport Security	465 6477

## Arrivals

Personal items are not usually subject to tax. The import of alcohol or pork in any form is strictly forbidden.

## **Electricity**

The electricity supply in Qatar is 220/240V AC. Sockets are three-pin (rectangular) but adaptors for two-pin plugs are available in the local shops.

## **Courier and Postal Services**

Some courier and postal service local numbers that may be useful are:

Aramex	450 6611
DHL	458 7888
Fedex	466 1722
TNT	462 2262
UPS	432 2444

## Hotel information provided by the Government of Qatar

The Government of Qatar has secured competitive hotel rates for the meetings' participants. Since these meetings are taking place during the peak tourist season in Qatar, hotels in this period are in great demand. Please reserve accommodation as soon as possible in order to secure a room.

Recommended Hotels in Doha	Single Room Rate (QR)	Double Room Rate (QR)
Moevenpick Tower & Suites	1200	1300
Ramada Plaza (West Wing)	935	1020
Retaj Al Rayyan Hotel	730	815
Mercure Grand Hotel Doha	650	700
Gloria Doha Hotel	600	700
Royal Qatar Hotel	585	635
Le Park Hotel	550	560
Al Bustan Hotel	499	599

The rates quoted are **inclusive of daily internet usage, airport transfer and breakfast**

- The rates quoted are inclusive of daily internet usage, airport transfer and breakfast.
- The rates quoted are for per room per night basis and not inclusive of 10% service charge and 7% tax
- The rates quoted are not inclusive of Visa application charges; your hotel will inform you directly on charges for Visa application together with an application form.**
- These rates and benefits are exclusive for UNEP delegates only.
- Please fax/email the hotel room reservation to the respective hotel directly for your room request.
- The hotel will contact you directly to confirm your request.
- Please quote UNEPQ for your reservation enquiry.

Shuttle bus service will be provided by organizers on a daily basis to conference venue and back to hotel.

*Note that this list is from <http://www.qatarozone.com/html/ParticipantInfo/Hotels.html> as of 23 October 2008. For an updated list, please visit this link.*