



United Nations Environment Programme Ozone Secretariat

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Treaties and Ratification

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The issue of ozone depletion was first discussed by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 1976. A meeting of experts on the subject was convened in 1977, after which UNEP and the World Meteorological Organization set up the Coordinating Committee of the Ozone Layer (CCOL) to periodically assess ozone depletion. Intergovernmental negotiations for an international agreement to phase out ozone-depleting substances started in 1981 and concluded with the adoption of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer in March 1985.

The Vienna Convention encourages intergovernmental cooperation on research, observation of the ozone layer, monitoring of CFC production, and the exchange of information.

The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was adopted on September 16, 1987. It was designed so that the phase out schedules could be revised on the basis of periodic scientific and technological assessments. The Protocol was amended to accelerate the phase out schedules. It has also been amended to introduce additional control measures and to add new controlled substances to the list.

Governments are not legally bound until they ratify the Protocol as well as the Montreal Protocol. Unfortunately, while most governments have ratified the Protocol, ratification of the Montreal Protocol and their stronger control measures lag behind.

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