



United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة • 联合国环境规划署
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

PRESS RELEASE

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Approval of Regulations Protecting the Ozone Layer

Kabul, Afghanistan – In 2004, UNEP supported the Government of Afghanistan's accession to the Ozone Treaties, namely the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol.

The treaties, which most countries ratified a decade ago, are the global response to the discovery in the mid-1970s that some human-produced chemicals destroy ozone and deplete the ozone layer, resulting in an increase in ultraviolet radiation at the Earth's surface and increased incidences of skin cancer and eye cataracts.

On 17 July 2006, with the approval of the Council of Ministers, the President signed Afghanistan's Regulations Protecting the Ozone Layer, which will be issued under the Environment Law (the framework legislation developed with the technical support of UNEP and promulgated in December 2005).

The regulations provide the regulatory vehicle that allows the Government of Afghanistan, working closely with its neighbours Iran, Pakistan and Tajikistan, to control the transboundary trade in ozone depleting substances (ODS), and facilitate achievement of the global 2010 ODS phase-out target.

The regulations will be enforced by the National Environmental Protection Agency's National Ozone Unit, in close cooperation with the Customs Directorate and the Ministry of Commerce.

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