

TREATIES, CONVENTIONS AND PROTOCOLS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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ABSTRACT

The state of environment at the outset of twenty-first century is no more promising now than it was decades ago. Today the goals commonly expressed by environmentalists include reduction and clean up of man-made pollution, with future goals of zero pollution; reducing societal consumption of non-renewable fuels; development of alternative, green, low-carbon or renewable energy sources; conservation and sustainable use of scarce resources such as water, land and air; protection of representative or unique ecosystem; preservation and expansion of threatened or endangered species or ecosystem from extinction; the establishment of nature and biosphere reserves under various types of protection. Now it's time to make global effort not only with strong determination but also with governmental support to make the blue planet habitable. We must follow the obligations of international treaties of the past and pursue the new global order to save the earth. There are numerous international environmental agreements made to protect the environment in different ways. These are: ENMOD Convention, ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, Antarctic Treaty, Basel Convention, Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on Fishing and Conservation of Living Resources of High Seas, Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, Bonn Convention, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Convention on Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes, Ramsar Convention, International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Kyoto Protocol, Montreal Protocol, Stockholm Convention, Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty, United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, U N Framework Convention on Climate Change, Geneva Protocol-1925, Biological Weapons Convention-1972, Chemical Weapons Convention-1993, Outer Space Treaty- 1967, Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty-1968, Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty-1972.

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The state of environment at the outset of twenty-first century is no more promising now than it was decades ago. Today the goals commonly expressed by environmentalists include reduction and clean up of man-made pollution, with future goals of zero pollution; reducing societal consumption of non-renewable fuels; development of alternative, green, low-carbon or renewable energy sources; conservation and sustainable use of scarce resources such as water, land and air; protection of representative or unique ecosystem; preservation and expansion of threatened or endangered species or ecosystem from extinction; the establishment of nature and biosphere reserves under various types of protection. There are numerous international environmental agreements made to protect the environment in different ways. These are:

1. **Antarctic Treaty-** it regulates international relation with respect to Antarctic, Earth's only continent without a native population. The treaty was opened for signature on December 1, 1959 and officially entered into force on June 23, 1961.
2. **Anti-Ballistics Missile Treaty-1972-** was a treaty between USA and USSR on the limitation of the anti ballistics missile system used in fending area against missile-delivered nuclear weapon. On May 26,1972, the US President and General Secretary of communist Party of Soviet Union signed the anti ballistics treaty. The treaty was in force for thirty years from 1972 until 2002.
3. **ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution-** is an environment agreement signed in 2002 between all ASEAN nations to bring haze pollution under control in Southeast Asia.
4. **Basel Convention-** is an international treaty that was designed to reduce the movements of hazardous waste between nations and specifically to prevent transfer of hazardous waste from developed to less developed countries. It was opened for signature on March 22, 1989 and entered into force on May 5, 1992.
5. **Biological Weapons Convention-1972-** is on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of bacteriological and toxin weapons and on their destruction, usually referred to as the Biological weapons Convention (BWC). It was opened for signature on April10, 1972 and entered into force on March 26, 1975.
6. **Bonn Convention-** it is on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals, also known as Bonn Convention, aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species through their range. This was signed in 1979 in Bonn and entered into force in 1983.

7. **Chemical Weapons Convention-1993-** is an arms control agreement which outlaws the production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons. It prohibits the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction. Signed in 1993 and entered into force on April 29, 1997.
8. **Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty-** Arms control advocates had campaigned for the adoption of treaty banning all nuclear explosions since the early 1950s. The Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) bans all nuclear explosion in all environments, for military or civilian purposes. The treaty was opened for signature in New York on 24 September, 1996.
9. **Convention on Biological Diversity-** was adopted at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The convention has three main goals: Conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and adequate sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources. It was opened for signature on 5 June 1992 and entered into force on 29 December 1993.
10. **Convention on Fishing and convention of Living Resources of High Seas-** is an agreement that was designed to solve through international cooperation the problems involved in the conservation of living resources of the high seas, considering that because of the development of modern technology some of these resources are in danger of being overexploited. It was opened for signature on 29 April 1958 and entered into force on 20 March 1966.
11. **Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution-** is intended to protect the human environment against air pollution and to gradually reduce and prevent air pollution, including long range transboundary air pollution. The convention opened for signature on 13 November 1979 and entered into force on 16 March 1983.
12. **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species-** is an international agreement between governments, which was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of IUCN. It was opened for signature on 31 December 1973 and entered into force on 1 July 1975.
13. **Convention on Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes-** is commonly called 'London Convention', "LD 72" is an agreement to control pollution of the sea by dumping and encourage regional agreements supplementary to the convention. It was opened for signature on December 29, 1972 and entered into force on August 30, 1975.

- 14. ENMOD Convention-** The convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any other Hostile Use Environmental Modification Techniques is a 1976 International Treaty prohibiting the military or other hostile use of environmental modification techniques. It was opened for signature at Geneva on 18 May 1977 and entered into force on 5 October 1978.
- 15. Geneva Protocol-1925-** The protocol for the prohibition of the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases, and of bacteriological methods of warfare, usually called the Geneva Protocol. It is a treaty prohibiting the use of chemical and biological weapons. It was signed at Geneva on June 17, 1925 and was entered into force on February 8, 1928.
- 16. International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling-** is an international agreement signed in 1946 designed to make whaling sustainable.
- 17. International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture-** is also popular as International seed treaty, is a convention on Biological Diversity. It also recognizes farmers rights: to freely access genetic resources, unrestricted by intellectual property rights. The Treaty came into force on 29 June, 2004.
- 18. Kyoto Protocol-** is an amendment to the international treaty to the climate change, assigning mandatory emission limitation for the reduction of their emission of carbon dioxide and five other greenhouse gases to the signatory. It is opened for signature on March 16, 1998 and comes into force on February 16, 2005.
- 19. Montreal Protocol-** on substances that deplete the ozone layer is an international treaty designed to protect the ozone layer. It was opened for signature on September 16, 1987 and entered into force on January 1, 1989.
- 20. Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty-1968-** on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, also called Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is an international Treaty, opened for signature on July 1, 1968.
- 21. Outer Space Treaty- 1967-** on principles governing the activities of the states in the exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and the other celestial bodies, from the basis of international space law. This was opened for signature on January 27, 1967 and entered into force on October 10, 1967.
- 22. Ramsar convention-** is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable utilization of wetlands i.e. to stem the progressive encroachment on the loss of wetland now and in the future, recognizing the fundamental ecological functions of

wetland and their economic, and culture, scientific and recreational value. The convention was opened for signature on February 2, 1971 and came into force on December 21, 1975.

23. Stockholm Convention- is an international legally binding agreement on persistent organic pollutants. The negotiations for the Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutant were completed on May 23, 2001. It was entered into force on May 17, 2004.

24. United Nations Convention on the Laws of the Sea- also called the law of sea convention is an international agreement that sets rules for the use of the world's ocean. It came into force on 1994.

25. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification- is an agreement to combat desertification and mitigation the effect of drought through national action programs. To help publicate the convention, 2006 was declared "International Year of Desert and Desertification". It was opened for signature on October 14, 1994 and came into force on December 26, 1996.

26. U N Framework Convention on Climate Change- is international environmental treaty produced at the United Nations Conference on Environment and development informally known as the Earth Summit, held on Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

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