



2013 Theme: A healthy atmosphere, the future we want

States are invited to devote the Day to promote activities in accordance with the objectives of the Protocol and its amendments. The ozone layer, a fragile shield of gas, protects the Earth from the harmful portion of the rays of the sun, thus helping preserve life on the planet.

In 1994, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 16 September the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, commemorating the date of the signing, in 1987, of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (

[resolution 49/114](#)

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Secretary-General's Message:

Extraordinary challenges require extraordinary responses. A generation ago, the world's nations agreed to act definitively to protect the ozone layer, initiating an inter-governmental process that blazed new trails.

As we implement the outcomes of the 2012 Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development, the remarkable success story of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer provides a beacon of hope. It provides protection for the ozone layer, significantly contributes to climate mitigation and reminds us that, faced with existential threats, the nations of the world are capable of cooperation for the common good.

My hope is that this success will inform and inspire the international community in charting a new vision and responsive framework for the period beyond 2015, the deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Sustainable development -- enabled by the integration of economic growth, social justice and environmental stewardship -- must become our global guiding principle and operational standard.

On this International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, I commend all who have made the Montreal Protocol such an outstanding example of international cooperation. I urge Governments, industry, civil society and all other partners to apply the same spirit to the other great environment and development challenges of our times.

Additional links:

- [UN Observance Website](#)
- [UN Division for Sustainable Development: Atmosphere](#)
- [UNEP DTIE OzonAction Branch](#)
- [The Ozone Secretariat](#)
- [UNEP: How Montreal Protocol implementation contributes to the Millennium](#)

Development Goals

- [UNDP Ozone Layer Protection and Chemicals Management](#)
- [UNIDO Montreal Protocol: National Ozone Units](#)
- [UNIDO: Greening of Industry under the Montreal Protocol](#)
- [The World Bank and the Montreal Protocol](#)
- [WMO Global Atmosphere Watch \(GAW\): monitoring of the ozone layer](#)
- [WMO Global Ozone Research and Monitoring Project Reports](#)
- [WMO brochure on the protection of the ozone layer](#)

