



## RESEARCH ARTICLE

## Iraqi Diplomacy and Environmental Challenges after 2003

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Received: May 27, 2024 Accepted: Jul 1, 2024	The issue of environmental protection has emerged as a prominent topic in local, regional, and international discourse during the latter part of the twentieth century. Environmental challenges pose threats to global ecosystems and living organisms, necessitating attention from both domestic and international legal frameworks. Consequently, legal dilemmas have arisen, prompting the development of theories and strategies to address the root causes of environmental degradation. International law plays a pivotal role in regulating and safeguarding the environment across various domains, encompassing natural elements like water and air, as well as human-made entities such as urban areas and industrial facilities. Thus, the concept of the environment extends beyond terrestrial landscapes to include atmospheric and marine environments, each interconnected and mutually influential. Legislation aimed at environmental protection has evolved over time, with significant milestones such as the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, which underscored the fundamental principle of every individual's right to a clean and sustainable environment. Subsequent international conferences, such as the 1982 United Nations Conference on the Protection of the Oceans from Pollution, have further contributed to shaping environmental governance on a global scale. The establishment of the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1983 marked a pivotal moment in environmental diplomacy, introducing new paradigms such as "Green Parallelism" as a framework for diplomatic engagement at both regional and international levels. This approach encompasses various forms of parallel diplomacy, including economic and cultural dimensions, reflecting the interconnectedness of environmental issues with broader socio-economic and cultural considerations.
<b>Keywords</b>	
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## INTRODUCTION

The environment stands as a paramount and indispensable subject that has captured the interest of numerous individuals across diverse realms of knowledge. This heightened interest is primarily attributable to the multifaceted challenges it poses, which significantly impinge upon developmental trajectories and are reciprocally influenced by them. Furthermore, the environment exerts a profound influence on human existence, profoundly shaping fundamental facets of life and addressing basic necessities <sup>(1)</sup>. In this regard, the Iraqi Law for the Protection and Improvement of the Environment, delineated under No. (27) of 2009, delineates the environment as: "The

<sup>10</sup> Ali, M. W. (2016). International Protection of the Environment, 1st Edition, Zain Legal Publications, Beirut, p. 27.

surroundings with all its elements, in which living organisms exist, and the impacts resulting from human economic, social, and cultural activities."

The humanitarian aspect of the environment has garnered considerable attention from the international community across diverse sectors. This burgeoning focus has been evidenced by the convening of international conferences dedicated to environmental preservation and the establishment of frameworks for international cooperation aimed at mitigating the perils it faces. Notably, the Stockholm Conference serves as a pivotal juncture in the international landscape of environmental protection, delineating seminal recommendations and principles <sup>(2)</sup>. The safeguarding of the environment against pollution has emerged as a foundational and imperative concern within the purview of the international community. Consequently, international accords have been forged, international symposiums convened, and legislative enactments promulgated worldwide, all aimed at shielding the environment from pollution. This concerted effort seeks to ensure the sustenance of a secure and stable existence, emancipated from the specters of risks, maladies, and epidemics. Green-parallel diplomacy began to take shape in the form of cross-border cooperation between the regions of the approaching countries. However, it has evolved in practical application to include transboundary cooperation between geographically dispersed regions, the establishment of global environmental networks between regions, and regional involvement in global environmental regulations and conferences <sup>(3)</sup>.

Parallel diplomacy refers to the involvement of sub-national regions or units in international interactions, by establishing permanent or temporary contacts with external public or private entities or with international actors, whether governmental or non-governmental, state or non-state; to achieve economic, cultural, political, normative, and other interests. It is important to present the most important efforts that have been made in international forums and culminated in agreements or treaties as the applied dimension of green and specific diplomacy. Since international efforts regarding green diplomacy are difficult to encompass separately, the focus will be limited to the most important of these efforts, represented by the most important conferences dedicated to climate change. These efforts have varied and diversified, including issues related to the trade of materials and hazardous waste, protection of the ozone layer, climate change, biodiversity, and biological safety.

The issue of environmental protection has become one of the most important topics that have imposed themselves in local, regional, and international discussions in the last quarter of the twentieth century. Environmental problems have become a threat to the world as a whole, including all living organisms. The issue of environmental protection has become a challenge for domestic and international law, as the dilemmas have arisen and must be resolved through legal means. This has led to the development of theories and methods to address the challenges caused by environmental pollution. In light of the evident climate changes occurring in the world and the worsening environmental pollution leading to the emergence of multiple diseases, all of this is attributed to the technological advancements that have resulted in the emission of greenhouse gases from the use of fossil fuels, which are closely related to these severe environmental changes.

The research aims to understand the role of international bodies and organizations in the field of environmental conservation from pollution hazards. It also aims to present the most important agreements and conferences held at the international level in terms of establishing legal rules and standards to protect the environment from pollution, while mentioning the main reasons for the ineffectiveness of these conferences and international treaties in achieving their goals. Additionally, the research aims to raise awareness and environmental consciousness among individuals in the

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<sup>20</sup> Ali, M. W. (2016). *International Protection of the Environment*, 1st Edition, Zain Legal Publications, Beirut, p. 27.

<sup>30</sup> Ali, M. W. (2016). *International Protection of the Environment*, 1st Edition, Zain Legal Publications, Beirut, p. 27.

community, both domestically and internationally. It also aims to explore the role of green diplomacy in dealing with environmental problems, whether they are transboundary or global, and in developing global climate management.

The study relied on two approaches. Which is descriptive analytical approach which means the systematic method of studying current facts related to a particular phenomenon, situation, individuals, events or situations with the aim of discovering a new truth or verifying the validity of old facts and their effects and the relationships emanating from them and interpreting them and revealing the aspects that govern them. By analyzing the role of international law in international conventions on environmental protection, and analyzing the opinions of jurists in this regard, leading to a formulation that limits this problem. And comparative approach by comparing the role of the environment at the national and international level. The inductive approach, by collecting all the vocabulary of the subject, and starting from the molecules to the conclusion stage.

## **1. International Conferences On Environmental Protection**

Addressing and tackling environmental problems necessitates collective action by the community of nations, rather than the efforts of individual states or specific groups of nations alone. For instance, addressing global phenomena such as ozone depletion and transboundary pollution requires a framework for cooperation, joint decisions, and establishment of rules and procedures for the implementation of effective penalties <sup>(4)</sup>. Organizations can confront environmental problems at the global level by developing effective concepts and mechanisms to control these problems. Addressing environmental problems requires wide cooperation between countries, and international organizations take measures to achieve the public interest, as confirmed by the preamble of the Stockholm Declaration on the Human Environment (1972).

### **1.1: Stockholm Conference (1972):**

The international community has recorded a notable presence since its inception in the realm of environmental protection. The actual commencement of global environmental consciousness was observed during the Stockholm Conference on Human Development, signifying the initiation of environmental awareness on a global scale <sup>(5)</sup>. The participants adopted a series of principles for sound environmental management, including the Stockholm Declaration and Plan of Action for the Human Environment, along with numerous resolutions. The Stockholm Conference positioned environmental issues at the forefront of international concerns and marked the beginning of dialogue between industrialized and developing nations regarding the relationship between economic growth, air and water pollution, oceans and wells, and the well-being of people worldwide. The first World Environmental Conference was held in Stockholm, Sweden, on June 5-16, 1972. Delegates from 114 countries and representatives from about 500 non-governmental organizations attended <sup>(6)</sup>. The Stockholm Declaration consists of seven introductory declarations and 26 principles <sup>(7)</sup>.

The aim of the conference was to achieve a shared vision and principles to encourage governments and international organizations to protect and improve the environment. The conference highlighted several important points, including that humans are predatory creatures of their environment and that the acceleration and technological advancement have endowed them with the ability to change

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<sup>40</sup> Hitti, S. (2009). *International Liability for Environmental Damage*, 1st Edition, Raslan Printing, Publishing and Distribution House, Syria, p.106.

<sup>50</sup> Personal interview with the engineer Suzanne Sami Al-Binaa. Director of the Climate Change Center at the Ministry of Environment. Conducted by the researcher on 23/7/2023, at 11am.

<sup>60</sup> Ieguey-feilleux, J. (2017). *Global governance diplomacy*, library of Congress cataloging and publishing data, p.218.

<sup>70</sup> Handel, G. (1992). *Declaration of the United Nations conference on the human environment (Stockholm declaration 1972) and the Rio declaration on environment and development*, Tulane University USA, 1992 p.41.

their environment in countless ways. The text of Principle (21) of the Stockholm Declaration (in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law) also affirmed that the protection and improvement of the human environment is one of the main issues affecting the well-being of peoples and economic development, and this is the duty of all governments. The conference pointed out that it is necessary to address the natural population growth as it creates problems related to environmental preservation. It also emphasized that environmental goals are achieved through the demonstration of responsibilities and efforts between citizens, the environment, and local governments, with the greatest burden falling on the governments of developing countries <sup>(8)</sup>.

The most important feature of the Stockholm Conference is the announcement of comprehensive environmental governance. Which is a concept created by the World Bank and defined by the United Nations Development Program as a new system of relations that equates groups and individuals with rights and duties, dissolves the hierarchy, encourages partnership and raises the level of relations internally and externally. Additionally, it devised an action plan that includes a program for global environmental assessment and the adoption of international measures to support activities in local and international management and governance <sup>(9)</sup>. One of the most significant recommendations made by the Stockholm Conference was the establishment of a new United Nations agency for the environment (UNEP), which maintains six regional offices worldwide to focus on environmental issues <sup>(10)</sup>.

This conference is the first in the international effort for the environment, as it increased global awareness of environmental issues and increased the focus of international environmental mobility to go beyond cross-border issues. Therefore, it was known as the Conference on Human Development, as well as the adoption of (94) regional and global agreements between 1972 and 1991.

## **1.2: Rio de Janeiro Conference (1992):**

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, also known as the "Earth Summit", was held in Brazil specifically in Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992, which rejected efforts to increase adherence to the field of development at the expense of the environment. The Rio Declaration comprises 27 principles, with the participation of 185 nations under the auspices of the United Nations. Additionally, it involved various international, regional, and local environmental organizations, as well as parliamentarians and leaders from emerging European parties, alongside numerous experts and environmentalists. The conference spanned from June 3rd to June 14<sup>th</sup> <sup>(11)</sup>.

Emphasizing the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on Human Development, the Rio Declaration put forward the concept of sustainable development, affirming this in Principle 4 in order to reach sustainable development, and that environmental protection is an inseparable part of the development process <sup>(12)</sup>. One of the primary motivations behind convening this conference was the protection of the atmosphere, including the ozone layer, as well as the cessation of pollution stemming from gases. Furthermore, the conference sought to address issues such as deforestation, ensuring its preservation, combating desertification and drought, devising solutions, implementing

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<sup>80</sup> United Nations Publications. (1972). Report of United Nations Conference Human Environment Stockholm, Switzerland Geneva, p. 5, 14.15.

<sup>90</sup> Mynoz, M. and Najam, A. (2009). Rio +20: another world Summit, Boston university, United States of America, p.2.

<sup>100</sup> leguey-feilleux, J. (2017), op. cit, p. 219.

<sup>110</sup> Tarraf, A. (2008). Environmental Pollution and International Relations, 1st Edition, Majd University Foundation for Studies, Publishing and Distribution, Beirut, p. 156.

<sup>120</sup> United Nations Environment and Development Report. (1992). Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, p.2.

effective solid waste management practices, ensuring the secure management of hazardous materials, safeguarding freshwater reservoirs and their origins, adopting strategies for land resource management, and addressing the alarming population growth in the Third World <sup>(13)</sup>.

Among the results of the Rio Conference is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFccc) <sup>(14)</sup> that concluded in 1992 and ratified by 191 countries <sup>(15)</sup>. The Convention consists of (26) articles and this agreement has annexes. The first consists of (36) countries and the second consists of (25) countries <sup>(16)</sup>, and those countries are committed to developing national strategies to address warming <sup>(17)</sup>.

The primary objective of the United Nations Framework Convention was to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that allows ecosystems to naturally adapt to climate change, ensuring food production is not threatened, and enabling sustainable economic development. However, the convention has been criticized for neglecting to specify a level considered hazardous <sup>(18)</sup>. One of the principles enshrined in the principle of sustainable development affirmed in article (a) was that the parties committed themselves to protecting the global climate for present and future generations on the basis of justice and called on developed countries to take the lead role in combating climate change. The precautionary principle was confirmed in article 3, paragraph 3, where it called for precautionary measures to counter or prevent the causes of climate change and mitigation of its adverse effects.

As for the responsibilities of the parties, Article (4) defines them as commitments instead of obligations and these are the nature of the framework agreement, which are joint undertakings or responsibilities that the agreement seeks to achieve <sup>(19)</sup>. The Convention has divided States Parties into three types. The first type includes all parties from developed and developing countries, whose responsibilities include carrying out preventive measures to prevent and reduce the causes of climate change, preparing national development programs and policies for climate protection, and emphasizing cooperation to protect the freedom of the international economic system <sup>(20)</sup>.

The second category comprises the countries included in Annex I, which encompass all industrialized countries, former socialist states, and economies in transition. These countries have played a leading and pioneering role in addressing the issue, as paragraph (2) affirmed their role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2000 <sup>(21)</sup>. As for the third category, it includes the

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<sup>130</sup> Tarraf, A. (2008). op. cit, pp. 156-157.

<sup>140</sup> Al-Shaalan, S. (2010). International Protection of the Environment from Global Warming ,1st Edition, Al-Halabi Human Rights Publications, Beirut, p. 16.

<sup>150</sup> Al-Najjar, S. (2018). International Cooperation to Combat Global Warming, Fifth Scientific Conference at the Cairo Session, Tanta University, Faculty of Law, Cairo, p. 29.

<sup>160</sup> United Nations Environment Program. (2009). Studying environmental legislation in the Arab countries and the extent of their compliance with the requirements of international environmental agreements and modern concepts, Arab League Press, Cairo, p. 25.

<sup>170</sup> Al-Najjar, S. (2018). Op. cit, p. 29.

<sup>180</sup> Aleggett, J. (2020). The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto protocol, and the Paris agreement: a summary, CRS report, congressional research Service, USA, p.1.

<sup>190</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, (1992). New York.

<sup>200</sup> Al-Naqeeb, A. (2013). International Protection from Global Warming, Journal of the Faculty of Law, University of Baghdad, 5(10), pp. 65-82.

<sup>210</sup> Transformed Economy Countries: Russian Federation - Estonia - Ukraine - Bulgaria - Belarus - Czech Republic - Romania - Slovenia - Slovakia. Croatia - Latvia - Lithuania - Hungary. Economic conglomerates, <http://www.moqatel.com/openshare/Behoth/Siasia21/TawazonKiw/sec08.doc.cvt.ht>.

countries listed in Annex II, consisting solely of industrialized nations. Their responsibilities are outlined in paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) of Article 4, which entail providing assistance to developing countries to enable them to meet their obligations under the convention <sup>(22)</sup>, as well as transferring environmentally friendly technology to economies in transition and developing nations <sup>(23)</sup>. A significant outcome of this convention is the international acknowledgment of a global environmental problem threatening potable life, recognizing that emissions are not limited to industrialized countries but also affect developing nations due to their economic growth trajectory <sup>(24)</sup>.

In this regard, it is important to note that the Conference of the Parties (COP) commenced its proceedings subsequent to the Framework Convention. The objective of this conference is to organize, establish rules, and solidify commitments, as the Framework Convention is a legal document with objectives but lacks specific regulations. Therefore, the subsequent COP meetings play a crucial role in setting fundamental rules. From 1995 to 2000, a total of 18 conferences were convened, six of which were COP meetings. The most important of which are shown in Table <sup>(25)</sup>:

**Table 1: Conference of the Parties**

Conference	Site	Duration	What is included?
COP1	Berlin – Germany	7-28 April 1995	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Article (4) Paragraph (2) The international community has an obligation to preserve the climate</li> <li>- Discuss the draft protocol to the UNFCCC</li> </ul>
COP2	Geneva, Switzerland	July 1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ministerial Declaration of Member States</li> <li>- Called for links between the Conference of the Parties and the operating entities of the financial mechanism</li> </ul>
Cop3	Kyoto – Japan	1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is considered the most important conference because it paved the way for work</li> </ul>
Cop4	Buenos Aires – Argentina	1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adopt what was stated in Kyoto</li> <li>- Rejected by the United States in 2001</li> <li>- Called for the adoption of a financial mechanism to implement his decisions</li> <li>- Called for the development and transfer of technology</li> <li>- Called for the implementation of paragraphs (8-9) of Article (4)</li> </ul>

<sup>220</sup> Al-Naqeeb, A. (2013). Op. cit, p. 83.

<sup>230</sup> Ali, A. (2017). Rules of International Law for the Protection of the Environment in the Light of the Paris Climate Agreement - Analytical Study, Master Thesis, Middle East University, Faculty of Law, Amman, pp. 44-45.

<sup>240</sup> A guide to Climate Change Convention. Beginner guide to the convent understanding climate change. (1994). UNEP IMO, 1994, p.6.

<sup>250</sup> Al-Hadithi, A. (2016). International Commitment to Climate Protection, Halabi Human Rights Publications, Beirut, p. 18.

Conference	Site	Duration	What is included?
			- Faced difficulties in reaching the climate change agreement
Cop5	Bonn – Germany	October 25 – November 5, 1999	No agreement was reached.
Cop6	The Hague – Netherlands	13 – 25 November 2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The emergence of disagreements between the European Union and the United States on the dependence of damage to developing countries</li> <li>- The reintroduction of the agreements in 2001, which resulted in an agreement that industrialized countries would finance activities aimed at reducing emissions in developing countries</li> <li>- Establishment of three funds to provide assistance to meet the needs associated with climate change</li> </ul>

### 1.3: Kyoto Protocol (1997)

The Kyoto Protocol was held in Kyoto, Japan, in December 1997 and was ratified by 195 heads of state. Kyoto represents the first executive step of the United Nations Framework Convention, aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and limit them by restricting the rise in Earth's temperature to just 3 degrees Celsius by 2050 <sup>(26)</sup>. The Protocol was opened for signature and accession by States and regional economic organizations that are Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 18 March 1998 to 15 March 1999<sup>(27)</sup>. The Kyoto Protocol was adopted at the Third Conference of the Parties (3 Cop), which imposed a general obligation on developed countries to reduce their share of emissions by 5% below their level in 1990 <sup>(28)</sup>.

The Kyoto Protocol approved flexible economic mechanisms, namely the Clean Development Mechanism/ Article (12), Emissions Trading/Article (17), and the Joint Monetary Mechanism/Article (6). As well, the development of mechanisms to build technological capabilities in developing countries, and agreement on the need to preserve and protect forests as reservoirs of greenhouse gases. The global trend of dependence on oil as a major source of energy has kept this protocol on paper, and it has not been ratified by either the United States of America <sup>(29)</sup> or China, despite their emissions of (47%) of the total global emissions for the year 2005 <sup>(30)</sup>.

<sup>260</sup> Sebastian, S. and Hermann E. (1999). The Kyoto Protocol. International Climate Policy for the 21st century. Springer: Berlin, p.273.

<sup>270</sup> Tarraf, A. (2008). op. cit, p. 164.

<sup>280</sup> Dupuy, P. and Georges E. (2017). Vioelles, International Environmental, Second Edition, Cambridge University Press, England, p. 75.

<sup>290</sup> Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (1997), United Nations, 2005

<sup>300</sup> Kooten, C. (2012). Climate change, climate science and Economics, Springe Science and business media, New York, p. 387.

The industrialized countries agreed to reduce their emissions by a maximum of 5.2% by 2012. However, the commitments were not uniform but varied from one country to another. The United States, for instance, was required to reduce emissions by 7%, while the European Union by 8%, and Japan and Canada by 6%. Some countries were allowed to increase their emissions above 1990 levels, such as Iceland by 10%, Australia by 8%, and Norway by 1%, due to their economic conditions. Developing countries were not assigned obligations, which concerned the United States as it saw it as hindering its economic growth <sup>(31)</sup>.

According to the report submitted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), it suffered losses in the US economy and most developed countries, as nine previous studies showed that the GDP of developed countries decreased by (2.0%) in 2010 <sup>(32)</sup>. The Protocol requires States Parties, in its twenty-eight articles, to reduce emissions harmful to the environment, promote sustainable development and take the necessary policies and measures in accordance with the national vision <sup>(33)</sup>.

Despite the support Kyoto Protocol received, it is criticized for not being adhered to by all participating countries. Only 33 out of 195 countries committed to it for the period from 2005 to 2012 <sup>(34)</sup>. Consequently, Kyoto is considered a short-term approach to a long-term problem.

#### **1.4: Copenhagen Summit (2009):**

The 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP15) was held at the Bella Convention Center in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 7 to 18 December. The conference was held with only five parties (Basic) <sup>(35)</sup>. The summit succeeded in concluding an international treaty on climate change, replacing the Kyoto Protocol established in 1992, known as the Copenhagen Agreement. It calls for reducing emissions and limiting the rise in Earth's temperature to two degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels.

The Copenhagen summit came in accordance with the road map drawn up at the Bali Conference <sup>(36)</sup>, and the meeting was attended by more than a hundred heads of state, led by US President Barack Obama, which increased the ambitions about the possibility of reaching agreements, but the negotiations failed <sup>(37)</sup>. The ultimate objectives of the agreement, as outlined in Article 2, are to combat climate change in a manner that ensures and fulfills shared responsibilities, taking into account the capabilities of all parties, establishing a comprehensive adaptation program with international support, significantly reducing global emissions, reaffirming the achievement of sustainable development, establishing a technological mechanism to support mitigation and adaptation, and creating the Copenhagen Green Climate Fund. Additionally, the agreement aims to enhance international cooperation on adaptation to ensure its implementation by facilitating and

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<sup>310</sup> Al-Mousawi, A. and Zankana, M. (2015). Global warming its indicators its repercussions in light of climate change, Al-Mezan Press, Najaf Al-Ashraf, p. 225.

<sup>320</sup> Shelly, T. (2005). Oil politics, Poverty and planet, zed books, London, p. 162.

<sup>330</sup> Kyoto Protocol, Article (2) Paragraph (1).

<sup>340</sup> Al-Shaalan, S. (2010). op. cit, p. 20.

<sup>350</sup> Bamfil, CH. (2012). Public domains of climate change. A doctoral dissertation, University of Glasgow, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, United Kingdom, p. 241.

<sup>360</sup> The Bali Action Plan: It is a two-year roadmap to be a negotiating guide aimed at developing an international framework for talks on international climate policy. The Bali Map was presented at the Bali Conference in Indonesia in 2007 in order to prepare for a binding agreement at the Copenhagen Summit. Bali Conference decision 1/CP.13, FCCC/CP/2007/6/Add.1, p. 3.

<sup>370</sup> Koch, J. (2013). Climate change and environmental hazards related to shipping, Martinus Nijhoff publishers, Boston, p. 43.

supporting adaptation measures aimed at reducing vulnerability and building resilience in developing countries. Furthermore, the parties listed in Annex I, which are parties to the Kyoto Protocol, are committed to individually or collectively implementing the specified quantitative emissions targets for the year 2020 at the economy-wide level and submitting them to the Secretariat by January 31, 2010. Consequently, the Annex I parties, which are parties to the Kyoto Protocol, will continue to enhance emission reductions initiated under the Kyoto Protocol <sup>(38)</sup> .

For non-compliance with the above, major countries reached international public opinion that they disavow the obligations to protect the environment, so the conferences that seek to address greenhouse gas emissions continued, starting with the Mexican Cancun Conference (2010), the South African Durban Summit (2011), the Doha Summit (2012), and the Paris Summit (COP12), which culminated in unprecedented success <sup>(39)</sup>.

### **1.5: Paris Agreement (2015):**

To address climate change and its negative impacts, 197 countries adopted the Paris Agreement at COP 21 in Paris on December 12, 2015, and it was implemented 4-11-2016 in the presence of 134 countries <sup>(40)</sup>. Entered into force less than a year later, the agreement aims to significantly reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and limit the increase in global temperature in this century to 2 degrees Celsius while seeking to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees. The agreement emphasized the need to bridge the gap between the level of commitments to reduce global emissions pledged by the parties by 2020 and the actual achievements on the ground. It also underscored the importance of working towards achieving a temperature decrease of less than two degrees Celsius below pre-industrial levels and striving to limit it to below 1.5 degrees Celsius <sup>(41)</sup>.

The goal of two degrees Celsius has been set as a measure in (Copenhagen 2009) as this will allow an important reduction in the risks of climate change, and this can only be leased by reducing gas emissions by more than (70%) by 2050 and the need to move towards the use of alternative and renewable energy by 2100, provided that implementation begins in 2020 <sup>(42)</sup>. This may be difficult to implement in light of the increasing temperature. The Paris Agreement has identified three different types of support, namely financing for countries vulnerable to climate change, technology development and transfer, building adaptive capacities and promoting development, as confirmed by Article (2) <sup>(43)</sup>.

As usual, the United States continues its attempts to disavow the commitment, as Congress has refused to ratify this agreement and its argument is that the commitment alone is not sufficient unless there is international control over greenhouse gas emissions, that is, there should be an international environmental court of justice <sup>(44)</sup>. The Paris Agreement included a set of decisions, the most prominent of which is that developed countries must fulfill their obligations in an absolute manner, while developing countries must intensify their efforts to reduce the contribution to emissions, and they must coordinate with their development policies. According to Article (9) paragraph (3),

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<sup>380</sup> Bader, A. (2024). The Road to COP27 What is the Copenhagen Agreement 2009?. Green Future. Retrieved January 11, 2024, from <https://greenfue.com/>

<sup>390</sup> Al-Hadithi, A. (2016). Op.cit, p. 30.

<sup>400</sup> Dupuy, P. and Georges E. (2017), Op. cit, p.78.

<sup>410</sup> United Nations (2015). Adoption of the Paris Agreement, Paris, p.2.

<sup>420</sup> United Nations (2015). Adoption of the Paris Agreement, Paris, p.21

<sup>430</sup> Dupuy, P. and Georges E. (2017), Op. cit, p. 78-80.

<sup>440</sup> Shukrani, AL. (2016). Global Climate Negotiations: Development in Texts and Doubts in Application, Local Arab Policies. Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies, 21, pp. 48-49.

developed countries seek to adhere to their existing collective goal in the field of mobilizing funds until 2025 and sets a new financial budget estimated at one hundred billion dollars annually, taking into account the priorities and strategies of developing countries <sup>(45)</sup>. One of the most important results of the Paris Agreement is the pledge of major countries to reduce the level of their emissions. For example, China pledged to reduce its percentage by more than (60%) of 2005 levels by 2030 and raise its share of the use of fossil fuels in energy consumption by about (15%) <sup>(46)</sup>.

The success of the conference was a result of cooperation and the absence of punitive measures. It also addressed the failures of previous conferences and attempted to rectify them, pressuring the international community to convene this summit. However, it failed to curb temperature increases to the desired level due to rampant emissions. Additionally, it failed to make commitments mandatory for major industrialized nations <sup>(47)</sup>.

## **2. International organizations concerned with environmental issues.**

International organizations have a greater influence on decision-making than individual states. Given that the international issues mentioned exceed the capacity of a single country to address, the United Nations General Assembly has discussed international organizations, which are primarily responsible for diplomatic efforts to combat climate change, since 1988 to 2001. It issued a resolution to establish the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) <sup>(48)</sup>.

### **2.1: The work of the International Maritime Organization:**

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) was established in 1958. This organization is concerned with marine pollution caused by oil tankers. This organization serves as the executive secretariat for most international agreements to prevent pollution of the marine environment. The bulk of the activity of this organization is limited to protecting the marine environment and addressing marine pollution problems. The Organization aims to adopt the practical standards of States on maritime safety, in addition to preventing and controlling marine pollution from ships and explaining the legal aspects thereon.

One of the most important agreements concluded by the International Maritime Organization is the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, held in Brussels in 1969. Another significant agreement is the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, also held in Brussels in 1971. Additionally, the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, held in London in 1973, is noteworthy. All of these agreements have entered into force.

### **2.2: United Nations Environment Programme:**

The Stockholm Conference (1972) is a turning point in the activities of the United Nations related to the environment, and one of the most important achievements of the Stockholm Conference was the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Which aimed to monitor important changes in the environment, encourage and coordinate environmental policies, and provide governments with the necessary information related to combating harmful environmental

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<sup>450</sup> United Nations (2015), Op. cit p. 8.

<sup>460</sup> National development and reform commission of China (2015). Beijing, p. 3.

<sup>470</sup> Ali, A. (2017), op. cit, p. 98.

<sup>480</sup> Talba, M. (1995). Saving Our Planet: Challenges and Hopes (The State of the Environment in the World 1972-1992), 2nd Edition, Beirut, p. 46.

changes, whether caused by humans or nature<sup>(49)</sup>. It is the program responsible for scientific research and evaluation of information related to climate change in various economic, technical, social and scientific aspects<sup>(50)</sup>.

UNEP's objectives and strategy in the field of international environmental law were defined by the UNEP Governing Council at its third session in 1975. Its objectives are to contribute to the development of international law adapted to the needs resulting from concern for the environment based on the Stockholm Declaration and to contribute to the development of environmental law at the regional and national levels. As for the strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), it focuses on aligning national environmental laws with the requirements of international environmental law. It also encourages international organizations to incorporate environmental law into their activities. Additionally, it promotes the negotiation of international and bilateral agreements on specific environmental issues in certain geographic regions, such as international rivers and the reduction of pollutants across national borders. The strategy involves developing methods of international cooperation to address specific environmental issues, facilitating the assessment of environmental law in those areas<sup>(51)</sup>. Furthermore, it provides technical assistance to developing countries to enhance their environmental legislation.

### **2.3: World Trade Organization**

The idea of establishing a World Trade Organization (WTO) date back to the post-World War II period when the United States planned to create the International Trade Organization (ITO). The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) of 1947 was supposed to be part of this organization. However, countries failed to establish the ITO, and the GATT remained the basis for future negotiations on creating a WTO<sup>(52)</sup>.

### **2.4: The role of the United Nations in protecting the environment**

International organizations strongly support the human right to a clean environment free from pollution, demonstrating significant backing for human rights. They encourage countries to engage in international cooperation to protect this right. The United Nations, for instance, has undertaken the commitment to safeguard this right for humans and has enshrined it in covenants and international agreements. It has also established mechanisms to compile international reports in the event that any party is found to be aware of a violation of this right. Discussions are held based on these reports and the information they contain if there is a violation of the human right to a clean environment<sup>(53)</sup>. There are many specialized international organizations affiliated to the United Nations that play an effective role in developing the rules of international environmental law through the conclusion of international agreements between States and deciding the matter<sup>(54)</sup>.

#### **2.4.1: The role of the World Health Organization**

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<sup>490</sup> Recommendation No. (2997), in the session No. (27) of the General Assembly dated (15) December 1972, provides for the establishment of the United Nations Environment Programme, which has been active since 1973.

<sup>500</sup> Talba, M. (1995), op. cit, p. 55.

<sup>510</sup> UNEP Strategy. (1981). Part VI of the 1981 UNEP Report, document UNEP Report No. 2, chapter VI, Retrieved November 30, 2021, from <http://www.unep.org.html>.

<sup>520</sup> Mustafa, M. (2000). World Trade Organization and the issue of the environment, International Political Magazine, No. 142, 36th year, Egypt, p. 238.

<sup>530</sup> Al-Daoudi, I. (2019). The Role of International Organizations Specialized in Protecting the Environment from Pollution, 1st Edition, Zain Legal Publications, Beirut, p. 89.

<sup>540</sup> Abdulhadi, A. (2000). The Role of International Organizations in Protecting the Environment, 2nd Edition, Dar Al-Nahda Al-Arabiya, Cairo, p. 87.

The International Health Conference was held in New York on (22 July 1946) at the invitation of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. The aforementioned conference approved the establishment of a global health body. Indeed, in (1948), the World Health Organization was established in April of (1948) after the ratification of its constitution was completed from the prescribed number of countries. The World Health Organization aims to reach all peoples with the highest level of health, which are large-scale programs and their implementation to help the United Nations take the most appropriate steps to strengthen its public health services <sup>(55)</sup>.

The World Health Organization assesses the health effects of pollution factors and other environmental risks in water, air, soil and food. The organization also establishes standards regarding human exposure to environmental pollutants to ensure that their levels do not exceed specified limits. The World Health Organization (WHO) is particularly concerned with taking measures that countries should adopt for the benefit of public health. These measures encompass a range of duties that countries must follow in the event of the emergence of any diseases. Moreover, countries are obliged to adhere to the health regulations set by the organization, which become binding on member states according to the organization's charter <sup>(56)</sup>. One of the most important functions of the organization is to legislate health standards by collecting, editing and distributing information through the version known as the International Health Legislation Code <sup>(57)</sup>.

Since 2000, the Scientific Health Organization has been able to hold (9) scientific seminars attended by government delegates from multiple sectors in order to raise awareness of the issue of climate change and exchange experiences in this field. These seminars focused on directing efforts to protect the environment and health in a <sup>(58)</sup> changing climate.

The World Health Organization (WHO) plays a role in the field of water conservation through an international network managed by WHO itself, which includes more than 60 collaborating organizations dedicated to promoting safe drinking water and securely storing it. This network works on implementing projects to improve drinking water quality and treatment. It also oversees the preparation of research and studies aimed at enhancing water quality in over 50 developing countries. Its mission is to provide healthy and environmental conditions in these countries.

#### **2.4.2: Role of the International Atomic Energy Agency**

The establishment of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is a response to the fears and expectations resulting from the discovery of nuclear energy that can be used, either as a weapon or as a practical and useful tool, as the United Nations General Assembly Resolution No. (810) was issued to establish this agency (14\_4\_1954), and indeed it was established in 1957.

The agency is not considered a subsidiary or subordinate body of the United Nations; rather, it is an independent international organization with a special relationship with the United Nations. Its aim is to expand the peaceful use of atomic energy to drive economic and social progress and development. This includes generating electricity to increase global energy resources and utilizing nuclear radiation in fields such as medicine, agriculture, and industry, without posing a threat to

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<sup>550</sup> Al-Heif, A. (2002). Public International Law, 2nd Edition, Al-Maaref Establishment, Alexandria, p. 659.

<sup>560</sup> Paragraph (3) addresses the International Health Regulations of 2005, which stipulate that the organization may, at the request of the relevant government, conduct investigations into any outbreak of a disease covered by these regulations. Such outbreaks pose a threat to neighboring countries and to global health security. The purpose of such investigations should be to assist governments in organizing measures to combat the spread of the disease. These investigations may include sending a team to conduct studies on the nature of the outbreak.

<sup>570</sup> The text of Article (25) of the Constitution of the World Health Organization of 1948.

<sup>580</sup> Activities of the who Special Programme on Climate Change and Health, Retrieved July 10, 2022, from [www.who.int/mediacenter](http://www.who.int/mediacenter)

public health or international peace <sup>(59)</sup>. Additionally, the agency examines economic and technical conditions in countries related to atomic energy, provides assistance from experts and materials used in the nuclear field, and addresses issues arising from the use of nuclear energy, such as radioactive waste disposal <sup>(60)</sup>.

The Agency works to preserve the environment from pollution, especially pollutants resulting from nuclear installations or from the use of those activities for unknowing purposes, and to provide the necessary assistance to protect the human environment from pollution and prevent the dangers of harmful consequences. The Organization has adopted many conventions, including the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage.

### 2.4.3: Role of European Union Organization

The Treaty of Rome in 1957 represented a turning point in the Western inclination towards integration. Furthermore, the Maastricht Treaty, signed at the European Summit on February 8, 1992, marked a significant step in the European determination towards advancing European integration to a broader horizon. Officially, in October 1992, the name of the European Community, previously known as the European Economic Community, was changed to the European Union <sup>(61)</sup>.

The European Union Organization with its various bodies plays an important role in preserving the environment from pollution, and this role is represented in the legal work issued by the Union, which are regulations, decisions, recommendations and directives <sup>(62)</sup>, and the European Union plays an active role with regard to pollutant issues. This role leads to the development of policies on chemicals and pressure to apply precautionary approaches in nature, which includes replacing materials that cause health and environmental problems with other less hazardous materials <sup>(63)</sup>. The number of members of the European Union has become (28) countries, with the non-accession of the State of Croatia in (1/7/2013), and this will increase the influence of the European Union in the future with regard to international pollutant issues.

In 1995, the Barcelona Declaration on the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership was issued by the European Union, encompassing cooperation in various fields. Environmental protection was certainly one of these areas. The mentioned declaration emphasized the development of a practical short and medium-term agenda in the field of environmental protection. This agenda, coordinated by the European Commission, aimed to complement its activities in the long term. The program included a scientific framework to combat environmental pollution, control land degradation, forest fires, and desertification. Additionally, it encouraged research and development to address escalating environmental challenges while considering the principle of mutual benefit <sup>(64)</sup>. The Council of Europe, meeting in the spring of 2007, approved the proposal of the European Commission to adopt a unilateral commitment to reduce greenhouse gases by 20% during the year (2020), regardless of reaching an agreement for the period after the Kyoto Protocol.

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<sup>590</sup> Saeed, N. (2016). *The Role of International Organizations in Protecting the Environment from Pollution by Hazardous Waste*, Dar Al-Hamid for Publishing and Distribution, Amman, p. 220.

<sup>600</sup> Hilal, S. (2012). *International Protection of the Environment during Armed Conflict*, Master thesis, Ain Shams University, Cairo, p. 636.

<sup>610</sup> Al-Jubouri, Kh. (2002). *The Role of International Organizations in the Settlement of International Disputes*. Master thesis, University of Mosul, Baghdad, p. 19.

<sup>620</sup> The Treaty on European Union was signed on 7-2-1992, entered into force on 1 November 1993, and was signed in Maastricht, the Netherlands.

<sup>630</sup> Shehata, H. (2002). *Environmental Pollution and Energy Risks*, Arab Book Library, Cairo, p. 156.

<sup>640</sup> Al-Hamdouni, A. (2013). *Criminal Protection of the Environment, A Comparative Study in Substantive Judgments*, Legal Books House, Cairo, p. 316.

#### **2.4.4: Role of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development:**

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) was established in 1948 and took its current form in 1960. It consists of all European countries, Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and the United States, where there are those who say that it is more global than regional. The Economic Commission for Europe participates in the work of the organization, and Yugoslavia participates in certain activities <sup>(65)</sup>. The executive body of the organization is a council consisting of all member states, and its decisions are binding on the parties that voted for it and are not binding on the parties that<sup>(66)</sup> abstained from voting.

The OECD seeks to help fulfill its internal obligations to protect human health and the environment from the use and emissions of commercial chemicals, pesticides and organic technology products. Based on the OECD's statute, its activity is primarily attributed to economic problems of a wide scope and extends to many issues, including environmental protection. The OECD established a special committee on the environment in 1970 with the purpose of aiding the governments of the OECD member states to determine their environmental policy, economic and social development. The committee is responsible for evaluating the impact of environmental measures on international variables. Therefore, the OECD has an effective role in addressing environmental damage through its recommendations in accordance with Article (5), paragraph (b) of the Convention on 14 December 1960, including the Council's recommendation on 29/3/1972, regarding the policy of the guidelines related to international economic features of the environment.

A team from the Organization's Environment Committee studied environmental pollution in 1975 in order to develop practical guidelines to contribute to the development of coordinated policies in the field of pollution. As a result of the work, the organization has developed a series of principles related to solving pollution issues. The fifth proposed report of the committee included the development and application of the principle of a comprehensive waste management policy, which fully satisfies the objectives of environmental protection and rational use of energy and sources <sup>(67)</sup>.

The OECD has been concerned with the issue of pollution of the environment by hazardous wastes, which includes in its membership the most expensive countries that produce hazardous wastes and export them to developing countries. This organization has contributed to the development of important decisions and recommendations in the field of transporting and controlling hazardous wastes. The most important of these decisions is Resolution No. (14) of 1986, which obliges member states to work to prevent the export of wastes to non-member states. The internal authorities of member states have the obligation to prevent this export. This decision stipulated the need for the exporting state to obtain the written consent of the importing countries to properly dispose of these wastes without harming the environment.

#### **2.5: The Role of Iraq in Adopting the Resolutions and Amendments of the International Environmental Conferences:**

Iraq was not distant from the international environmental stance, as it possessed environmental protection and improvement laws since 1986. This was in response to the global transformations witnessed, notably the Second Gulf War. The environmental dimension of this conflict became evident, impacting the Rio de Janeiro Conference. The war's aftermath highlighted Iraq's inability to

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<sup>650</sup>The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) is an advisory body of the European Union established in 1958. It is a consultative association composed of «social partners», namely: employers (employers' organizations), workers (unions) and representatives of various other interests.

<sup>660</sup> Mohammadi, E. (2017). Legal Protection of the Environment, 1st Edition, New University House, Cairo, p. 197.

<sup>670</sup> Mahmoud, S. (2004). International Responsibility for the Risk of Transporting Hazardous Waste in the Field of International Law. 3rd Edition, Dar Al-Nahda Al-Arabiya, Cairo, p. 50.

meet the expected outcomes of environmental success. Upon its withdrawal from Kuwait, Iraq resorted to burning 732 oil wells and releasing millions of liters of oil, resulting in one of the world's largest oil spills <sup>(68)</sup>.

As for the extent of compliance with Iraqi environmental legislation, which will be discussed in the following section, up until 2007, Iraq had not ratified any agreements despite having legislation that ostensibly aligns with them <sup>(69)</sup>. Table (2) presents all international environmental agreements and Iraq's stance on each of them <sup>(70)</sup>.

**Table 2: International environmental agreements and Iraq's position on them**

	<b>Framework</b>	<b>Convention definition.</b>	<b>Iraq's position</b>	<b>National Agency Contact</b>
1	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	An international agreement between governments linking wildlife and international trade with binding provisions aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of species as natural materials The CITES Convention was signed in Washington, D.C., on March 3, 1973.	Iraq joined the agreement on 5/2/2014 and became the 180th member	Samer Adnan/Technical Department
2	Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Substances	The Convention aims to control the transfer of hazardous wastes and other wastes by reducing the transfer of such wastes except in accordance with the system of prior approval and proper management of them by reducing their quantity to a minimum and preventing their export to States not parties to the Convention except	Regulated by Law No. 3 of 31/1/2011	Heba Mohamed Anoun/Technical Department

<sup>680</sup> UNEP Strategy. (1981), op. cit, p. 352.

<sup>690</sup> Zaquod, A. (2002). International Relations under the New World Order, 1st Edition, Zahran Publishing and Distribution House, Amman, p. 240.

<sup>700</sup> UNEP Strategy. (1981), op. cit, p. 357.

	Framework	Convention definition.	Iraq's position	National Agency Contact
		after agreement with them under standards		
3	Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNfccc)  Kyoto Protocol	It aims to combat changes in climate and global warming by fixing tri-buried greenhouse gases.  A protocol to the Framework Convention on Climate Change that aims to reduce the percentage of greenhouse gases by 5-8% compared to 1990 during the commitment period between 2008-2012	Regulated by Law No. 7 of 23/3/2009	Senior Engineer/ Suzanne Samy Al-Binaa
4	Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous	The objective of this Convention is to promote shared responsibility and cooperative efforts among parties to international trade in certain hazardous chemicals with the aim of protecting human health and the environment from potential harm and contributing to their environmentally sound use by encouraging and facilitating the exchange of information on their characteristics.	View Project Agreement on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice /State Consultative Council to advise  Based on the provisions of Article (1/4) of the Treaty Law No. (111) of 1979 as amended and Article (2/6) of the State Consultative Council Law No. (65) of 1979	Abdulkareem
5	Stockholm Convention	An international multilateral	View Project	Youssef Moayad Youssef

	Framework	Convention definition.	Iraq's position	National Agency Contact
	International Multilateral Environmental Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	environmental agreement on persistent organic pollutants aimed at establishing a sound system for managing persistent organic pollutants by adopting a precautionary approach concerning environmental and developmental protection, safeguarding human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants with toxic and persistent properties, and addressing measures to reduce or eliminate emissions of persistent organic pollutants and release them.	Agreement on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice /State Consultative Council to advise  Based on the provisions of Article (1/4) of the Treaty Law No. (111) of 1979 as amended and Article (2/6) of the State Consultative Council Law No. (65) of 1979	
6	Kuwait Regional Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution of 1978 and the Protocols annexed thereto	It aims to oblige the States acceding to the Convention to take all appropriate measures to prevent, reduce and control pollution in the maritime area resulting from the dumping of waste from ships and aircraft. It also works to ensure the effective implementation in the maritime area of the international rules in force related to combating this type of pollution.	For an Iraq acceding to the Convention  Dated 1978	Ahmed Hanoun Jassim

	<b>Framework</b>	<b>Convention definition.</b>	<b>Iraq's position</b>	<b>National Agency Contact</b>
7	United Nations Framework Convention to Combat Desertification	The United Nations Framework Convention to Combat Desertification was developed to mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought or desertification	Date of accession to the convention: November 5, 2009.	Dr. Jassim Abdulaziz Al-Falahi /Young Agent
8	Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines (Ottawa)	The Convention aims to oblige acceding countries to get rid of mines that pose a threat to the individual within 10 years.	Joining Date 15/8/2007	Ahmed Abdel RazzaQ. Fuleih
9	Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol on the Elimination of Ozone Depleting Substances	An international agreement aimed at protecting the ozone layer by phasing out the production of a number of substances responsible for depleting the ozone layer, through which the parties agreed on the need to cooperate in order to protect the ozone layer and stop its depletion, and the countries that organize the agreement to stop the production and use of ozone-depleting substances	Joined on 11/9/2007 in the number of incidents 4048	Ahmed Raad Kazem
10	Cartagena Protocol	Within an appropriate level in the field of transport safety and the use of LMOs arising from modern biotechnology and	The agreement was established on 11/9/2003 and Iraq joined it on 1/6/2014	Dr. Jassim Abdulaziz Al Falahi/Technical Agent

	Framework	Convention definition.	Iraq's position	National Agency Contact
		transboundary movement		
11	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	1/7/1975	Samer Adnan/Technical Department

## CONCLUSION

The efforts of international and regional organizations specialized in environmental protection have been focused on activities and initiatives in this field, in addition to the international environmental agreements they have initiated. They have provided expertise and shared experiences in collaboration with them through environmental activities aimed at providing the necessary protection for the environment from pollution. The efforts of international organizations serve the collective interests of humanity as a whole. Environmental damages do not stop at the borders of the country where the harmful act occurred but extend to various parts of the Earth. This necessitates international efforts to address all damages affecting the global environment, requiring governments worldwide to collaborate to mitigate and ultimately eliminate violations that impact the environment.

Indeed, the role of green-parallel diplomacy is very important in addressing environmental problems and can be a game changer in international efforts to address climate change; because actors in this field, such as regional environmental networks, can help build trust between countries in managing sustainability, and raise joint efficiency in addressing global environmental problems.

The economic and political environment in Iraq was not conducive to sustainable development, and the developmental trajectory was not sustainable. Economic policy choices did not prioritize the promotion of sustainable human development, leading to missed development opportunities. This represents another facet of lost societal gains and a squandering of accumulated human efforts over more than half a century. The evolution of environmental issues and the conclusions reached by the international community underscore the necessity of environmental concern for the continuation of life. Therefore, it is essential to respect general principles and rules. The environment has been subject to serious assaults by humans since the industrial revolution, resulting in significant environmental damage and alteration of its balanced system.

The environmental activities of regions at the international level contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of environmental problem-solving through information sharing, exchange of best practices, establishment of strong institutions, continuous dialogue, and sustainable cooperation. Additionally, environmental pollution control is one of the key foundations of environmental protection, branching out into various actions such as combating air, water, and soil pollution. Therefore, environmental protection laws are inadequate unless they specifically address pollution in international agreements and treaties, ratified by the signatory countries, to avoid any obstacles hindering their enforcement.

It is proposed that there should be global cooperation among countries to combat environmental pollution worldwide, accompanied by the provision of financial and technical assistance to developing nations to enable them to develop environmental protection programs. Moreover, new

mechanisms for information exchange between countries and international organizations regarding environmental issues should be adopted, characterized by speed and accuracy for effective utilization and to incentivize countries to join these agreements. Furthermore, the role of media should be emphasized through educational television programs and social media videos to raise awareness among populations and officials in countries about the magnitude of damage and problems caused by pollution, with the aim of reducing pollution levels and providing comprehensive protection measures by both the government and the public.

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