

13. ABSTRACT

International Agreements and Environmental Protection

This paper focuses on providing a detailed examination of international agreements that are currently one of the most significant sources of international environmental law. The objective of this paper is not to exhaustively describe all aspects of these agreements, but to summarize their typical elements that distinguish them from the agreements that are governing different fields of international public law. The first two chapters of the paper are devoted to the determination of its scope and a brief introduction into the position of these agreements within the system of sources of international environment law. The introduction is followed by historical excursion that maps the dynamic evolution of environmental treaty-making from 19th century to present while focusing on major events, such as UN diplomatic conferences on environmental issues, which accelerated international cooperation. Procedural matters are examined in Chapter 4 which provides an overview of how the agreements are drafted, entered into force and how they face the challenge of timely adaptation as a main requirement for effective protection of environment through international law. The paper also describes the most frequent legal techniques and mechanisms for environmental protection such as ecostandards, bans, restrictions, limited number of economical instruments and also technological and financial international assistance (Chapter 5 and 6). Towards the end of the paper (Chapter 7 and 8) the attention shifts to the issue of ensuring compliance with the states' obligations and also to the related institutional framework which represent one of the main distinctive features of international environmental agreements. The very last chapter (Chapter 9) provides an overview of the different areas of environmental

protection that are currently governed by international agreements and provides a summary of the current level of the environmental regulation.

Keywords: international agreements, international public law, protection of environment

Klíčová slova: mezinárodní smlouvy, mezinárodní právo veřejné, ochrana životního prostředí