

# Role Biography: Austria

## Preferences

As president and host, your primary interest is in having a successful negotiation. You want the convention to reach an agreement that as many members as possible will sign, ratify, and implement. Your first goal is to have the convention reach some type of agreement because you believe that a stalemate and refusal to continue negotiations at a later date would indicate a failure on your part to the international community. Preferably, the members would agree to do more than continue negotiations in the future. Your ideal agreement would fully resolve the problem, but you believe this will be difficult to achieve. It is also important to you that any agreement will cover as many aspects of the problem as possible. You know that an agreement which has no oversight or enforcement will not be very effective in the long-term. You also believe that trying to negotiate too many issues in this session may result in no agreement, which is your least preferred outcome. You want to carefully balance pursuing a thorough agreement with limiting the scope to what may reasonably be decided in this convention.

## Private Information

As presiding member, you convene the members and set the tone for negotiations with an introductory speech. Additionally, you propose the agenda for negotiations. The contents of your speech and the agenda are currently known only to you. Once the convention begins, this information will be shared with all members, but you may choose to share any or all of this information with other members during the working group phase.

## Other Actors

Your primary alliance is with the UNEP Executive Director. Although not a voting member of the convention, the UNEP is an influential international institution that can provide incentives and credibility to the negotiations. The UNEP does not want to take a direct role in the negotiations, but will be very helpful in setting the agenda in the prenegotiation phase and conducting

backchannel negotiations while the convention is ongoing. You believe the UNEPs primary interest is in producing an agreement that will severely reduce or eliminate CFC production. Additionally, you believe the UNEP Executive Director wants to have a long-term role in overseeing all activities regarding the ozone.

As a European nation representative, you also have an interest in maintaining good relations with other European nations and the EC Commission representative. Any significant damage to those relations could affect your nations ability to succeed on other issues as well as future membership in the European Community. You are not certain of their collective position but you believe they are opposed to requiring reductions in CFC production.

As the head of NASAs program on atmospheric studies, Bob Watson is present as the leading expert on ozone depletion and its connection to CFC emissions. He strongly believes in sharing resources and combining research efforts on this issue, a belief which could greatly contribute to reaching an agreement. You believe he has a strong preference for severe reduction/elimination of CFC-11 and 12.

Other actors, particularly the non-voting members, will seek your attention in order to advance their position. Members may also seek to discuss which issues are placed on the agenda and who is recognized to speak. You believe these actors have a primary interest in advancing their own position which may or may not be in the collective interest. Carefully consider the consequences of either fulfilling or denying these requests.

## **Working Group and Pre-convention Negotiations**

Before the formal negotiations commence, you have the opportunity to meet with other members to discuss their intentions and understand their preferences. Since it is in your interest for the convention to reach an agreement, coordination among those with similar preferences is important. Use this time to connect with other actors whose position is important both to your nation and the outcome of the convention. You will meet primarily with the UNEP and Bob Watson in order to discuss the upcoming convention.

Additionally, the convention will soon begin and you must be prepared to welcome the members and propose the agenda for discussion. You should use this time to consult with others, particularly about what is on the agenda. Once the convention begins, your time will be spent directing discussion and pushing for agreement. As such, you will not have time to leave the convention to hold backchannel negotiations as other members will. You should use this discussion time to consult with highly influential members privately. Remember, your time in pre-negotiation is limited, so you must decide how to best use your time.

## Convention

As host and presiding member of the convention, you are responsible for initiating and directing discussion. This is a great power and responsibility. You want to organize the negotiations so that an agreeable outcome is reached. Carefully consider the potential benefits and consequences of placing certain issues on the agenda, moving to include additional voting members, or recognizing members to speak. You will want to identify members who are interested in creating an agreement and those who are interested in preventing any progress.

Begin by welcoming members and providing an introductory speech as to the purpose and broad goals of the convention. After opening the convention and based on your pre-convention discussions, you may choose to:

- Recognize other members to speak to the collective.
- Make a motion to have present members vote. For instance, you could make a motion to vote on an issue being discussed.
- Propose a specific agenda for the convention to follow.

The agenda provided may be too long to be accomplished in the allotted time. It is your responsibility to carefully evaluate the issues covered by the provided agenda and make any alterations you find necessary to have a successful convention. You may make changes to any part of the agenda except for the Procedural Actions and approval of the agenda. Remember that you want an agreement to be reached from the convention which may not happen if there are too many or too controversial items on the agenda; however, you also want the agreement to be widely accepted and effective which may not happen if the agreement is too vague.

After your introductory speech and initial motions, members should begin to discuss agenda items. Understand that some members will be more forceful than others and it is part of your responsibility to manage discussion to reach a widely accepted outcome. Also note that members may come in and out of the primary discussion as they consult with non-voting members in backchannel negotiations. This is an important part of the process, but you want any agreement made to be finalized by a vote in the convention.

Carefully monitor the remaining time for convention negotiations. When there are approximately five minutes remaining for the convention, you should evaluate how close you are to reaching an agreement. If you believe an agreement can happen, an outline of the major points should be drafted, approved by a majority vote, and physically signed by a majority of present voting members. If you believe an agreement will not happen, a public statement explaining the outcome of the negotiations and any plans for future action should be drafted. Additionally, you should appoint a representative to make this public statement at the end of the simulation.

## Introductory Speech

As the presiding member, I open the 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. We, the parties to this Convention, are aware of the potentially harmful impact on human health and the environment through modification of the ozone layer. Recall the pertinent provisions of the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, in particular principle 21, which provides that “States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.” We are mindful of the work and studies proceeding within both international and national organizations and, in particular, of the World Plan of Action on the ozone Layer of the United Nations Environment Programme, represented at this convention by the programme’s executive director. We are mindful also of the precautionary measures for the protection of the ozone layer which have already been taken at the national and international levels. We are gathered because we are aware that measures to protect the ozone layer from modifications due to human activities require international co-operation and action, and should be based on relevant scientific and technical considerations. We are determined to protect human health and the environment against adverse effects resulting from modifications of the ozone layer, thus I open the floor to consider any procedural actions.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>With small modifications, this speech is taken from the preamble to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer final act

# Agenda for Convention Negotiations

## I Introductory Speech

## II Proposed Agenda

- (a) Open discussion of the agenda, including any alterations or alternative proposals
- (b) Vote on the agenda

## III Status of Ozone Depletion and Future Actions

- (a) Discussion of current findings related to ozone depletion
- (b) Proposals for action to further scientific research on the ozone layer
- (c) Discussion of proposals for research
- (d) Vote on research commitments

## IV Regulations of CFC Emissions

- (a) Discussion of current regulations of CFC production or usage
- (b) Proposals for action regarding CFC production or usage
- (c) Discussion of proposals for regulation
  - i. Effect on the ozone of current proposals
  - ii. Effect on the economy of current proposals
  - iii. Other effects of the current proposals
- (d) Vote on CFC emission regulations

## V After the Convention

- (a) Enforcement of agreed actions
- (b) Vote on enforcement mechanisms
- (c) Future negotiations or modifications
- (d) Vote on future negotiations