



Our ref.: Oz.Sec/Ozone Day 2010/MS/lm

20 July 2010

Sir/Madam,

Subject: International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, 16 September 2010

I have the honour to invite you to celebrate the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer on 16 September 2010.

The theme for the celebration is “**Ozone layer protection: governance and compliance at their best**”. The Montreal Protocol has been recognized around the world as the most effective multilateral environmental treaty ever implemented. It has been hailed as a shining example of successful international cooperation and partnership to protect the global commons and the global community. Fundamental to the process has been good governance enabling successful implementation of and compliance with the provisions of the Protocol, which have in turn generated trust, confidence and commitment at all levels to continue to meet further challenges.

By the end of 2009, the Montreal Protocol had resulted in the elimination of over 98 per cent of historical levels of ozone-depleting substances. Another important milestone for the Montreal Protocol was 1 January 2010, the date by which the parties operating under paragraph 1 of Article 5 were to phase out the production and consumption of chlorofluorocarbons, halons, carbon tetrachloride and other fully hydrogenated ozone-depleting substances. Based on the trends observed in the production and consumption data submitted by parties to date and the phase-out efforts and activities implemented, including under the Multilateral Fund, there is every reason to believe that the 2010 phase-out goals have been achieved by most Article 5 parties.

To celebrate International Ozone Day, your Government is encouraged to engage in activities at the national or regional level focusing on this year's theme and its significance. In past years, parties have organized interesting events to raise public awareness of the importance of protecting the ozone layer for present and future generations. These have included workshops, press conferences, competitions in schools, and university lectures by experts. The efforts of the parties in this regard are well recognized and appreciated.

The Secretariat would be pleased to receive from your Government information on any plans for the celebration in your country. After the events, please send examples of any publications, visual aids, photos or media coverage of activities to the Secretariat. Such materials will be posted on our website (<http://ozone.unep.org> or <http://www.unep.ch/ozone>) for wide dissemination.

As in previous years, the Secretariat will feature on its website a section dedicated to the occasion, with posters, publications, the Secretary-General's message and other relevant information available for downloading. The Secretariat will inform the parties as those materials become available.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat at ozoneinfo@unep.org with any queries you may have.

Please accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Marco González
Executive Secretary
Ozone Secretariat