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**Bureau of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Parties
to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that
Deplete the Ozone Layer**
New Delhi, 28 October 2006

**Report of the Bureau of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Parties to the
Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer**

Introduction

1. The meeting of the Bureau of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was held at the Vigyan Bhawan conference center in New Delhi, on 28 October 2006.

I. Opening of the meeting

2. The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m. on Saturday, 28 October by Mr. Tom Land (United States of America), President of the Bureau. It was attended by the following members of the Bureau, who had been elected to their posts by the Seventeenth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol or had been nominated by their Governments pursuant to rule 24 of the rules of procedure of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol:

President: Mr. Tom Land (United States of America)
Vice-Presidents: Mr. Victor Yameogo (Burkina Faso)
Mr. Khandaker Rashequi Haque (Bangladesh)
Mrs. Elena Dumitru (Romania)

3. Representatives of the Ozone Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund also attended the session.

4. The President then invited Mr. Marco González, Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat, to take the floor. Mr. Gonzalez noted that many substantive issues on the agenda of the Meeting of the Parties were likely to require consideration by contact groups and that consequently, there was a strong likelihood that, starting Tuesday, the plenary sessions would be rearranged so as to allocate time for such contact groups to meet. He also highlighted two matters that were going to be discussed at the coming Meeting of the Parties, which pertained to the future of the Montreal Protocol. One was a proposal by Canada on the future of the Montreal Protocol for the next decade and beyond; the other related to informal discussions on the technical challenges Parties would be facing in the coming years.

5. Mr. Gonzalez also informed the Bureau that the Government of Canada had offered to host the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the Montreal Protocol and the Nineteenth Meeting of the Parties in Montreal, and highlighted the primary goals of that celebration and their related activities to achieve those goals, which had been identified by an informal advisory committee established at the twenty-sixth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group.

II. Adoption of the agenda

6. The provisional agenda of the meeting, contained in document UNEP/OzL.Pro.17/Bur.1/1, was adopted as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Work to date on the implementation of the decisions of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, held in Dakar, Senegal, from 12 to 16 December 2005.
4. Overview of the working documents prepared for the Eighteenth Meeting of the Parties.
5. Arrangements for and expected operation of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Parties.
6. Other matters.
7. Adoption of the report.
8. Closure of the meeting.

III. Work to date on implementation of the decisions of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Parties, held in Dakar, Senegal, from 12 to 16 December 2005.

7. A representative of the Secretariat drew attention to annex I of document UNEP/OzL.Pro.17/Bur.1/2, which summarized all the decisions taken at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Parties and the activities that had taken place since that meeting pursuant to those decisions. He noted an important change to the above-mentioned document with regard to new ratifications to the ozone treaties and announced that Equatorial Guinea had very recently ratified the Montreal Protocol, noting that there were now 190 Parties to the Protocol. He singled out the decisions relating to methyl bromide and various CFC-related issues, and observed that over one third of the decisions taken at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Parties dealt with issues taken up by the Implementation Committee, which demonstrated the significance of the Committee's work. He also expressed satisfaction at the fact that the level of data reporting had reached a record high, increasing the ability of the Implementation Committee to provide timely compliance-related recommendations to the Parties.

8. The Bureau expressed appreciation to the Secretariat for its hard work and took note of the actions it had taken on the decisions of the previous Meeting of the Parties.

IV. Overview of the working documents prepared for the Eighteenth Meeting of the Parties.

9. The representative of the Secretariat drew attention to annex II of document UNEP/OzL.Pro.17/Bur.1/2, which contained the list of documents for the Eighteenth Meeting of the Parties. He noted that since the Bureau documents had been circulated, a few changes and new documents had been prepared. These included an addendum to document UNEP/OzL.Pro.18/2, which included information relating to the final 2006 report of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP) on critical-use nominations for methyl bromide and related matters, a study on the feasibility of tracking ozone-depleting substances and the logistics of registration for the Eighteenth Meeting of the Parties.

10. A number of information documents had also been issued on such matters as the status of ratification of the ozone treaties as at 27 October 2006, existing licensing systems and the list of Parties which did not manufacture Annex A and B substances and did not wish to import products and equipment containing those substances. An information note had also been prepared on the Canadian proposal regarding the future of the Montreal Protocol.

11. The Bureau expressed appreciation for the work of the Secretariat in preparing documentation for the upcoming meeting.

V. Arrangements for and expected operation of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Parties.

12. The Secretariat pointed out that the preparatory segment of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Parties was expected to review a number of substantive issues that would then be taken up by the high-level segment, including decisions on essential uses, critical uses and the Secretariat's budget, as well as a number of compliance-related decisions arising from the report of the Implementation Committee.

13. The Executive Secretary further pointed out that since the Prime Minister of India was expected to open the session of the high-level segment at 11.30 a.m., Parties could convene at 10 a.m. to address the second item of the high-level segment agenda, in particular the election of officers of the Eighteenth Meeting of the Parties and the third item on presentations by the assessment panels.

VI. Other matters.

14. The representative of Burkina Faso raised a matter which he said was of concern to a number of African countries and which touched on negative reviews that some of their ozone offices appeared to be receiving from one implementing agency of the Multilateral Fund. In response, the Executive Secretary suggested and the Bureau agreed that informal consultations be held on the fringes of the Meeting of the Parties between the Secretariat and interested countries, the Multilateral Fund Secretariat and representatives of the United Nations Development Programme to gain a better understanding of the situation referred to by Burkina Faso.

VII. Adoption of the report.

15. The Secretariat was asked to finalize the draft report by the morning of Monday 30 October, 2006, and, pending comments by the Bureau members, finalize the report by Tuesday, 31 October 2006.

VIII. Closure of the meeting.

16. The President called the meeting to a close at 11.02 a.m.
