Agenda

Title: Sustainable cold chains and the Rome Declaration: delivering efficient ozone and climate-friendly cold chains to ensure nutritious and healthy food for all

Date and time: 20 September 2021 (14.00-17.00 Central European Time)

Venue: Webex (register here)

Convenor: Government of Italy, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and Ozone Secretariat

With support of Cool Coalition, Climate and Clean Air Coalition, UNEP’s OzonAction Programme

About the Event: The event will put a spotlight on the critical role of sustainable cold chains in ensuring food safety and security, reducing food waste and loss, mitigating climate change and preventing the depletion of the ozone layer; and demonstrate how the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, universally ratified multilateral environmental agreement, its Kigali Amendment and its Rome Declaration on Sustainable Cold Chain Development, can contribute to scale up technological and policy solutions for sustainable cold chains.

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1. Opening session
   Opening remarks: Meg Seki, Ozone Secretariat
   Keynotes: Ms Giusy Lombardi, Director General, Ministry of Ecological Transition, Italy
   Dr Abdulla Naseer, Minister of State for Environment, Climate Change and Technology, Maldives

2. Dialogue 1: Where do we stand and what are the main issues and challenges to achieve sustainable food chains?

Sustainable cold chain as a critical element in food systems is still not part of the mainstream discussion for many governments and other stakeholders and represents an unchartered territory in the policy arena. This session will establish the importance of sustainable cold chains and challenges. It will highlight that in many countries, food is lost between farm and market due to gaps in cold chain infrastructure, resulting in 475 million tonnes or 13% of total food production being lost, which is worth $350 billion and enough to feed approximately 950 million people. Access to cold chain in rural areas, especially in developing countries is not widely available at the scale needed to sustain and boost agricultural development. The session will also look at key environmental impacts of cold chains, such as pollution and climate change due to the emissions from energy use (indirect emissions) and the use of ozone-depleting and high-global warming refrigerants (direct emissions).
3. Dialogue 2: What needs to be done and what solutions do we have?

This session will aim to identify existing best practices and solutions for delivering sustainable cold chains. The solutions will be highlighted as possible actions to underpin and back up commitments promoted by the Rome Declaration on Sustainable Cold Chains. The Cool Coalition in partnership with other organizations including the Ozone Secretariat is developing a status assessment report in the space of cold chains to identify existing best practices and approaches to address cold chains. The OzonAction of UNEP has launched a cold chain database models to assist countries to systematically collect data in this area for more effective management and phase out of controlled substances. The session will highlight technological challenges and options for transition to zero ODP, lower GWP refrigerant and promote energy efficiency. In addition, it will discuss policy options being adopted and implemented by governments.

Panellists
- Toby Peters, the Birmingham University
- Didier Coulomb, International Institute of Refrigeration
- Patrick Zakariya, Zimbabwe Farmers’ Union - World Farmer Organization
- Miruza Mohamed, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Technology, Maldives
- Partick Mckinerney, Environment Department, Australia
- Philip Owen, European Commission
- Zitouni Ould-Dada, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- Ligia Noronha [tbc], United Nations Environment Programme

Industry considerations:
- Kevin Fay, Global Food Cold Chain Council
- Marco Buoni, Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration European Association (AREA)
- Tian Changqing, China Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Industry Association

Addressing data gaps:
- Hassan Mubarak, the Supreme Council for Environment, Bahrain
- Gilda Torres, Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, Paraguay

Integrated approach:
- Juliet Kabera, Rwanda Environment Management Authority, Rwanda
- India [tbc]

Technology transfer:
- Ole Nielsen, UNIDO

De-risking and optimizing investments:
- Olivier Dubois, FAO

Cold chains for vaccines:
- Brian Hartley, Sustainable Energy for All

Cold Chain Status report (summary)
- Nathan Borgford-Parnell, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition

4. Concluding sessions: Way forward and vision for delivering sustainable cold chains - From Commitments to Action

The session will summarize the results of the previous two dialogues and discuss how to accelerate efforts for implementing the Rome Declaration Commitments, share knowledge and highlight comprehensive, impactful approaches on sustainable cold chain for food.

- Summary of the meeting by the facilitator
- Concluding remarks by Juliet Kabera, Rwanda Environment Management Authority