Report of the meeting of the Bureau of the Twentieth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

Introduction

1. The Bureau of the Twentieth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer met at the International Convention Centre in Port Ghalib, Egypt, on Monday, 2 November 2009.

I. Opening of the meeting

2. The meeting was opened by the President of the Bureau, Mr. Róbert Tóth (Hungary), at 10.30 a.m.

3. Mr. Marco González, Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat, announced that with the recent ratification of the Montreal Protocol by Timor-Leste the Protocol had reached a historic milestone by becoming the first international treaty ever to achieve universal ratification and with the highest number of Parties. That unique accomplishment was the result of the Parties’ willingness to work together to combat environmental threats.

4. The meeting was attended by the following members of the Bureau:

   President: Mr. Róbert Tóth (Hungary) (Eastern European group)
   Vice-Presidents: Mr. Philip J. J. Drost (Netherlands) (Western European and others group)
                   Mr. Michael Smith (Grenada) (Latin American and Caribbean group)
   Rapporteur: Ms. Masnellyarti Hilman (Indonesia) (Asian and Pacific group)

5. The member from Senegal did not attend. A full list of participants is contained in the annex to the present report.
II. Adoption of the agenda

6. The provisional agenda of the meeting, contained in document UNEP/OzL.Pro.20/Bur.1/1, was adopted as follows:
   1. Opening of the meeting.
   2. Adoption of the agenda.
   3. Work to date on implementation of decisions of the Twentieth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, held in Doha from 16 to 20 November 2008.
   4. Overview of the working documents prepared for the Twenty-First Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol.
   5. Review of the agenda and presentation of a road map for the conduct of the Twenty-First Meeting of the Parties.
   6. Reflections on achieving universal ratification of the ozone treaties.
   7. Other matters.
   8. Adoption of the report.
   9. Closure of the meeting.

III. Work to date on implementation of the decisions of the Twentieth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, held in Doha from 16 to 20 November 2008

7. The representative of the Ozone Secretariat introduced the item, outlining document UNEP/OzL.Pro.20/Bur.1/2, annex I of which set out a tabular summary of actions taken to implement the decisions adopted by the Twentieth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol.

8. The Bureau took note of the information presented.

IV. Overview of the working documents prepared for the Twenty-First Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol

9. The representative of the Secretariat drew attention to annex II to document UNEP/OzL.Pro.20/Bur.1/2, which set out a list of documents prepared for the Twenty-First Meeting of the Parties.

10. The Bureau took note of the information presented.

V. Review of the agenda and presentation of a road map for the conduct of the Twenty-First Meeting of the Parties

11. The representative of the Secretariat outlined the expected programme of work for the Twenty-First Meeting of the Parties, summarizing and supplementing the information contained in chapter III of document UNEP/OzL.Pro.20/Bur.1/2. He noted that the opening ceremony of the high-level segment was scheduled for the morning of 7 November. The Prime Minister of Egypt, however, would be unable to reach Port Ghalib until the afternoon of that day. As the Prime Minister was expected to address the Meeting of the Parties, his afternoon arrival presented the question of whether the opening ceremony should be rescheduled. Options included moving the ceremony to the afternoon of 7 November to ensure the Prime Minister’s attendance or proceeding with it as originally scheduled while making provision for the Prime Minister to deliver his remarks upon arrival.

12. In the ensuing discussion, one member noted that moving the ceremony would disturb the agendas of all those also due to speak during the event. Another suggested that moving the ceremony to the afternoon was the best option. A third asked whether the Prime Minister’s plans were likely to be disturbed, and whether it was indeed guaranteed that he would be able to attend the ceremony in the light of his other commitments. The Executive Secretary said that the Prime Minister had promised to
attend and that as a show of courtesy towards the host country it might be advisable to move the ceremony to the afternoon.

13. Given that there was no immediate consensus on the issue, the Bureau agreed that it would meet again to take a decision following further consultations.

VI. Reflections on achieving universal ratification of the ozone treaties

14. The representative of the Ozone Secretariat described the difficulties and challenges that had lined the road to universal ratification of the ozone treaties. Key to the achievement, he said, had been making it clear to the last few countries to ratify that they were as important to the success of the treaties as were all the other Parties.

15. The representative of the Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol said that funding had been approved to enable all Parties operating under paragraph 1 of Article 5 to phase out ozone-depleting substances in accordance with the 2010 phase-out deadline.

16. The Bureau took note of the information provided.

VII. Other matters

17. No matters were considered under the item.

VIII. Adoption of the report

18. The Chair announced that a draft of the present report would be prepared by the Secretariat and circulated to the members of the Bureau as soon as possible. The report would then be finalized, taking their comments into account, and presented to them for their approval.

IX. Closure of the meeting

19. The Chair declared the meeting closed at 12.20 p.m.
Annex

List of participants

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