

Ref: Oz.Sec/MOP34/Decisions

30 December 2022

Sir/Madam,

**Decisions adopted by the Thirty-Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol**

I have the honour to refer to the Thirty-Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, held in Montreal, Canada, from 31 October to 4 November 2022. I sincerely thank the parties for their commitment to participating in the meeting and for their valuable contributions to a successful outcome to the meeting.

In total, the parties adopted 24 decisions, the final versions of which can be found in [the addendum](#) to the meeting report, which is available on the Ozone Secretariat website.

Some of the decisions adopted at the meeting require specific action by all the parties or by groups of parties. This letter summarizes those actions for your kind consideration and follow-up.

Information on specific decisions or relevant parts of those decisions that require action by individual parties – for example, on critical-use exemptions for methyl bromide and Article 7 data reporting – have been communicated in separate letters to the parties concerned. A separate letter was also sent to parties regarding decision XXXIV/6 on ongoing emissions of carbon tetrachloride, due to the short deadline of 1 February 2023 for parties to provide to the Secretariat, on a voluntary basis, information on the national procedures and frameworks in place for the management of carbon tetrachloride emissions.

The Secretariat has also communicated to the secretariat of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, for the attention of the Executive Committee, and to the assessment panels, the respective decisions or paragraphs of the decisions that require their action or attention.

**Decision XXXIV/3: Enabling enhanced access and facilitating the transition to energy-efficient and low- or zero-global-warming-potential technologies**

In this decision, the parties recalled previous decisions related to energy efficiency and the phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). They also took note, inter alia, of the Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion: 2018, which had noted that improvements in the energy efficiency of refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment during the transition to low-global-warming-potential alternative refrigerants could potentially double the climate benefits of the Kigali Amendment. In paragraph 5 of the decision, they decided:

5. To encourage parties to:
  - (a) Enhance coordination between domestic energy and ozone officials to enhance energy efficiency while phasing down HFCs;
  - (b) Support upgrading domestic servicing, including related certification programmes and technician training to maintain and/or to enhance energy efficiency, reduce refrigerant leaks, and ensure proper installation and maintenance of refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat-pump equipment;
  - (c) When phasing down HFCs, to take into account, as appropriate, the information contained in volume 3 of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel 2022 report responding to decision XXXIII/5.

#### **Decision XXXIV/4: Illegal import of certain refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump products and equipment**

In paragraph 1 of this decision, the parties decided:

1. To invite parties that have restricted the manufacture and/or import of certain refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump products and equipment containing or relying on controlled substances, including with respect to energy efficiency, and that do not want to receive such products and equipment from other parties against payment or free of charge, to submit to the Secretariat by 1 May 2023 the information listed below:
  - (a) The types of products and equipment concerned, including their codes in the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, where applicable;
  - (b) The specific domestic restrictions on the controlled substances (i.e., maximum global warming potential of HFCs permitted to be used) for each category of product and equipment;
  - (c) The minimum energy efficiency performance standard permitted under domestic legislation for each category of product and equipment;
  - (d) Any attempted illegal imports of such restricted products and equipment to their countries.

#### **Decision XXXIV/8: Strengthening Montreal Protocol institutions, including for combating illegal trade**

This decision was adopted by the parties in the context of exploring possible ways of dealing with the illegal production of, and illegal trade in, controlled substances under the Montreal Protocol, identifying potential gaps in the non-compliance procedure, challenges, tools, ideas and suggestions for improvement. Following the discussion, in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the decision they decided:

1. To urge parties that have not already done so to introduce into their national customs classification systems the separate subdivisions for HFCs and blends contained in the amendments to the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System adopted by the World Customs Organization in 2019 that entered into force on 1 January 2022, and use more specific classifications for controlled substances and blends containing controlled substances, where possible, to better identify and track imports and exports of controlled substances;
2. To encourage all parties to exchange information and strengthen joint efforts to improve means of identification, prevention and combating of illegal trade in controlled substances, including addressing the mislabelling of containers of controlled substances as other chemicals;
3. To encourage parties to facilitate the exchange of information to prevent illegal trade of controlled substances by reporting to the Secretariat fully proved cases of illegal trade and, to the extent that parties are able to do so, to provide additional information about illegal trade situations.

#### **Decision XXXIV/10: Stocks and quarantine and pre-shipment uses of methyl bromide**

In adopting this decision, the parties noted the likelihood which had been pointed out by the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel that the available information it had on stocks did not accurately show the total stocks of methyl bromide held globally for controlled and exempted uses. The parties also noted that some parties may not be aware of specific alternatives for some quarantine and pre-shipment uses of methyl bromide. Furthermore, the parties noted the requirement for each party to report data to the Secretariat on the production, imports and exports of controlled substances as well as on the annual amount of methyl bromide used for quarantine and pre-shipment applications under paragraph 3 of Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol. In paragraphs 1, 2 and 5 of the decision, they decided:

1. To invite parties to submit to the Ozone Secretariat, on a voluntary basis by 1 June 2023, a list of the pest and commodity combinations in which methyl bromide is needed or used in their respective countries;
2. To invite parties to submit, on a voluntary basis, accessible data on the volumes of pre-phase-out methyl bromide stocks at the country level to the Ozone Secretariat by 1 June 2023;
5. To invite parties to take into account the standards and guidelines under the International Plant Protection Convention in their national processes and to consider the potential for uptake of practices to minimize the use of methyl bromide.

### **Decision XXXIV/12: Updating the information on relevant safety standards**

In adopting this decision, the parties recalled decision XXVIII/4 on the establishment of regular consultations on safety standards. They also recalled the continued importance of ensuring the safe market introduction, manufacturing, operation, maintenance, and handling of equipment containing refrigerants that are alternatives to hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and HFCs. They took note of the importance of being informed on progress in updating relevant standards, such as the recent revision of International Electrotechnical Commission standard 60335-2-40, and recalled decision XXIX/11, in which the Secretariat was requested to hold regular consultations with the relevant standards bodies referred to in paragraph 7 of decision XXVIII/4, with a view to providing, with regard to standards for flammable low-global-warming-potential refrigerants, a tabular overview of relevant safety standards.

The parties decided, in paragraph 1 of the decision, to request the Secretariat to continue providing information on relevant safety standards, at least prior to each Meeting of the Parties up until the Forty-First Meeting of the Parties, when parties should consider whether to renew that request to the Secretariat. In paragraph 2 of the decision, the Secretariat was requested to include further relevant safety standards when notified by a party or a group of parties of the adoption of a standard. In that regard, the Secretariat would appreciate receiving the relevant notification and information from the parties.

### **Decision XXXIV/13: Collecting data to understand potential impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on hydrofluorocarbon consumption for Group 1 parties operating under paragraph 1 of Article 5**

In adopting this decision, the parties recalled that the calculated HFC consumption baselines for Group 1 parties operating under paragraph 1 of Article 5 of the Montreal Protocol are determined on the basis of reported HFC consumption for 2020, 2021 and 2022 plus 65 per cent of the country's HCFC baselines to account for HFC growth and fluctuations. They noted the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and that the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund had taken no decision concerning the years for the starting point that were to be used to determine maximum HFC consumption eligible for funding, and that the issue would continue to be considered at the ninety-first meeting of the Executive Committee. In paragraphs 1 and 2 of the decision, they decided:

1. To encourage parties operating under paragraph 1 of Article 5 that believe that their reduced consumption of HFCs during the baseline years of 2020–2022, stemming from the effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, could hinder their ability to comply with the freeze in the consumption of HFCs in 2024 under the Kigali Amendment, to submit to the Ozone Secretariat as soon as possible, and no later than 1 May 2023, their HFC consumption data for 2022, in time for consideration at the forty-fifth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol;
2. For parties that provide to the Ozone Secretariat by 1 May 2023 their HFC consumption data for 2022, in accordance with paragraph 1 of the decision, to request the Ozone Secretariat to prepare for consideration at the forty-fifth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group:
  - (a) Information on the HFC consumption for the years 2020, 2021, and 2022 and the calculated baselines of Group 1 parties operating under paragraph 1 of Article 5 that have reported relevant data;
  - (b) Information on HFC consumption for the years 2018 and 2019 of Group 1 parties operating under paragraph 1 of Article 5 where information is available.

For decision XXXIV/13, a specific letter has already been sent to Article 5 parties requesting them to provide to the Ozone Secretariat their HFC consumption data for 2022, if relevant, in accordance with paragraph 1 of the decision.

Regarding the implementation of decision XXXIV/6 on ongoing emissions of carbon tetrachloride, a letter by the Secretariat has been sent to parties that have reported production or by-production of CTC, to request them to provide to the Ozone Secretariat, on a voluntary basis, the information requested in the decision. Other letters have also been sent to the parties about decision XXXIV/15 on the status of the establishment of licensing systems under Article 4B, paragraph 2 bis, of the Montreal Protocol; and decision XXXIV/22 on the status of ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.

At the appropriate time, the Secretariat will send a letter reminding the parties of the requests in the above-mentioned decisions as and when needed.

The Ozone Secretariat stands ready to assist your Government's efforts to follow up on these decisions. We also look forward to working with the parties and other stakeholders on all the issues to ensure continued progress in protecting the ozone layer and the climate and enhancing human health and well-being.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Megumi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Megumi Seki Nakamura  
Executive Secretary