Reminder: Cases of illegal trade in controlled substances and prevention of illegal production and consumption

Sir/Madam,

I have the honour to refer to decision XXXIV/8, adopted by the Thirty-Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, which took place in Montreal from 31 October to 4 November 2022. The decision addresses the strengthening of effective implementation and enforcement of the Montreal Protocol, including illegal trade.

Recalling decisions XIV/7 and XXXI/3, paragraph 3 of decision XXXIV/8 encourages parties to facilitate the exchange of information to prevent the 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, providing information about illegal trade situations. The actionable parts of this decision and others taken at the meeting were communicated to all parties in a letter dated 30 December 2022.

Decision XXXI/3 encourages parties to take action to discover and prevent the illegal production, import, export and consumption of controlled substances by, inter alia, reporting fully proved cases of illegal trade in controlled substances to the Ozone Secretariat. This decision builds on decision XIV/7 requesting the Secretariat to collect information on illegal trade received from the parties and to disseminate it to all parties.

All the reports received so far by the Secretariat have been made available on the online database of illegal trade cases at this link: https://ozone.unep.org/countries/additional-reported-information/illegal-trade.

Pursuant to paragraph 4 (a) of decision XXXIV/8, the Ozone Secretariat is preparing a summary of practices of illegal trade reported under paragraph 3 of that decision and approaches taken by national authorities to identify and address such cases. This summary will be made available as part of the background information for the one-day workshop on strengthening the effective implementation and enforcement of the Montreal Protocol that will take place on 2 July 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand before the forty-fifth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol.

To facilitate the preparation of the summary, we would like to kindly request your Government to provide the Secretariat with any available information related to these decisions. You can do so by using either this online form or by sending the attached Word file to Liazzat Rabbiosi (rabbiosi@un.org), copied to mea-ozoneinfo@un.org. We would appreciate if you could communicate available information in relation to this request by 31 March 2023 to enable consideration of such information in the summary to be prepared for the workshop.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration with your Government to implement the provisions of the Montreal Protocol.

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

Megumi Seki Nakamura
Executive Secretary