

28 June 2021

Contingency plan update for the meetings of the ozone treaties in 2021

Distinguished Parties to the ozone treaties,

I have the honour and pleasure to communicate the updated contingency plan on the arrangements for the combined twelfth meeting (part II) of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and Thirty-Third Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (COP12(II)/MOP33) scheduled in October 2021. The update has been developed in consultation with the Bureaux of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and the Thirty-Second Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group and several parties.

Taking into account the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, travel constraints and the state of roll out of the vaccination programmes around the world, it has been decided that COP12(II)/MOP33 will be held online. While some countries are advanced in administering the vaccines to their population and have started opening up their economic activities, others are still under various restrictions. Due to the uncertainty in the efficacy of the current global containment measures against the pandemic, some parties have indicated that they will not be allowed to undertake international travel this year.

Following the successful online COP/MOP last year, the Secretariat would like to assure parties that COP12(II)/MOP33 this year will be organized once again respecting the rules of procedure and the principles that guide intergovernmental meetings under the ozone treaties. These include the provision of interpretation in the official languages of the United Nations and assistance to ensure adequate internet connectivity for equal participation by all parties in the meetings. The Secretariat will provide as much assistance as possible to Article 5 parties such as provision of internet bundles, coverage of international call costs for dial-in option, and arranging a meeting room in the premises of a United Nations office in the relevant country for the country's delegation.

The dates of the online COP12(II)/MOP33 will be from **23 to 29 October 2021**, as had been communicated to you on 6 April 2021. The sixty-seventh meeting of the Implementation Committee will be held on **20 and 21 October 2021**. The meeting of the Bureaux of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and the Thirty-Second Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol will take place on **22 October 2021**.

Below is the outline of how the meetings and preparatory process will be organized.

The daily schedule

The first six days of COP12(II)/MOP33 will be the preparatory segment of the meeting. The high-level segment will take place on the seventh day of the meeting.

Each day of the preparatory segment will consist of a plenary session from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. (Nairobi time (UTC +3)), and contact group(s) will be organized from 4.15 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. maximum (Nairobi time (UTC +3)).

The high-level segment will run from 2.00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. (Nairobi time (UTC +3)) on 29 October 2021.

Provisional Agenda

As the online format poses significant challenges associated with time zones and conducting negotiations on sensitive and complex matters, the agenda of the COP12(II)/MOP33 will be reduced. The issues on which parties may wish to take decisions this year (i.e. the same issues as those taken up by the COP/MOP last year), including those under the Vienna Convention, and the issues taken up by the forty-third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, have been prioritized for inclusion in the agenda. The items on the provisional agenda will thus include the following:

- *Financial reports and budgets of the trust funds for the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol.*
- *Vienna Convention issues:*
 - Report of the eleventh meeting of the Ozone Research Managers of the Parties to the Vienna Convention;
 - Status of the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention.
- *Montreal Protocol issues:*
 - Replenishment of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol for the period 2021–2023;
 - Unexpected emissions of trichlorofluoromethane (CFC-11);¹
 - Identification of gaps in the global coverage of atmospheric monitoring of controlled substances and options for enhancing such monitoring²;
 - Technology and Economic Assessment Panel 2021 report: membership changes;
 - Nominations for methyl bromide critical-use exemptions for 2022 and 2023;

¹ Decisions XXX/3 para. 1 and XXXI/3, para. 7

² Decision XXXI/3, para. 8

- Energy-efficient and low-global-warming-potential technologies;³
- Consideration of the membership of Montreal Protocol bodies for 2022:
 - Membership of the Implementation Committee;
 - Membership of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund;
 - Co-chairs of the Open-ended Working Group;
- Compliance and reporting issues considered by the Implementation Committee.

Regarding the issue of the replenishment of the Multilateral Fund, the Secretariat has determined that a full negotiation on the budget amount for the triennium 2021 to 2023 would be difficult to conduct in an online setting. Full negotiation would require a lot of time and there will be logistical challenges in organizing dynamic contact group sessions with a progressive reduction in contact group size, and parallel, quick discussions in the constituencies and in informal and bilateral groups. While the Secretariat stands ready to do its utmost to ensure the efficient and smooth organization of the contact group and the associated group discussions, a successful negotiation on this sensitive and complex issue would be a challenge even if additional days for the meeting were available.

Therefore, parties may wish to consider deferring the full negotiation of the replenishment to 2022 and, instead, consider adopting appropriate decisions on the interim budget of the Multilateral Fund and on the 2021 and 2022 contributions by non-Article 5 parties to facilitate payment.

Preparatory work

Preparatory work will be organized on the issues on the provisional agenda to enable the parties to prepare for the discussions at COP12(II)/MOP33. It will consist of: (i) an online forum for reviewing and commenting on selected documents and draft decisions; and (ii) informal meetings and briefing sessions on selected issues on the agenda.

Online forum (13 September to 4 October)

Separate tabs will be created for the following issues: budgets; Vienna Convention issues; updated replenishment report; gaps in monitoring of controlled substances; critical-use nominations; and energy efficiency. Relevant reports and documents including any draft decisions, will be posted in the forum to enable parties to review them and post comments.

³ Decision XXXI/7

Online informal and briefing meetings (during the period 5 to 19 October)

Informal meeting comprising two sessions, will be organized for the budget discussion and a briefing meeting will be held for each of the following three issues: Vienna Convention issues; updated replenishment report; and 2021 progress report of TEAP (volume 1 of 2021 TEAP report). Each meeting will be 3 hours in duration. The meetings will allow various presentations and associated questions and answers session to be completed prior to COP12(II)/MOP33.

Parties are also urged to hold consultations in regional groups and appropriate constituencies to agree on the nominations for the membership of Montreal Protocol bodies for 2022 and for the Bureau of MOP33 to be elected at the high-level segment on the seventh day of COP12(II)/MOP33.

A more detailed description and schedule of the preparatory work as planned to date, are provided in the annex to this letter.

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Although it was our hope that face-to-face meetings would be possible by October this year, it turns out that, yet again, we must resort to online meetings. The plan for the COP12(II)/MOP33 is an ambitious and elaborate one, requiring a lot of work, time and commitment by the parties. The Secretariat hopes that the arrangements outlined above continue to meet the expectations of all parties and will facilitate progress to be made on prioritized issues.

Should you have any concerns with the plans outlined above, please advise us before **6 August 2021**.

I wish you continued good health and safety.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.



Megumi Seki Nakamura

Annex

Description and schedule of the preparatory work on the issues on the provisional agenda of the online COP12(II)/MOP33

Please note that the plans outlined below may be refined as necessary and appropriate nearer to the time of COP12(II)/MOP33.

1. ONLINE FORUM: 13 September to 4 October 2021

Relevant reports and documents will be made available in the online forum under appropriate tabs to enable parties to post comments. The exchange of views through the online forum will facilitate the parties to prepare for the discussions at the meeting itself.

The online forum can be accessed by all participants who registered for OEWG43 in May 2021, using the same login password. New users will receive their login link for creating a password upon registration for COP12(II)/MOP33.

Dedicated tabs will be created for the following issues on the meeting agenda:

- Financial reports and budgets for the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol Trust Funds
 - *For parties to post comments and questions on the Secretariat's documents on financial reports and budgets*
- Replenishment of the Multilateral Fund
 - *For parties to post comments and questions on the updated replenishment report by the TEAP task force and for any proposals for decision by the parties*
- Identification of gaps in atmospheric monitoring of controlled substances
 - *For posting any draft decisions for parties to consider and post comments and questions*
- Critical-use nominations for methyl bromide
 - *For parties to post comments and questions on the final report and recommendations of the TEAP Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee (MBTOC) on the critical use nominations. MBTOC would take into consideration the questions and comments in their presentation to be made at the meeting in October.*
- Energy Efficiency
 - *For posting any draft decisions for parties to consider and post comments and questions*
- Vienna Convention issues (Ozone Research Managers and Trust Fund for research and systematic observation)
 - *For posting any draft decisions for parties to consider and post comments and questions*

2. INFORMAL AND BRIEFING MEETINGS (during the period 5 to 19 October)

Informal and briefing meetings are envisaged to be organized after the closing of the online forum and before the COP12(II)/MOP33. Each meeting will run from 2.00 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. maximum (Nairobi time (UTC +3)). The three briefing meetings will be organized with interpretation in the six official languages of the UN. The summary reports of the presentations and the discussions will be

prepared after the meetings and will be included as annexes to the draft report of COP12(II)/MOP33 for adoption at the high-level segment. The following meetings are planned:

- Informal meeting (two sessions) on financial reports and budgets (11 and 14 October 2021)
 - *The informal meeting will be conducted in English only. It will be similar to the one called for by the Co-Chairs of the forty-second Open-ended Working Group and organized prior to the COP/MOP last year. The meeting will focus on the Secretariat's presentation of its documents on the financial reports and budgets of the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol Trust Funds. Parties may wish to ask questions, make comments and have an initial informal exchange on relevant issues before the expected establishment of, and discussion by the Budget Committee at COP12(II)/MOP33.*
- Briefing meeting (one session) on the Vienna Convention issues (Ozone Research Managers and Trust Fund for research and systematic observation) (5 October 2021)
 - *The outcome of the eleventh meeting of the Ozone Research Managers and the status of the Vienna Convention Trust Fund on research and systematic observation will be presented, followed by questions and answers, and general statements.*
- Briefing meeting (one session) on the 2021 progress report of the TEAP (7 October 2021)
 - TEAP will be requested to present its 2021 progress report (volume 1 of 2021 TEAP report), which includes its membership changes. The other issues covered in the progress report will also be presented by the TEAP for information and discussion in a future meeting. The presentation will be followed by a session for questions and answers and general statements.
- Briefing meeting (one session) on the updated replenishment report by the TEAP task force (18 October 2021)
 - *TEAP replenishment task force will be requested to make a presentation on its updated replenishment report. The presentation will be followed by a session for questions and answers and general statements.*

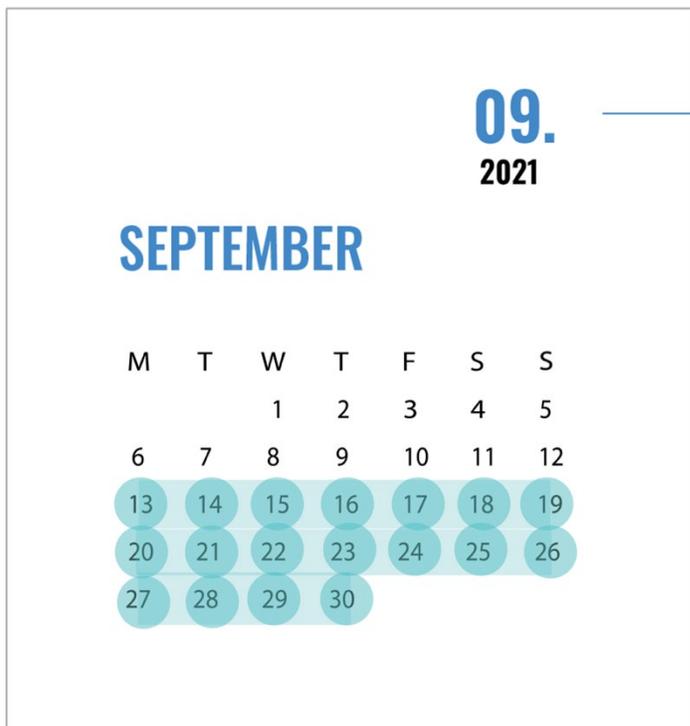
3. REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE MEMBERSHIP OF MONTREAL PROTOCOL BODIES AND THE BUREAU OF MOP33

Parties are urged to consult in their regional groups and appropriate constituencies prior to COP12(II)/MOP33 to nominate representatives to serve in the Montreal Protocol bodies⁴ and inform the Secretariat of the nominations by 21 October 2021. In addition, parties would need to consult on the nominations for the positions in the Bureau of MOP33. Last year, the regional consultations enabled the nominations to be submitted well in time for the Secretariat to prepare the relevant draft decisions on the Montreal Protocol bodies for adoption by the parties at the high-level segment.

⁴ Includes the Implementation Committee, Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund and the Co-chairs of the Open-ended Working Group. In addition, the parties may wish to consult as needed on the nominations to the TEAP.

The Secretariat will be happy to assist parties to organize virtual regional consultations as needed.
The Secretariat focal points for the regions will be posted in the meeting portal for COP12(II)/MOP33
in due course.

Calendar: online forum and meetings



13-4 Online forum



- 5 Vienna Convention ORM and Trust Fund
- 7 TEAP progress report
- 11&14 Financial reports and budgets
- 18 Updated replenishment report
- 20-21 IMPCOM67
- 22 COP12 (I) MOP32 Bureau
- 23-29 COP12 (II)/MOP33