

Terms of reference for the advisory committee for the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention

1. Scope

1. The advisory committee for the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (hereinafter referred to as the Trust Fund)¹ will advise the Ozone Secretariat and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on the activities of the Trust Fund. Such advice may include prioritization, planning, development and implementation of activities, as well as fundraising, taking into consideration the following:

- The resources available in the Trust Fund are not sufficient to enable substantial and sustainable improvements to be made to the Global Ozone Observing System. Therefore, the prioritization of strategically planned activities and associated fundraising are important aspects of the operation of the Trust Fund.
- The coming decade is a crucial time during which the status of the recovery of the ozone layer will become clearer, but such clarity will be dependent on continued high-quality observations.
- Improvements in ozone observations should take into account the existing strong and intricate linkages between ozone and climate. Furthermore, relevant observations and their analyses should focus both on ozone and climate changes wherever possible.

2. The activities of the Trust Fund are reported at the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and also periodically to the Parties to the Vienna Convention, particularly in conjunction with invitations to contribute to the Trust Fund.

2. Establishment

3. In decision X/3, the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention requested the Ozone Secretariat to coordinate with WMO to establish a small advisory committee (hereinafter referred to as the “Committee”) for the Trust Fund.

3. Meetings

4. The Committee will convene via teleconferencing or videoconferencing, or in the margins of relevant meetings.

5. The Committee will meet at least once a year and more frequently when necessary.

4. Membership

6. The Committee members will be selected by the Ozone Secretariat in consultation with WMO.

7. The Committee will consist of not more than 10 members, including:

- Two co-chairs of the Scientific Assessment Panel
- The two co-chairs of the meetings of the Ozone Research Managers

¹ The General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer was established in pursuance of decision VI/2 of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and became operational in 2003. The Trust Fund receives voluntary contributions from the parties and international organizations for the purpose of financing activities on research and systematic observation relevant to the Convention in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The Ozone Secretariat and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) agreed on a memorandum of understanding on the institutional arrangements for making decisions on the allocation of funds in the Trust Fund, which was presented to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting. The parties endorsed the memorandum and requested UNEP and WMO to continue their cooperation with regard to the Trust Fund pursuant to the terms set out in the memorandum, on the understanding that that agreement could be changed as necessary to meet evolving needs and conditions.

- One representative of the Ozone Secretariat
- Up to five scientists and experts in ozone and ultraviolet (UV) observations
- One representative of WMO as an observer.

8. Equitable geographical and gender representation will be ensured as much as possible.

9. A chairperson will be selected by the Committee from among its members at the meeting of the Committee to be held in the year of, and after, the meeting of the Ozone Research Managers. The representative of the Ozone Secretariat will serve as secretary of the Committee.

10. Members will serve for a three-year term, starting immediately after a meeting of the Ozone Research Managers up until such time as the new members are selected in accordance with paragraph 7 above, within two months after the following meeting of the Ozone Research Managers. Membership of the advisory committee is both an honour and a responsibility. Members should be qualified as ozone and UV science experts, respected by the scientific community, and should have been or be members of coordinating research activities. Membership requires active participation in the work of the Committee. The smooth functioning of the Trust Fund depends on organizational memory or continuity and the overlap of the Committee with the membership of the teams developing the reports required under the Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol. This continuity of experience and community leadership is explicitly taken into account in the Committee composition specified in paragraph 7 above. However, the Chairperson should be an individual who has previously served as a member of the Committee for at least one term.

5. Mandate

11. The main purpose of the Trust Fund is to improve ozone and UV science, which in itself provides some guidance on how to prioritize activities. However, there is a practical side to this prioritization in that the Trust Fund cannot fund satellites and major infrastructure. Currently, it appears that funding for activities costing more than about \$50,000 is probably not possible, while activities costing less than that amount do fall within the purview of the Trust Fund. There is a need to establish some priorities with respect to the main purpose. Owing to the decline in observational capabilities, high priority has to be given to those activities that increase and/or preserve ozone and UV observations. Further, high priority should be given to those activities that involve collaboration between parties operating under paragraph 1 of Article 5 (Article 5 parties) of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and parties not so operating (non-Article 5 parties) – this would include both calibration and training activities. Lastly, close attention should be paid to measurement activities that allow us to interpret our ozone observations.

12. In the light of the four overarching goals identified by the Ozone Research Managers at their ninth meeting (Geneva, 14–16 May 2014), the Committee will develop a long-term strategy and implementation objectives and priorities for the Trust Fund. The overarching goals are:

(a) *Recognize that the issues of changes in climate and in the stratospheric ozone layer are intimately coupled.* The Montreal Protocol was instituted to protect the Earth's surface from the harmful UV radiation increases that could arise from the depletion of the ozone layer by ozone-depleting substances. Over the decades, research has clearly shown that ozone layer depletion, and its projected recovery, and changes in climate are intricately linked. Indeed, the Vienna Convention specifically referred to the climate change issue. Therefore, it is essential to encompass changes in climate in efforts to protect the ozone layer;

(b) *Existing observation capabilities for climate and ozone layer variables need to be maintained and enhanced.* Given the strong coupling between ozone layer depletion and changes in climate, the observations of climate and ozone layer variables should be carried out and analysed together whenever possible;

(c) *Continue, enhance, and target the Vienna Convention Trust Fund for Research and Systematic Observation² to better support the above goals.* In line with the above two goals, it is essential to continue and significantly enhance the Vienna Convention Trust Fund for Monitoring and Research² to make it more effective in addressing some of the issues that arise from the above. It is also essential to develop a strategic plan for the Fund and to request that the Ozone Secretariat and WMO set up a small working group to assist them in setting priorities and ensuring implementation;

² Refers to the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention.

(d) *Dedicate to build capacity to meet the above goals.* Given the above, it is very important to carry out capacity-building activities in the Montreal Protocol Article 5 parties to expand the scientific expertise, with the added benefit of expanding the geographical areas for the measurements and data archival of the key variables related to the ozone layer and changing climate.

13. The Committee will develop and maintain a short-term action plan that takes into account the most urgent needs of the Global Ozone Observing System and that will make the best possible use of the resources available in the Trust Fund.

14. The Committee will assess project proposals in terms of their ability to contribute to the overarching goals of the Trust Fund, striving for regional balance and identifying opportunities for complementary funding to maximize its resources. The Committee will also conduct periodic review of funded projects at timescales that are appropriate for each project. It will evaluate final project performance in order to ensure and implement quality control for activities carried out under, and provide accountability for, the Trust Fund.

15. A website will be established for the Trust Fund and maintained by the Ozone Secretariat, to provide up-to-date information about projects, progress in their implementation and completion.