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OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP OF THE PARTIES
TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL TO CONSIDER ELEMENTS
FOR THE WORK PLANS REQUIRED BY ARTICLES 9
AND 10 OF THE PROTOCOL

Geneva, 18-22 September 1989

WORK PLANS REQUIRED BY THE PROTOCOL

Note by the Executive Director

1. In accordance with articles 9 and 10 of the Montreal Protocol and with decisions 4 and 5 (c) of the First Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, held at Helsinki from 2-5 May 1989, the Parties decided to consider the following elements as the first components for the workplans required by the Protocol:

(a) Dissemination of the reports of the four Assessment Panels (scientific, environmental, technical, and economic), as well as the synthesis report, and their follow-up;

(b) Regular updating of the panel reports, taking into account in particular the developments in the production of environmentally sound substitutes or alternative technological solutions for the use of CFCs or halons;

(c) Development of a programme, which will include workshops, demonstration projects, training courses, the exchange of experts and the provision of consultants on control options, taking into account the special needs of developing countries, for consideration by the Parties at their second meeting;

(d) Preparation of a study of retrofit technologies applicable to existing manufacturing facilities that produce controlled substances or products made with or containing such substances, to be presented to the Parties for their consideration at their second meeting;

(e) Facilitation of the production and wide dissemination of material for public information;

(f) Exploration of specific ways of promoting exchange and transfer of environmentally sound substitutes and alternative technologies;

(g) Initiatives to support activities in programmes of international organizations and financing agencies that could contribute towards implementing the provisions of the Protocol, and defining means by which the Secretariat can initiate concrete contacts with the appropriate international organizations, programmes and financing agencies for this purpose.

2. Furthermore, the Parties decided to establish an open-ended working group, inter alia, to develop the work plans specified by the above decision. Consequently, the Executive Director of UNEP has arranged for the first meeting of this Working Group of experts in Geneva from 18-22 September 1989. The mandate of this group is the development of work plans that the Parties may consider for adoption at their second meeting in London in June 1990. The Executive Director hopes that the suggestions presented in this Note will help the Working Group in its formulation of both plans and timetables for their execution.

A. Dissemination of the reports of the Assessment Panels

3. The Secretariat for the Montreal Protocol will ensure that the four review reports are made widely available. Their publication is expected in November 1989. They will be circulated only in their original English text to the Parties, to all other Governments, and to relevant governmental, international and non-governmental organizations. In addition, they will be sent on request to interested institutions and individuals at reproduction cost. Executive summaries of the reports (contained in UNEP/OzL.Pro.Asmt.1/Inf. 1-4) will be translated into all official languages of the United Nations and distributed similarly as soon as they are available.

B. Updating of the Panel reports

4. In view of the rapid advances in scientific understanding and technological development, the four-year interval between reviews called for under article 6 of the Montreal Protocol may prove to be too long. The Working Group may therefore wish to consider whether the assessment reports should instead be reviewed and updated every two years.

5. If so, then the four Panels would probably have to meet once or twice, as necessary, during the two-year period and submit to the Parties at their meeting every other year reports with updated executive summaries of the assessments. These updates would be distributed widely in all the official United Nations languages. The updates of the reports will be treated as the reports themselves. If such a procedure is adopted, the Panels would be convened by the Secretariat and the first updated assessment made available to the Parties at their third meeting in 1992.

6. An ad hoc working group would have to integrate the four updated executive summaries into one synthesis report and make any necessary recommendations for adjusting the control measures of the Protocol. Special attention would have to be given to revising estimates of the phase-down schedule for the controlled substances and for substitutes with ozone-depleting potential (ODPs) greater than 0.02.

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C. Programme for workshops, demonstration projects, training courses, exchange of experts and consultants for control options

7. As part of the environmental awareness programme, UNEP plans to convene three regional workshops on ozone layer depletion and climate change during 1990 in Africa, in the Asian and Pacific region and in the Latin American and Caribbean region. The first workshop is tentatively planned for Kuala Lumpur in February 1990. Similar workshops could be held by Parties, either individually or jointly; if so, they should inform the Secretariat and, if they wish, seek its assistance and other available resources as they deem necessary. Currently the Secretariat has not been notified of plans for any such workshops by any of the Parties to the Protocol.

8. The Secretariat believes that at least two or three workshops on atmospheric science, environmental effects, economic implications and, in particular, technology should be held every year in the African, Asian and Latin American regions. As the Secretariat is not yet financially equipped to meet this target, it is hoped that the developed countries will make specific commitments to finance and make arrangements for these workshops.

9. In these same regions, training courses should also be held, particularly in the field of CFC substitutes and alternative technologies. The Secretariat feels that a yearly target of approximately 30 trainees in each region is reasonable. This activity should be co-ordinated by the Secretariat, but could be planned and arranged on a bilateral basis with interested countries.

10. Any developing countries that request the initiation of activities such as workshops and training courses in their region should ensure that such activities accurately reflect their specific needs regarding CFC phase-out plans, and alternative technology and substitutes. To facilitate such activities it may be useful to identify five or six developing countries from each region for studies on the feasibility of reducing controlled substances. Such studies might be carried out with assistance from donor countries. They should identify the necessary institutional arrangements/changes, as well as the need for economic assistance to implement the control measures required under the Protocol. If possible, such studies should be completed by the end of 1990.

11. Finally, it is proposed that the Secretariat should compile and maintain a roster of consultants in the fields of atmospheric science, technology and economic implications, building on the list of experts who have participated in the assessment programme. These experts could be engaged through the Secretariat for specific projects requested by developing countries to assist them in implementing the Protocol. Bilateral arrangements for exchanging experts, as well as for national training schemes, fellowships and scholarships should in all cases be reported to the Secretariat, which will regularly notify the Parties. The Working Group may also wish to consider the publication of a periodic newsletter to advise Parties, other Governments and interested organizations of such activities and to expedite timely information exchange.

D. Retrofit technology

12. The Secretariat proposes that the Working Group consider plans for a study on retrofit technologies to be carried out by consultants. This study should examine the state-of-the-art within the areas covered by the Technical Option Reports and indicate possible options for future development. The study should also assess the economic impact of the availability or lack of retrofit technologies in these areas. Although it is hoped that such a study might be completed by the end of April 1990, lack of funding currently impedes this undertaking. The Working Group may wish to recommend launching additional related activities, such as a workshop on retrofit technologies and/or appropriate seminars on the subject.

E. Production and dissemination of material for public information

13. According to answers to a recent UNEP questionnaire on the issue of climate change sent to all countries, it appears that no Government to date has sponsored an official public information campaign on the problem. Public information has so far been provided only by the media. While such activity has indeed been successful in arousing public interest, the sensationalizing of the issue has occasionally resulted in a distorted interpretation of the facts and an overstatement of the risks. A similar situation almost certainly exists regarding ozone layer depletion.

14. Co-ordinated national and international programmes need to be initiated to ensure that responsible and easily assimilated materials are made available to as wide an audience as possible. These should include:

- books and pamphlets for both broad and specialized readerships;
- radio and television programmes; and
- audio-visual teaching aids.

Among the materials produced by UNEP or with its assistance are:

- the GEMS Environmental Library, Book No. 2: "The Ozone Layer";
- Environmental Brief No. 1: "The Changing Atmosphere";
- the booklet "Action on Ozone";
- the television documentary The Hole in the Sky, produced by the Television Trust for the Environment (TVE).

15. All those materials can be obtained either from the UNEP Information and Public Affairs Branch or TVE which was founded by UNEP and is based in the United Kingdom. Other information activities scheduled by UNEP for the coming biennium, include the production of an audio-visual presentation on the ozone layer comparable to Climate Change and People, produced by UNEP and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA).

16. UNEP also intends to revitalize the periodic Ozone Layer Bulletin to provide to a more specialized audience updated assessment summaries, production data for controlled substances and information on the Montreal Protocol and its implementation. In addition, attention is drawn to national publications and those of environmental organizations and industry such as The Green Consumers Guide, Saving the Ozone Layer, a television film sponsored by Dupont and Atmosphere, a quarterly publication by Friends of the Earth.

17. The Working Group may wish to consider other similar activities that could be carried by national Governments and regional intergovernmental organizations, as well as by NGOs. These could include printed and audio-visual information kits, popular publications on technology, radio and television programmes and public lectures. Such activities should be reported to the Secretariat with samples of the information materials. Such materials should, as far as possible, be in the public domain so that the Secretariat may circulate the better examples to countries which lack the facilities and experience to prepare their own information programmes.

F. Exchange and transfer of technology

18. The wide distribution of the reports of the Technology Panel constitute an important and effective first step towards the promotion of technology transfer. Since much of the technology to be transferred is in the hands of private companies, at least in the market economy countries, Governments must take action to include such technologies in concrete bilateral aid programmes and also to encourage industry to participate actively in such aid programmes and to establish demonstration projects in developing countries.

19. In addition, the Working Group should consider holding a workshop to develop programmes for encouraging technology transfer by assessing individual national needs and organizing demonstration projects and trade fairs, etc.

20. The Secretariat will probably have to issue a questionnaire to establish the needs of developing countries regarding the transfer of technology for the production and use of substitutes for the controlled substances; the more efficient and environmentally sound production and use of controlled substances during the extended phase down programme allowed for Article 5 countries; and the purchase, transport and use of substitutes made necessary by the shift away from CFCs.

G. Assistance by international organizations and financing institutions

21. It is essential that international organizations and funding agencies should agree in principle that they will not fund projects that result in increased production of the controlled substances, and that they will discourage projects which involve the use of controlled substances. Further, such organizations should agree to look favourably upon and give priority to projects using alternative substances.

22. International organizations need technical expertise to assess the environmental impact of proposed projects using controlled substances. Such expertise could be provided through a Technical Advisory Panel set up under the Protocol to consider the desirability or viability of project development.

23. Examples of tasks that might be assigned to the Advisory Panel might include the following:

(a) In cases where the particular organization's project review concludes that there would be a negative impact of controlled substances, the Panel could assess the potential for altering the project proposal so that alternative substances could be used.

(b) In cases where the proposed projects include CFC substitutes, the Panel could advise on the merits of that project in relation to other pending proposals from the standpoint of its usefulness for technology transfer. Indeed, transfer criteria should be established to rank such projects and should include the potential of the project to produce results with widespread applications, its innovative features, its scale, etc.

24. The Secretariat could also try to interest international organizations and financing agencies in meeting the needs of developing countries. Such bodies could finance research programmes, feasibility studies and demonstration programmes. They could also contribute to bilateral and multilateral international aid funds, particularly in accordance with recommendations of the Working Group of the Parties on Financial Mechanisms concerning both the financial mechanism chosen to assist developing countries, Party to the Convention and Protocol and the institutional framework to effect the appropriate financial transfer.
