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**Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to
the Montreal Protocol on Substances that
Deplete the Ozone Layer**
Twenty-fourth meeting
Geneva, 13–16 July 2004
Item 12 (d) of the provisional agenda*

**Consideration of methyl bromide issues and proposals submitted
by certain Parties: request to Technology and Economic
Assessment Panel to provide scientific and technical bases to justify
the demands of certain importing countries for agricultural foodstuffs
to be disinfected (submitted by Burkina Faso and others)**

**Request to the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel to
provide scientific and technical bases to justify the demands of
certain importing countries for agricultural foodstuffs to be
disinfected with methyl bromide alternatives**

Note by the secretariat

1. The annex to the present note contains a summary of conclusions from a regional workshop for French-speaking African countries held in Dakar, Senegal in March 2004 on the experiences of using methyl bromide alternatives evaluated under the Multilateral Fund. As a result of the workshop, a draft decision requesting the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP) to provide a scientific and technical basis to justify the demands of certain importing countries that agricultural foodstuffs be disinfected with methyl bromide alternatives was presented to the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol in March 2004 by Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cote d' Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Niger and Senegal.
2. The proposal requested the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel to provide a scientific and technical basis to justify demands by certain importing countries that agricultural foodstuffs be disinfected with methyl bromide alternatives which had been published in the 2002 report of the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee. The proposal was referred to the Open-ended Working Group at its twenty-fourth meeting by the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties for consideration along with a request that the results of the workshop held in Dakar, Senegal, of which this recommendation originated, be circulated to the Parties as background information. The present information note is circulated to all Parties in response to that request.

* UNEP/OzL.Pro.WG.1/24/1/Rev.1.

Annex

Regional workshop for French-speaking Africa on the experiences of use of methyl bromide alternatives evaluated under the Multilateral Fund

8–10 March 2004

Dakar, Senegal

Brief summary

1. The workshop was attended by representatives from 18 French-speaking African countries and environmental journalists from selected countries. Also in attendance were representatives from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and implementing agencies (the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)), local non-governmental organizations and the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).
2. The opening ceremony was presided over by Mr. Modou Fada Diagne, Minister for Environment and Sanitation of Senegal, and Mr. Leo Heileman, Network and Policy Manager of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry, and Economics (UNEP/DTIE).
3. During the opening, Mr. Heileman gave a brief background report on the methyl bromide control and phase-out schedule. He commended the support by the Multilateral Fund, which had so far funded 63 projects in 20 countries in Africa.
4. The UNDP representative confirmed the commitment of UNDP to assisting countries in their efforts to phase out methyl bromide.
5. The UNIDO representative reiterated that UNIDO was a privileged partner in providing assistance to Article 5 countries for the elimination of methyl bromide, particularly in Africa. The UNIDO representative made reference to the Extraordinary Meeting of Parties to be held at the end of the month in Montreal. The meeting would review a new intermediary phase-out schedule between 2005 and 2015 for the reduction of consumption of methyl bromide and also discuss issues on nominations for critical use exemptions. As a methyl bromide consumer, the region certainly had a role to play during future negotiations.
6. Mr. Diagne presented the key opening address, conveying the satisfaction of the Government of Senegal with the remarkable achievements that had been seen in the control of ozone depleting substances. He noted that although alternatives for CFC's were readily available on the market, the situation was different for methyl bromide, which was more complex given its nature and use. He recalled that although there were alternatives to methyl bromide for 90 per cent of its uses, the last Meeting of the Parties had encountered many difficulties concerning its use and its phase-out schedule. He urged the workshop to come up with strong recommendation for reinforcing strategies to control methyl bromide for adoption during the upcoming meeting at the end of March.
7. Presentations by UNEP, made by the regional Compliance Assistance Programme of the Montreal Protocol team, on overview of country compliance on methyl bromide consumption in French Africa, highlighted the phase-out schedule stipulated for developing countries. It was shown that the Central African Republic, Guinea and Mauritania were the only Francophone countries yet to ratify the Copenhagen Amendment. The presentation also focused on country-by-country synopses of Francophone countries' methyl bromide consumption trends. The purpose of compiling data on methyl bromide consumption trends was to help countries start recognizing and reviewing their position in the phase-out schedule.
8. The Regional Compliance Assistance Programme of the Montreal Protocol team also made presentations on assistance from the Multilateral Fund, progress on ratification and data reporting. The presentations highlighted a decision by the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on prioritized criteria for the purpose of accelerating phase-out. It was shown that the committee had requested agencies to include relevant activities for countries that might have difficulty in phasing out ozone-depleting substances in their 2004-2005 business plans.

9. Presentations on achievements in the implementation of methyl bromide phase-out activities were made by implementing agencies.
10. UNDP described projects being implemented in various African countries, and outlined the countries that were benefiting from its umbrella technical assistance project.
11. UNIDO reported that 70 per cent of the global consumption of methyl bromide was on soil, 10 per cent on commodities and 20 per cent on quarantine and pre-shipment. UNIDO also updated the participants on the quantities of methyl bromide that had been phased out in different countries.
12. UNEP highlighted non-investment projects which had been successfully implemented and had prepared countries to implement investment projects. It also described its activities in the pipeline to assist countries to achieve compliance as follows: providing technical assistance to countries to achieve 20 per cent reduction, continuation of methyl bromide communication programme with non-governmental organizations, continuation of farmer field schools and assisting countries to establish methyl bromide consultative groups.
13. Other presentations included the methyl bromide communication programme by PAN Africa, operating in Senegal. The presentation highlighted strategies used in communicating methyl bromide alternatives. Those included evaluating the situation and areas of usage, identifying appropriate alternatives and sensitizing and informing stakeholders on the effects of methyl bromide on the ozone layer and providing them with appropriate alternatives to methyl bromide. The organization had published many articles on alternatives to methyl bromide in the press and magazines and had advertised over the radio. This non-governmental organization expressed the need for continuation of this project in the region.
14. Country presentations on successful methyl bromide alternatives and phase-out activities provided the workshop with sufficient data on country achievements to allow for evaluation and assessment. Cameroon reported that two alternatives (basamid/dazomet; basamid/dazomet + solarisation) had been adopted in the tobacco sector. Côte d'Ivoire reported that methyl bromide was being used primarily for post-harvest treatment of cocoa beans. A presentation by FAO on farmer field schools highlighted validated alternatives for cut flowers. The FAO representative said that the project needed to be extended to other countries.
15. Methyl bromide experts who were Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee members also shared experiences on different alternatives for methyl bromide. Professor Besri highlighted the activities of the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee, two of the 40 members of which were from Africa. His presentation covered a series of chemical and non-chemical alternatives for soil. The presentation also focused on the integration of chemical and non-chemical methyl bromide alternatives coalescing them into a programme of integrated pest management (IPM) with respect to soil-borne pests. A wide-array of environment-friendly technologies was intensively promoted.
16. Mr. Patrick Ducom made presentations on quarantine and pre-shipment and post-harvest uses of methyl bromide alternatives. His presentation clarified different exemptions from control including their definitions with illustrative examples as outlined in the Montreal Protocol. The presentation on post-harvest highlighted different alternatives, most of which had been adopted in developed countries.
17. A case study presentation on successful licensing systems was presented by Senegal. The presentation focused on different registration schemes for ozone-depleting substances.
18. The meeting broke into working groups to cover several issues including policies and legislation; data reporting and quarantine and pre-shipment; development of national action plans; implementation of farmer field schools and suggestions for improvement; adoption of alternatives and challenges in achieving targets.
19. The workshop offered an opportunity for UNEP and other implementing agencies to hold bilateral and group side meetings with countries that were not in compliance with methyl bromide consumption requirements.

Conclusion and recommendations

20. The main area of concern, which was extensively discussed, was the desire of some countries to increase the level of use of methyl bromide on commodities destined for export. Whereas some countries accepted products treated with approved alternatives prior to export, others made it mandatory to fumigate with methyl bromide prior to export. One such country was Côte d'Ivoire, the largest producer and exporter of cocoa beans in the world. The country was committed to phasing out all

methyl bromide consumption in all sectors. Currently, the country fumigated cocoa beans with phosphine prior to export. However, some cocoa bean importers from other regions had demanded fumigation with methyl bromide prior to export. A similar situation applied to Senegal, which exported cotton. Whereas other importing countries accepted cotton fumigated with phosphine, some importers demanded fumigation with methyl bromide.

21. The participants noted that the situation was not likely to encourage Article 5 countries to continue their efforts to eliminate methyl bromide. The participants felt that if the current momentum to eliminate methyl bromide in all sectors was not maintained, the issue might become more complex for African countries. It was agreed that African delegates should bring up this issue during the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties in Montreal at the end of March 2004.

22. The participants also sought to draw the attention of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund to the need to take into account the reality of the risks of reintroducing methyl bromide in countries with low consumption or in non-consuming countries if they were not supported in implementing preventive activities.

23. The following specific recommendations were agreed:

(a) To request the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund, in view of the implementation of the Montreal Protocol, to reinforce technical and financial support to non-consuming and low volume ODS-consuming countries, to enable them to define strategies to combat soil pests of essential crops, using alternatives to methyl bromide such as those defined by the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee within the framework of integrated pest management;

(b) To request the Secretariat of the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol to translate and publish in the official languages of the United Nations the evaluation reports of the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee on the alternatives to methyl bromide;

(c) To invite exporting countries in the region to consult with the authorities in importing countries to seek justification for the requirement that commodities be fumigated with methyl bromide and to propose that the next Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol deliberate on the issue.

(d) To propose a draft decision asking TEAP to provide to the next Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol scientific and technical basic elements justifying the requirement by certain importing countries that producers fumigate with methyl bromide certain agricultural products for which alternatives exist and which were published in the last MBTOC report of (2002).

(e) To request UNEP to submit to the Multilateral Fund a proposal to continue the implementation of the methyl bromide communication programme with non-governmental organizations;

(f) To request UNEP to submit to the Multilateral Fund a proposal to implement farmer field schools with more low volume ODS-consuming countries to validate alternatives to methyl bromide;

(g) To request UNEP to continue involving the African Network of Environmental Journalists in its information and awareness-raising programme in order to help prevent introduction or reintroduction of methyl bromide into countries without methyl bromide consumption.