

Ozone Research Managers of the Parties to the Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer

Concept for the Seventh Meeting

Background

1. The Parties to the Vienna Convention under Decision I/6 of the First Conference of the Parties, established, as subsidiary bodies of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention:

- (ii) *A Meeting composed of: (a) Government Atmospheric Research Managers and (b) Government Research Managers of research related to health and environmental effects of ozone modifications.*

Such a Meeting shall review ongoing national and international research and monitoring programmes to ensure proper co-ordination of these programmes and identify gaps that need to be addressed.

The Meeting shall be held every 2 years (6 months prior to the meeting of the Parties) jointly with a meeting of the Bureau. The Meeting should produce a report including recommendations for future research and expanded co-operation between researchers in developed and developing countries for presentation to the following meeting of the Parties to the Convention.

It is assumed that the Research Managers from developed countries will cover their own expenses and that the Secretariat budget will cover only participation of no more than ten Research Managers from developing countries.

2. By Decision III/8 adopted at the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Parties decided:

to hold a meeting of the Ozone Research Managers every three years, six months prior to the meeting of the Conference of the Parties and back-to-back with the meeting of the Bureau of the Conference in partial modification of decision VCI/6 of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

3. Prior to this, the Conference of the Parties, at its second meeting, had adopted the decision:

To convene the meeting of the Conference of the Parties once every three years starting from the 1993 meeting, i.e. to hold the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 1996;

Introduction

4. In accordance with the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties, the Seventh Meeting of the Ozone Research Managers of the Parties to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer is due to be held in 2008, six months prior to the Eighth Conference of the Parties which will be held back-to-back with the Twentieth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The Twentieth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol is scheduled for 16-20 November 2008.

5. The current note describes the concept for the Seventh Meeting of the Ozone Research Managers, namely, the proposed objectives and the timing of the meeting. The note has been prepared in order to distribute it, particularly to the Parties of the Vienna Convention to seek their views and comments on the concept contained in the note.

Objectives of the Meeting

6. The objective of the Ozone Research Managers' meetings is defined under Decision I/6 of the Conference of the Parties as to “*produce a report including recommendations for future research and expanded co-operation between researchers in developed and developing countries for presentation to the following meeting of the Parties to the Convention*”. Thus, the Seventh Meeting of the Ozone Research Managers will review ongoing national and international research and monitoring programmes with a view to ensure the proper coordination of these programmes and to identify gaps that need to be addressed. The Ozone Secretariat together with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and in consultation with the Bureau of the Seventh Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention proposes to place a stronger emphasis at the Seventh Meeting on the future of satellite monitoring of the atmosphere and on ground-based validation of satellite data.

7. The Ozone Research Managers at their Sixth Meeting held in Vienna, 19-21 September 2005, noted that international funding and cooperation are essential for implementation of the recommendations of the meeting and that the past recommendations of the managers had not received sufficient attention due to the absence of such funding and cooperation. That fact had exacerbated problems associated with the maintenance of existing instruments and networks for ozone monitoring and the development of new capabilities.

8. As pointed out by the Ozone Research Managers at their Sixth Meeting, considerable uncertainties remain in the understanding of the atmospheric processes involved in ozone depletion and its recovery. While the effectiveness of the implementation of the Montreal Protocol and its adjustments and amendments have been clearly observed, the abundances of many of the replacement chemicals are increasing and the effective equivalent stratospheric chlorine (EESC) will remain above pre-1980 levels for decades. Ozone will therefore remain vulnerable to chemical depletion for several decades and the risks associated with increased UV radiation on human health and ecosystems will also remain. Continued research and observations are critical to understanding the changes in ozone and labeling of the ozone recovery to anthropogenic halocarbons. Complex and strong interlinkages between climate change and ozone also affects the ozone recovery and improving the understanding of those processes is ever more urgent in light of the emerging evidence of the ozone layer recovery and the threat of climate change which is an issue gaining further political lime light. Moreover, with the adoption of adjustments to speed up the phase-out of production and consumption of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) under the Montreal Protocol at the recently concluded Nineteenth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, the further impacts of the implementation of those adjustments will have on the ozone layer as well as climate need to be monitored.

9. In order to achieve the objectives, it is planned that key ozone and atmospheric scientists including the Nobel Laureates, the Co-Chairs and members of the Scientific Assessment Panel (SAP), the members of the WMO Scientific Advisory Group on Ozone and the Environmental Effects Assessment Panel of the Montreal Protocol, and scientists heading international programmes for research and monitoring from leading institutions around the world be invited along with the national ozone research managers, to enable an in-depth discussion of the relevant international and national level activities to identify clearly and concretely where the needs and gaps are and prioritize the needs. With the involvement of the many key scientists, it is hoped that the meeting will be able to bring forth in its report an account of the critical need for continued atmospheric research and observation with a set of recommendations on required activities and their priorities.

Proposed Dates and Venue

10. Securing the participation of the Nobel Laureates and key scientists will be strategically important for ensuring that the objectives of the meeting are achieved. Furthermore, careful preparation is necessary for the discussions at the meeting with detailed analysis carried out in advance of the meeting. The preparation includes not only the organization of the logistics for the meeting by the Ozone Secretariat and WMO, but also the preparation of national reports by the ozone research managers on ongoing and planned ozone research and monitoring activities in his/her country and the preparation of the

presentations by the scientists. As usual, these reports and presentations will be the basis for the discussions at the meeting and the subsequent recommendations that will emerge. The reports and presentations will be requested well in advance of the meeting to enable WMO and the Ozone Secretariat to conduct some analysis of the current situation and needs to prepare for a fruitful discussion at the meeting.

11. In consultation with WMO, the Seventh Meeting of the Ozone Research Managers has been set for 19-21 May 2008 at the premises of WMO in Geneva, Switzerland.

12. A provisional agenda will be sent out shortly and we would appreciate feed-back and suggestions for topics to raise at the meeting.

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