

Ad Hoc Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts for the Elaboration of a Global Framework Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer
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STATEMENT BY THE WMO REPRESENTATIVE AT THE
AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF LEGAL AND TECHNICAL EXPERTS
FOR THE ELABORATION OF A GLOBAL FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE
PROTECTION OF THE OZONE LAYER

As a result of a recommendation from the previous session of this Working Group, the Secretary-General of WMO has considered the question of the execution of the secretariat functions envisaged under the draft Convention and is in a position to provisionally report the following .

Firstly. By virtue of the purpose of the Organization as laid down in Article 2 of its Convention, WMO can obviously be considered as the appropriate Organization responsible for the exchange of meteorological and related geophysical data and their application to human activities. However, before making any formal commitments, the possible implementation of secretariat functions by WMO requires due consideration by the Executive Council's Bureau which will meet in January-February 1984 and subsequently by the Executive Council in June 1984. Only then an official position by WMO on this matter could be expected and reported to this Working Group or to any other appropriate authority provided that it is the feeling of this Group to continue to endorse its earlier recommendation in this respect.

Secondly. WMO is and will continue to be active in fulfilling its responsibility as lead agency in several fields of the World Plan of Action on the Ozone Layer and, as such, reiterates its willingness to be associated in the future implementation of the Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, its Annexes and Protocols.

In this connexion WMO's efforts are primarily concentrated on :

- o Improving the Global Ozone Observing System (GOOS) including observations (total ozone and vertical distribution), instruments, calibration, data collection and analysis, trends detection,

- o Clarifying physical processes and phenomena which possibly affect ozone photochemistry and ozone trends including theoretical modelling and laboratory studies,
- o Studying the potential climatic effects of ozone and other radiatively active minor trace gases such as carbon, nitrogen, chlorine, bromine and hydrogen substances.

It should be noted that satisfactory progress has been made in the past in obtaining an improved Global Ozone Observing System as well as in other related activities with the valuable assistance provided by UNEP and the expertise received from interested donor countries.

Thirdly. The secretariat functions envisaged under the draft Convention do seem to require additional expertise and qualifications which, under the present circumstances, are not available in the WMO Secretariat. As mentioned in Articles 5 to 10 of the draft Convention, they mainly concern,

- o Certain legal, procedural or regulatory aspects aimed at keeping the Convention, its Annexes and Protocols and amendments in due form and order,
- o Assistance on the information exchange pertaining to policies, strategies and measures to minimize the release of substances causing or likely to cause modifications in the ozone layer,
- o Co-ordination with other relevant international bodies.

Additional support would be required for the arrangement and servicing of meetings, the preparation of documentation and reports, their translation and other related administrative functions.
