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the Vienna Convention for the Protection  
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Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda for  
the preparatory segment\*

**Vienna Convention issues: status of the General  
Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research  
and Systematic Observations Relevant to the  
Vienna Convention**

## **General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention**

**Note by the Secretariat**

### **I. Introduction**

1. In decision XI/2, the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer requested the Secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting on the operation of, contributions to and expenditure from the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention (the “Trust Fund”) and on the activities funded from the Trust Fund since its inception, as well as on the work of the Advisory Committee supervising the activities under the Trust Fund. In accordance with that decision, the present note provides an overview of the requested issues.

2. The objectives and activities of the Trust Fund are central to the work of the Ozone Research Managers of the Parties to the Vienna Convention, due not only to their mandate under the Vienna Convention but also to their national responsibilities. The status and the activities of the Trust Fund as well as the work of its Advisory Committee were reviewed by the Ozone Research Managers during the second part of their eleventh meeting, which, owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, was held online from 19 to 23 July 2021.<sup>1</sup> On the basis of that review, the Ozone Research Managers made several recommendations, which were included in the report of their meeting<sup>2</sup> and have been reproduced in document UNEP/OzL.Conv.12(II)/7 for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention at the second part of its twelfth meeting.<sup>3</sup> Other issues for the consideration of the parties relate to the implementation of the long-term strategy and the short-term

\* UNEP/OzL.Conv.12/1–UNEP/OzL.Pro.33/1.

<sup>1</sup> The first part of the eleventh meeting of the Ozone Research Managers was held in October 2020 and covered only issues related to gaps in the global coverage of atmospheric monitoring of controlled substances.

<sup>2</sup> <https://ozone.unep.org/system/files/documents/COP-12-II-7E.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> The first part of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties was held in November 2020 and was dedicated solely to the consideration of the budget of the Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention for 2020 and 2021.

plan of action for the Trust Fund by the Advisory Committee, also requested by the Conference of the Parties in decision XI/2.

## II. The operation of the Trust Fund

3. The General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention was established by decision VI/2 of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention in 2002. It is an extrabudgetary fund for receiving voluntary contributions from the parties and international organizations for the purpose of financing certain research and systematic observation activities related to the Convention in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

4. The primary aim of the Trust Fund, according to decision VI/2, is to provide complementary support for the continued maintenance and calibration of the existing World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Global Atmosphere Watch ground-based stations for monitoring column ozone, ozone profiles and ultraviolet radiation in the developing countries and in the countries with economies in transition, to address balanced global coverage. In the decision, the Conference of the Parties also recognized that consideration should be given to supporting other activities identified by the Ozone Research Managers and in consultation with the co-chairs of the Montreal Protocol's Scientific Assessment Panel and Environmental Effects Assessment Panel, for the improvement of the observation network and relevant research.

5. WMO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), represented by the Ozone Secretariat, signed a memorandum of understanding in September 2005 on the institutional arrangements for making decisions on the allocation of funds in the Trust Fund, and presented it to the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention at its seventh meeting, held in 2005. In decision VII/2, the Conference of the Parties requested UNEP and WMO to continue their cooperation with regard to the Trust Fund pursuant to the terms set out in that memorandum and on the understanding that the agreement could be changed as necessary to meet evolving needs and conditions.

6. The Trust Fund started its operation in February 2003 with a five-year term ending on 31 December 2007. Thereafter, the term of the Trust Fund was extended three times. The current term will expire on 31 December 2026. The request for its third extension, set out in decision XI/2 in 2017, was approved by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its third session, in December 2017, in its decision 3/3.<sup>4</sup>

## III. The Advisory Committee of the Trust Fund

7. Since 2015, the activities under the Trust Fund have been overseen by an advisory committee, established pursuant to decision X/3, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention in 2014. As provided in that decision, the Committee consists of 10 members, including two co-chairs of the Scientific Assessment Panel, the two co-chairs of the Ozone Research Managers, one representative of the Ozone Secretariat and up to five scientists and experts in ozone observations, as well as one representative of WMO as an observer, striving for equitable geographical and gender representation.<sup>5</sup> The terms of reference of the Committee, developed and adopted at its second meeting, in October 2016, are available on the Secretariat's website.<sup>6</sup>

8. The Committee, which convenes electronically or in the margins of relevant meetings, has met nine times since its establishment in 2015.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> United Nations Environment Assembly decision 3/3, on the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions, section II, paragraph 7 F (c).

<sup>5</sup> The current composition of the Advisory Committee can be found on the Ozone Secretariat's website at <https://ozone.unep.org/vienna-advisory>.

<sup>6</sup> <https://ozone.unep.org/sites/default/files/Terms-of-reference-for-the-Advisory-Committee-of-the-Trust-Fund.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> On 31 October 2015 (Dubai, United Arab Emirates); 9 October 2016 (Kigali); 27 March 2017 (Geneva); 11 October 2017 (online); 19 March 2018 (online); 20 February 2019 (online); 20 February 2020 (online); 26 March 2021 (online); 12 July 2021 (online).

9. In accordance with decision X/3, the mandate of the Advisory Committee is:
- (a) To develop a long-term strategy and implementation objectives and priorities in the light of the four overarching goals identified by the Ozone Research Managers at their ninth meeting;<sup>8</sup>
  - (b) To develop a short-term action plan that would take into account the most urgent needs of the Global Ozone Observing System and make the best possible use of the resources available in the Trust Fund;
  - (c) To ensure quality control of the individual project proposals developed under the Trust Fund, striving for regional balance in the projects supported by the Fund and identifying possibilities for complementary funding to maximize its resources.
10. The long-term strategy and short-term plan of action for the Trust Fund, prepared by the Advisory Committee after receiving feedback from the Ozone Research Managers at their tenth meeting, in March 2017, were presented to the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting, in November 2017.<sup>9</sup> The Conference of the Parties subsequently adopted decision XI/2, in which the Advisory Committee was requested, with the assistance of the WMO and the Ozone Secretariat, to implement its long-term strategy and short-term plan of action for the Trust Fund. The Committee's progress on this matter is summarized in section VI below and will be presented to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration at part II of its twelfth meeting.
11. In accordance with its mandate, and taking into account paragraph 3 of decision X/2,<sup>10</sup> the Advisory Committee has evaluated 18 activities since the start of its work in 2015. The outcome of the Committee's evaluations is presented in section IV below. An update on its work in response to decision XI/2 is provided below.

#### **IV. Status of the Trust Fund**

12. In decision XI/2, the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention requested the Secretariat to continue to invite parties and relevant international organizations, as appropriate, to make financial and/or in-kind contributions towards well-defined, well-budgeted project proposals developed under the Trust Fund. Accordingly, the Secretariat has done so on an annual basis, the last such correspondence to parties being on 16 October 2020. At the present meeting, the parties may wish to review the status of the Trust Fund and the activities for which funding has been requested but not yet approved by the Committee due to lack of funds, and to make any voluntary contributions.
13. The status of the Trust Fund from its inception in 2003 until 31 July 2021 is shown in table 1 (on page 5 of the present note). As at 31 July 2021, a total of \$642,572 had been made available to support the activities of the Trust Fund. That amount includes direct voluntary financial contributions to the Trust Fund from 14 parties, the interest income earned, the exchange gains/losses incurred by the Trust Fund (\$39,962) and a contribution by one party to WMO on the condition that the funds be used for activities under the Trust Fund (\$35,545). Of the total amount, \$503,522 has been disbursed or allocated for completed, ongoing or planned activities. The funds currently available for future activities, including administrative costs, total \$139,050.

#### **V. Activities and associated costs**

14. From its inception in 2003 until 31 July 2021, the Trust Fund disbursed or allocated funds in support of 19 activities, comprising:
- (a) Five activities completed by 2014, prior to the establishment of the Advisory Committee;
  - (b) Fourteen activities evaluated and approved by the Advisory Committee, including: seven activities listed for priority funding at the ninth meeting of the Ozone Research Managers in

<sup>8</sup> UNEP/OzL.Conv.10/6.

<sup>9</sup> UNEP/OzL.Conv.11/6, section E and annex.

<sup>10</sup> Decision X/2, para. 3: "To accord priority to capacity-building activities, in particular the specific projects identified for priority funding under the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention, related to the inter-calibration of instruments, the training of instrument operators and increasing the number of ozone observations, especially through the relocation of available Dobson instruments".

2014,<sup>11</sup> one of which was subsequently divided into two;<sup>12</sup> one additional activity;<sup>13</sup> and five out of eight project proposals submitted in 2016 and 2017 in response to the Secretariat's 2016 call for proposals from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

15. Altogether, more than 40 countries have participated in the above-mentioned activities and the total funds disbursed or allocated to those activities amount to \$503,522.

16. All supported activities as at 31 July 2021 and associated costs are listed in table 2 (on page 6 of the present note). They comprise:

- (a) Two calibrations of Brewer instruments;
- (b) Seven intercomparisons of Dobson instruments from a total of 30 countries;
- (c) One workshop on data quality;
- (d) Two training courses, for Dobson and Brewer operators, respectively;
- (e) Two relocations of Dobson instruments (one of which is yet to be implemented);
- (f) Five projects (out of the eight proposals submitted in 2016 and 2017), comprising: two projects related to ozonesondes; one project on capacity-building on data management and instrument calibration; one project on supply of a second-hand Brewer instrument; and one project on purchase of instrumentation.

17. The status of the three remaining project proposals (out of the eight proposals submitted in 2016 and 2017) is presented in table 3 (on page 7 of the present note).

18. In December 2020, the Secretariat invited developing countries and countries with economies in transition to submit new project proposals by 30 June 2021 for support under the Trust Fund. In response, 10 proposals were submitted by six parties: Brazil, China, Ecuador, India, Mexico and Pakistan. The proposals by Brazil and Mexico are regional and include more countries. The Secretariat forwarded the proposals to the Advisory Committee for its consideration. The Committee has already considered and decided not to approve the proposal by Pakistan.<sup>14</sup> It is still considering the other proposals, which are listed in table 4 (on page 7 of the present note).

19. Information about the activities under the Trust Fund is also available on the website of the Ozone Secretariat.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Priority for funding was accorded to eight activities, one of which was subsequently cancelled.

<sup>12</sup> See table 2, activities 10 and 16.

<sup>13</sup> See table 2, activity 7.

<sup>14</sup> The proposal, entitled "Upgradation of emissions and ambient monitoring facility at CEPS (Centre for Environmental Protection Studies), PCSIR (Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research)", requesting an amount equivalent to \$194,000 (approximate figure), was found to be outside the scope of the Secretariat's 2020 call for proposals.

<sup>15</sup> <https://ozone.unep.org/activities>.

Table 1

**Status of the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention as at 31 July 2021**  
(in United States dollars)

<i>Party</i>	<i>2003–2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>Total</i>
Andorra	5 573									5 573
Australia			28 011							28 011
Austria					17 773					17 773
Czechia	18 000									18 000
Estonia	2 000									2 000
Finland	44 955	4 535		6 369	3 555	3 497	3 318	3 525		69 754
France	33 811			10 204	9 605			10 664		64 284
Kazakhstan	11 361									11 361
Norway					27 943	28 438	32 537	36 132		125 050
South Africa	60 000									60 000
Spain	12 341									12 341
Sweden						44 121				44 121
Switzerland	20 677				15 856	14 955			16 322	67 810
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	40 987									40 987
<b>Total contributions including pledges</b>	<b>249 705</b>	<b>4 535</b>	<b>28 011</b>	<b>16 573</b>	<b>74 732</b>	<b>91 011</b>	<b>35 855</b>	<b>50 321</b>	<b>16 322</b>	<b>567 065</b>
Exchange gain/(loss)	776			(342)	(276)	(1 355)	2 074	719		1 596
Interest income	26 893	693	201	1 040	1 291	2 690	3 243	2 315		38 366
<b>Total cash</b>	<b>277 374</b>	<b>5 228</b>	<b>28 212</b>	<b>17 271</b>	<b>75 747</b>	<b>92 346</b>	<b>41 172</b>	<b>53 355</b>	<b>16 322</b>	<b>607 027</b>
Expenditures/advances to WMO <sup>a</sup>	(102 885)		(24 251)	(29 373)	(72 932)	(27 923)	(130 287)	(33 899)	(42 351)	(463 901)
Approved activities										(22 600)
<b>Balance available (Trust Fund)</b>										<b>120 526</b>
German contribution to WMO					35 545					35 545
Expenditures <sup>a</sup>							(17 021)			(17 021)
<b>Balance available (WMO)<sup>b</sup></b>										<b>18 524</b>
<b>Total balance available</b>										<b>139 050</b>

<sup>a</sup> Amount includes administrative costs charged by UNEP and WMO.

<sup>b</sup> Using the United Nations exchange rate of 1 December 2017 (\$1 = €0.844).

Table 2  
**Funding of supported activities under the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention as at 31 July 2021**  
(in United States dollars, including administrative costs)

<i>Activity no.<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Completed activities</i>	<i>Funds disbursed</i>
1	Dobson intercomparison Dahab, Egypt, 23 February–12 March 2004	16 950
2	Calibration of Brewer instrument no. 116 Bandung, Indonesia, 5–9 September 2006	18 193
3	Calibration of Brewer instrument no. 176 Kathmandu, 20–26 September 2006	
4	Dobson intercomparison Irene, South Africa, 12–30 October and 15–26 November 2009	25 083
5	Workshop on data quality in the total ozone network Hradec Králové, Czechia, 14–18 February 2011	38 227
6	Relocation of Dobson no. 14 (formerly deployed in Tromsø, Norway) to Tomsk, Russian Federation, <sup>b</sup> April 2015; Dobson training course in Hradec Králové, Czechia, 7–14 April 2015	13 593
7	Dobson training course in Amberd, Armenia, 28 September–4 October 2015	
8	Dobson intercomparison campaign for Asia <sup>b</sup> Tsukuba, Japan, 7–25 March 2016	27 445
9	Dobson intercomparison campaign for Australia and Oceania <sup>b</sup> Melbourne, Australia, 13–24 February 2017	20 204
10	Dobson intercomparison campaign for northern Africa <sup>c</sup> El Arenosillo, Spain, 4–15 September 2017	32 654
11	Training workshop for Brewer operators <sup>b</sup> Sydney, Australia, 4–9 September 2017	20 000 <sup>e</sup>
12	Joint project proposal by WMO/Global Atmosphere Watch and Southern Hemisphere Additional Ozonesondes: Jülich Ozone Sonde Intercomparison Experiment 2017 <sup>d</sup> Jülich, Germany, 9–20 October and 23 October–3 November 2017	20 000
13a	Kenya: Capacity-building on data management and instrument calibration: part 1 <sup>d</sup> Hradec Králové, Czechia; and Payerne, Zürich and Dübendorf, Switzerland, 18 June–6 July 2018	25 015
13b	Kenya: Capacity-building on data management and instrument calibration: part 2 <sup>d</sup> Kenya, 18–27 March 2019	17 021
14	Dobson intercomparison campaign for Latin America and the Caribbean <sup>b</sup> Buenos Aires, 4–22 March 2019	40 000 <sup>f</sup>
15	Ecuador: Ecuadorian Highlands Ozonesondes project <sup>d</sup> Cumbayá, Ecuador, 1 March 2019–30 April 2020 <sup>g</sup>	56 274
16	Dobson intercomparison campaign for southern Africa <sup>c</sup> Irene, South Africa, 7–18 October 2019	25 513
<i>Activity No.</i>	<i>Ongoing activities</i>	<i>Funds disbursed</i>
18	Kyrgyzstan: Technical support, information exchange for atmospheric monitoring at the shore of the high mountain lake, Issyk-Kul <sup>d</sup> 22 January 2020–30 June 2020 <sup>h</sup>	33 900
19	Comoros: Project on the establishment of an ozone observatory in Comoros <sup>d</sup> 11 May 2021–30 April 2022	50 850
<i>Activity No.</i>	<i>Planned activities</i>	<i>Funds allocated</i>
17	Relocation of Dobson no. 8 (formerly deployed in Spitzbergen, Norway) to an interested party <sup>b,i</sup> (to be determined)	22 600
<b>Total funds disbursed and allocated</b>		<b>503 522</b>

<sup>a</sup> Activities numbered in the order they were approved.

<sup>b</sup> Listed for priority funding by the Ozone Research Managers at their ninth meeting in May 2014.

<sup>c</sup> Activities 10 and 16 were listed for priority funding at the ninth meeting of the Ozone Research Managers as one activity but were subsequently divided into two activities, covering northern and southern Africa, respectively.

<sup>d</sup> Project proposal submitted in response to the Secretariat's invitation in 2016.

<sup>e</sup> Also supported by the Canadian Brewer Trust Fund with an additional \$20,000.

<sup>f</sup> The Trust Fund disbursed only \$40,000 out of the \$50,000 originally allocated to the activity, as WMO kindly covered the remaining \$10,000 from another trust fund.

<sup>g</sup> Completed by 30 June 2021 owing to pandemic-related delays.

<sup>h</sup> Expected to be completed by 31 March 2025 owing to pandemic-related delays.

<sup>i</sup> Originally destined to be relocated to Sri Lanka.

Table 3  
**Project proposals received in 2016 and 2017 that were not approved or are under consideration**

	<i>Project proposal</i>	<i>Funds requested (United States dollars)</i>	<i>Status</i>
1	Belarus: Preparing for and undertaking intercomparison sessions of three instruments to monitor total ozone and ultraviolet radiation in Belarus	50 000	Under consideration <sup>a</sup>
2	Oman: Measurement of the diurnal and seasonal variation of ozone towards improving knowledge on ozone trend estimates: case study of Oman	50 000	Not approved
3	Togo: Construction and equipping of a laboratory for continuous measurement of the stratospheric ozone layer and atmospheric ozone	786 073	Not approved
<b>Total funds requested</b>		<b>886 073</b>	

<sup>a</sup> The Advisory Committee has proposed support of \$20,000 instead and requested Belarus to respond to the offer.

Table 4  
**New project proposals received in 2021 that are under consideration by the Advisory Committee**

<i>Party</i>	<i>Project proposal</i>	<i>Funds requested (United States dollars)</i>
Brazil	South American Brewer Spectrophotometer Network <sup>a</sup>	99 681
China	International integration and capacity-building for observations of controlled substances in Asian developing countries	50 000
	International and domestic communication on ODS and HFC monitoring technology, data analysis and quality control methods	50 000
Ecuador	Expanding ozone sounding operations in Ecuador from the Andes to the Galapagos Islands: the ECHOZ-SHADOZ synergy	36 945
	Exposure to ultraviolet radiation and dermatological effects on people linked to productive sectors of the provinces of Pichincha, Guayas, Manabi, Pastaza and Galápagos, in Ecuador	50 000
	Implementation of the Research Centre on Solar Energy and Ozone “Mitad del Mundo”	50 000
India	Capacity-building and awareness workshop on stratospheric and tropospheric ozone measurements and calibration of ozone measuring equipment	49 920
	Impact of trace gases emissions changes on the stratospheric ozone layer and the present-day and future climate over South Asia	50 000
Mexico	Monitoring of solar ultraviolet radiation band “B” in Central America and the Caribbean <sup>a</sup>	50 000
<b>Total funds requested</b>		<b>486 546</b>

*Abbreviations:* ECHOZ – Ecuadorian Highlands Ozonesondes; HFC – hydrofluorocarbon; ODS – ozone-depleting substance; SHADOZ – Southern Hemisphere Additional Ozonesondes.

<sup>a</sup> Regional project.

20. Despite the limited resources of the Trust Fund, the activities undertaken have been effective and important. They have yielded positive results for the continuation and enhancement of global systematic observations. The importance of the Trust Fund has been recognized by the parties in their decisions on several occasions.<sup>16</sup> Clearly, however, the funds balance available in the Trust Fund is insufficient to cover the costs associated with project proposals that may be submitted in the future. The parties may wish to consider the situation and make appropriate recommendations.

<sup>16</sup> See, for example, decisions X/3 and XI/2 of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention.

## **VI. Availability of funds for future activities versus funds requested**

21. The information provided above may be summarized as follows:

(a) The total income of the Trust Fund from February 2003 to July 2021 (18 years), taking into account the interest accrued, fluctuations in exchange rates and the contribution by one party (Germany) to WMO for activities under the Trust Fund, was \$642,572.

(b) From February 2003 to June 2021, funds were disbursed or allocated to a total of 19 approved activities, including the activities listed for priority funding at the ninth meeting of the Ozone Research Managers in 2014.

(c) The total cost of the 19 approved activities was \$503,522.

(d) In the light of subparagraphs (a) and (c) above, the balance currently available for activities, including administrative costs, is \$139,050.

(e) At the time of preparation of the present note, 10 developing countries had responded to the Secretariat's call to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in December 2020 for submission of new project proposals to be supported by the Trust Fund. One of those proposals has already been considered by the Advisory Committee and has not been approved. The total amount requested in the remaining nine proposals is \$486,546, an amount far greater than the current available Trust Fund balance.

## **VII. Progress in the implementation of the long-term strategy and short-term plan of action for the Trust Fund**

22. In accordance with decision XI/2, the Advisory Committee has worked to implement its long-term strategy and short-term plan of action for the Trust Fund, including by identifying gaps and needs in research and monitoring; exploring the use of new and cost-effective instrumentation; fostering stronger relationships with related institutions and networks; and developing a strategic plan for mobilizing resources. The outcomes of the Committee's work on these areas were presented to the Ozone Research Managers during the second part of their eleventh meeting, in July 2021, and are summarized in the following paragraphs.

### **A. Identification of gaps and needs in research and monitoring of ozone and related climate variables**

23. The gaps in research and monitoring identified by the Advisory Committee are related to total ozone observations, particularly in the tropics and subtropics, where more sustained observations are needed; ozone profile and partial columns observations, including homogenization of ozonesonde records and better understanding of tropospheric ozone trends; calibration and comparison activities, focusing on continued support and training to address poor reporting of data obtained and ensure the continuation of good quality measurements; and ozone research, pertaining in particular to ozone trends in the upper troposphere-lower stratosphere, validation of merged total ozone and ozone profile satellite records and greater participation of scientists from developing countries in assessments and other science-based decision-making processes.

24. The Advisory Committee also considered the issue of gaps in the monitoring of substances controlled under the Montreal Protocol. One of the major gaps discovered was the lack of measurements to identify and quantify regional emissions of those substances. Two Committee members were involved in the preparation of a white paper on the issue, which was discussed at part I of the eleventh meeting of the Ozone Research Managers, in October 2020. Based on the findings set out in that paper, and given the limited resources of the Trust Fund, the Advisory Committee decided that measuring controlled substances was not a viable activity for project support under the Trust Fund. Similarly, measurement of some related climate variables was found to be outside the capability of the Trust Fund. Therefore, it was decided that the Trust Fund activities should be limited to ozone measurement science.

### **B. Exploration of the use of new instrumentation and fostering of cooperation with and support by relevant programmes and institutions**

25. The Advisory Committee conducted systematic exploration of new and cost-effective instrumentation for ground-based observations of column ozone, taking into consideration the experience and information gained by various intercomparison campaigns by the WMO GAW programme. The key finding from this exploration was that many instruments that are accurate and

precise are emerging; however, the expertise, cost, ability to repair and infrastructure needed to field them are currently limited to developed countries. It is expected that more affordable, robust and easily operated instruments will emerge in time. The Trust Fund could then help in their deployment at a reasonable cost and with ease of operation. On the basis of those findings, after many internal discussions, the Committee concluded that in the upcoming 5 to 10 years it would be best to maintain the Dobson spectrometers and, when possible, the Brewer spectrometer to conduct measurements in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. It was therefore decided that for the Trust Fund, with its limited financial resources, the best path during the coming year is to help refurbish and deploy Dobson spectrometers made available by institutions that are “retiring” these instruments. It was also decided that the best locations for the available Dobson instruments should be carefully considered on the basis of the need for data, the available infrastructure and the expertise of the proposers. The Trust Fund is expected to continue to support the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in regular ozone measurement intercomparisons.

### **C. Fostering of stronger relationships with scientific institutions and related global networks to build capacity and the infusion of knowledge for the activities under the consideration of the Advisory Committee**

26. The Advisory Committee continued to foster stronger relationships with relevant reputable entities. This was mainly achieved through the participation of Committee members in various scientific institutions and in global networks. Another potential venue for such development, international scientific meetings, was essentially unavailable over the past 18 months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, the Committee has established good relationships with some of the major international organizations involved in ozone layer science, such as the Stratosphere-Troposphere Processes and their Role in Climate (SPARC) and its World Climate Research Programme, the International Ozone Commission (IO<sub>3</sub>C), the WMO Global Atmosphere Watch programme, the Network for the Detection of Atmospheric Composition Change and the Canadian Brewer Trust Fund. In addition, Committee members continue to have good collaboration with institutions of various countries involved in ozone layer science.

### **D. Development of a strategic plan for mobilizing public and financial resources and in-kind contributions for the Trust Fund**

27. The Advisory Committee spent considerable time and effort in developing a document that was turned into a brochure<sup>17</sup> that could be used to attract funding from non-governmental agencies. Committee members also explored their contacts with various national agencies and non-governmental institutions and sent the brochure to the respective contacts. Telephone and ad hoc meetings were held with those contacts. After some time and effort, it became clear that raising financial resources outside the remit of the Montreal Protocol requires dedicated staff trained in fundraising. As the Committee members were not in general conversant with such activities, it was decided that this effort would be abandoned unless UNEP and its affiliates can provide such capabilities.

28. In addition to the actions mentioned above, the Committee developed guidelines for evaluation of submitted proposals, including emphasis on the need for activity cost-sharing and guarantees for project sustainability on provision of seed money by the Trust Fund, which entails an ongoing commitment to submitting data to the World Ozone and Ultraviolet Radiation Data Centre. Furthermore, the Committee tried to pair the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition with expertise in developed countries, and, through the Ozone Secretariat, operationalized relevant webpages on the Trust Fund and its activities.

29. The Chair of the Advisory Committee will present the Committee’s progress in implementing the relevant provisions of decision XI/2 at part II of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in October 2021.

### **E. Expected action**

30. At part II of its twelfth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention is expected to consider the status of the Trust Fund and the work of the Advisory Committee, including its implementation of the long-term strategy and short-term plan of action for the Trust Fund, and to take appropriate action.

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<sup>17</sup> <https://ozone.unep.org/sites/default/files/Vienna-Convention-brochure.pdf>.