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**Bureau of the Tenth meeting of the
Conference of the Parties to
the Vienna Convention for the
Protection of the Ozone Layer**

First meeting
Geneva, 30 March 2017

**Issues for discussion by and information for the attention of the Bureau of
the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna
Convention**

Note by the Secretariat

1. The present note addresses the issues on the provisional agenda of the first meeting of the Bureau of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer¹ and provides information for the preparation of the meeting.

A. Arrangements

2. Consistent with decision I/6 subparagraph (a)(i), the present meeting is being convened in conjunction with the tenth meeting of the Ozone Research Managers of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. The Bureau members have also been invited to participate in the tenth meeting of the Ozone Research Managers.

3. The Bureau will meet on 30 March 2017 from 12:45 to 14:00 hours at the headquarters of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in Geneva to consider the issues set out in the provisional agenda of the meeting.

¹ UNEP/OzL.Conv.10/Bur.1/1

B. Action taken and progress made on the decisions of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention, including on the work of the advisory committee of the Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention (Agenda item 3)

4. The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer was held jointly with the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer from 17 to 21 November 2014 in Paris. At that meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted five decisions set out in the annex to the present note. Three of those decisions (X/1, X/4 and X/5) addressed financial issues, the status of ratification of the Vienna Convention and organizational matters and were considered by parties in combination with those of the Montreal Protocol.

5. The remaining two decisions (X/2 and X/3) dealt with the recommendations of the ninth meeting of the Ozone Research Managers (Geneva, 14-16 May 2014) and the way forward for the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observation Relevant to the Vienna Convention (hereinafter the "Trust Fund"). The decisions were based on the respective proposals put forward by the representative of Georgia in her capacity as the President of the Bureau of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention. Upon considering those issues, the parties took note of the report of the ninth meeting of the Ozone Research Managers,² the report by the Ozone Secretariat on the Trust Fund³ and the outcomes and recommendations of that meeting, presented by its chair at the time.

6. The actions taken on the five decisions that were adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties are outlined in the following paragraphs. In reviewing those actions, Bureau members may wish to take into consideration the note prepared by the Secretariat for the tenth meeting of the Ozone Research Managers (UNEP/OzL/Conv.ResMgr/10/2) which summarizes, amongst other things, the status of contributions to and expenditures under the Trust Fund since its inception; the status of completed and planned activities under the Trust Fund; the new project proposals submitted for funding in 2016;⁴ and the work by the advisory committee of the Trust Fund established by decision X/3. An outline of those issues is also provided in the relevant sections below, as appropriate.

1. Decision X/1: Status of ratification of the Vienna Convention, the Montreal Protocol and the London, Copenhagen, Montreal and Beijing amendments to the Montreal Protocol

7. In 2009 the Parties to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol celebrated the universal ratification of the two treaties. By the time of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in November 2014, the London, Copenhagen and Montreal Amendments to the Montreal Protocol had been ratified universally. The last amendment at the time, the Beijing Amendment, had been ratified by 196 parties except Mauritania. The decision noted the status of ratification of the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol with its Amendments and urged Mauritania to ratify, approve or accede to the Beijing Amendment. Mauritania did so in December 2014 and this resulted in universal ratification of the Montreal Protocol and all its Amendments.

8. At the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties, held from 10 to 15 October 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda, a new amendment to the Montreal Protocol, the Kigali Amendment, was adopted aiming at phasing down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), a new group of substances controlled under the Protocol. The Bureau may wish, together with the Bureau of the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, to take note of the universal ratification of the Vienna Convention and the

² WMO Global Ozone Research and Monitoring Project, Report No. 54

³ UNEP/OzL.Conv.10/5

⁴ Information about the activities under the Trust Fund is now available on the Ozone Secretariat website at: <http://ozone.unep.org/en/activities-under-vienna-convention-trust-fund-research-and-systematic-observation>

Montreal Protocol with all its Amendments and encourage parties to ratify the Kigali Amendment as soon as possible to enable it to enter into force on 1 January 2019.

2. Decision X/2: Recommendations of the ninth meeting of the Ozone Research Managers

9. In decision X/2, the Conference of the Parties took note, with appreciation, of the report of the ninth meeting of the Ozone Research Managers, and encouraged parties to adopt and implement, as appropriate, the meeting recommendations regarding research, systematic observations, data archiving and capacity-building. Parties also decided to accord priority to capacity-building activities, in particular the specific projects that had been identified for priority funding, 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.

10. In the same decision, the Ozone Research Managers were encouraged to review, at their tenth meeting in 2017, the capacity-building activities that had been conducted, with a view to assessing their effectiveness, and to include further specific recommendations in their report to the Conference of the Parties. In addition, the national ozone focal points, or other appropriate officials, were encouraged to distribute information on and coordinate where relevant, monitoring, research and scientific activities in their countries.

11. The Ozone Research managers are expected to review at the present meeting the implementation of the decision and make appropriate recommendations, taking into consideration the status of the Trust Fund and the activities under its purview. The Bureau may also wish to consider that information and propose any appropriate action to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties in November this year.

3. Decision X/3: General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention

12. Decision X/3 of the Conference of the Parties included a number of provisions which are instrumental for the continuation and effective operationalization of the Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention. The key provisions of the decision and information on follow up actions are outlined below.

(a) Life extension of the Trust Fund

13. In paragraph 1 of the decision, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme was requested to extend the life of the Trust Fund up to 31 December 2020. The extension of Trust Fund's life was approved until 31 December 2019 following a decision by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session held in May 2016.⁵

(b) Establishment of the Advisory Committee of the Trust Fund

14. In paragraph 2 of the decision, the Ozone Secretariat was requested to coordinate with the WMO to establish a small advisory committee for the Trust Fund, with a mandate:

(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;

(b) To develop a short-term action plan that would take into account the most urgent needs of the Global Ozone Observing System and which would 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.

⁵ UNEP/EA.2/Res.23 – management of trust funds and earmarked contributions, section II, paragraph 6(bb).

15. The decision further provided that the advisory committee would consist of not more than 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 WMO representative as an observer, striving for equitable geographical and gender representation. The Committee would convene electronically or in the margins of other relevant meetings.

16. In response to that request, the advisory committee of the Trust Fund was established.⁶ The committee has met twice so far, in the margins of the Twenty-Seventh Meeting of the Parties in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 31 October 2015 and the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties, in Kigali, Rwanda, on 9 October 2016. A third meeting of the advisory committee is scheduled to take place at the headquarters of WMO in Geneva on 27 March 2017, before the tenth meeting of the Ozone Research Managers.

17. In accordance with its mandate, and taking into account paragraph 3 of decision VCX/2,⁷ the advisory committee has considered the status of the activities identified for priority funding at the ninth meeting of the Ozone Research Managers along with six proposals submitted in response to the Ozone Secretariat's invitation to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to do so. The status of those activities is outlined in section C of the Secretariat's note for the tenth meeting of the Ozone Research Managers. Furthermore, the committee adopted its terms of reference at its second meeting in 2016 and set out initial thoughts on the long-term strategy of the Trust Fund (contained in annexes I and II of that note, respectively). The committee will deliberate further on the issues under its purview at its third meeting in Geneva with a view to proposing a way forward and supporting discussions under the relevant session of the tenth meeting of the Ozone Research Managers.

(c) Inviting contributions

18. In paragraph 3 of the decision, the Ozone Secretariat was requested to continue inviting parties and relevant international organizations as appropriate, to make financial and/or in-kind contributions towards well defined and well-budgeted project proposals developed under the Trust Fund. The Secretariat has continued to do so. Since the establishment of the advisory committee, invitations for contributions have been extended in consultation with the committee.

19. The status of the Trust Fund as at February 2017 is outlined in section B of the note by the Secretariat for the tenth meeting of the Ozone Research Managers. Table 1 below shows the total Trust Fund balance as at 28 February 2017 and the expected available balance after the disbursement of activities that have been approved for funding by the advisory committee, due to take place in 2017 and 2018.

Table 1 – Status of the Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic observation Relevant to the Vienna Convention as at 28 February 2017 and expected available balance after the disbursement of planned activities (in United States dollars)

| | |
|--|---------|
| Total income | 338,539 |
| Total outflow | 176,788 |
| Balance available | 161,751 |
| Total approved funding for planned activities | 140,000 |
| Expected available balance after the disbursement of planned activities | 21,751 |

⁶ The current composition of the Advisory Committee can be found on the Ozone Secretariat's website at: <http://ozone.unep.org/en/advisory-committee-vienna-convention-trust-fund-research-and-systematic-observation>.

⁷ Decision VCX/2, paragraph 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".

20. As mentioned in paragraph 17 above, in 2016 the Secretariat received six projects proposals for funding activities in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The total amount requested in those proposals is \$282,469. Given the situation of the Trust Fund, it is clear there are no sufficient funds to support activities in those proposals. The proposals are currently under consideration by the advisory committee, pending the availability of funds.

(d) Report by the Secretariat to the Conference of the Parties

21. In paragraph 4 of the decision, the Ozone Secretariat was requested to report to the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting on the operation of contributions to and expenditures from the Trust Fund and on the activities funded by the Trust Fund since its inception, as well as on the activities of the advisory committee.

22. The Secretariat will prepare the said report in time for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting in November 2017.

23. The Bureau may wish to take into consideration the follow up actions to the provisions of the decision and other related information provided during the meeting and make appropriate recommendations for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting in November.

4. Decision X/4: Financial reports and budgets for the Vienna Convention

24. In decision X/4, the Conference of the Parties, amongst other things, noted with appreciation the financial report for the Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention for the biennium 2012-2013 and urged all parties to pay their outstanding and future contributions promptly and in full. The Bureau may wish to note the status of contributions to the Trust Fund, displayed in Table 2 below, and recommend to the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting to urge, as appropriate, all parties to pay their contributions promptly and in full.

**Table 2 – Status of contributions to the Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention
(in United States dollars)**

| | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Amounts pledged | 603,001 | 603,000 | 603,000 |
| Amounts received by 31 December of the respective year | 94,946 | 540,060 | 545,120 |
| Cumulative unpaid contributions as at the end of the year | 800,578 | 836,514 | 883,318 |

25. In the same decision, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme was requested to extend the Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention until 31 December 2025. In May 2016, the United Nations Environment Assembly, at its second session, approved the extension of the Trust Fund's life until 31 December 2019.⁸

26. The Bureau may wish to note that the level of contributions to the Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention has remained steady at \$ 603,000 since 2008. At the end of 2008, the cash balance was \$ 2,475,125. For each of the following years, the difference between the contributions received and the actual expenditure was drawn down from the cash balance. This resulted in a cash balance of \$ 1,566,819 at 31 December 2016.⁹ Table 3 shows the forecasted cash balance from 2017 to 2020, prepared for this Bureau meeting using preliminary estimates. By 2020, the year of the Conference of the Parties, the forecast shows that the cash balance will not be sufficient to cover the expenditure, i.e. there is a forecasted deficit of \$ 366,548. The Secretariat will bring this issue to the attention of the

⁸ UNEP/EA.2/Res.23 – Management of trust funds and earmarked contributions, section II, paragraph 6(y).

⁹ Figure is based on the UN Environment preliminary financial statement for 2016 as at 6 March 2017

Conference of Parties for their consideration during the Eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties and will provide further refined financial analysis and contribution scenarios in the proposed budget document for the revised 2017 and the proposed 2018, 2019 and 2020 budgets.

Table 3 – Forecasted cash balance for the Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention, 2017-2020 (in United States dollars)

| | 2016 * | 2017 ** | 2018 ** | 2019 ** | 2020 ** |
|---|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|-----------|
| Forecasted contributions payments by 31 December of the respective year (based on the average of 2014 to 2016) | | 560,000 | 560,000 | 560,000 | 560,000 |
| Expenditures | | 1,363,367 | 700,000 | 710,000 | 1,400,000 |
| Cash balance at the end of the year | 1,566,819 | 763,452 | 623,452 | 473,452 | (366,548) |

* Figure based on UN Environment preliminary financial statements for 2016 as of 6 March 2017

** Figures based on initial estimates of contributions and expenditure (2017 expenditure is based on the 2017 budget approved at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties).

Decision X/5: Eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention

27. In accordance with decision X/4 and decision XXVIII/17 of the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, the Secretariat will organize the joint eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and the Twenty-Ninth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol from 20 to 24 November 2017 in Montreal.

C. Overview of the expected recommendations of the tenth meeting of the Ozone Research Managers of the Parties to the Vienna Convention

28. The Co-Chairs of the tenth Meeting of the Ozone Research Managers will be invited to present to the Bureau the expected outcome of the meeting. The Bureau may wish to review that information which might include:

- Recommendations pertaining to research needs, systematic observations, data archiving and stewardship and capacity building;
- Recommendations on a long-term strategy and implementation objectives and priorities under the Trust Fund along with a short-term action plan to deal with the most urgent needs while making the best possible use of the resources available;
- Any other issues that may be raised at the meeting.

29. Upon reviewing that information, the Bureau may wish to make any appropriate recommendations to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention in November 2017.

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Annex

DECISIONS OF THE TENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE VIENNA CONVENTION

The Conference of the Parties decides:

X/1: Status of ratification of the Vienna Convention, the Montreal Protocol and the London, Copenhagen, Montreal and Beijing amendments to the Montreal Protocol

1. To note with satisfaction the universal ratification of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, and the London Amendment, the Copenhagen Amendment and the Montreal Amendment to the Montreal Protocol;
2. To note that, as at 1 November 2014, 196 parties had ratified the Beijing Amendment to the Montreal Protocol;
3. To urge Mauritania, which has not yet done so, to ratify, approve or accede to the Beijing Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, taking into account that universal participation is necessary to ensure the protection of the ozone layer;

X/2: Recommendations of the ninth meeting of the Ozone Research Managers

Recalling that, pursuant to the objectives defined in decision I/6 of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, the Ozone Research Managers review ongoing national and international research and monitoring programmes with a view to ensuring the proper coordination of those programmes and identifying gaps that need to be addressed,

Recognizing the importance of continuing and enhancing the monitoring of changes in the ozone layer, including its projected recovery in an atmosphere whose conditions are different from pre-1980 conditions owing to changes in its composition,

Recognizing also that the latest assessment by the Scientific Assessment Panel suggests a potential influence of climate change on the ozone layer, especially in the tropics,

Recognizing further the need to increase knowledge and understanding of the atmosphere and its processes, with regard to which many uncertainties remain, including the intricate linkages between the ozone layer and climate and, therefore, the need to monitor and analyse the ozone layer and climate variables together whenever possible,

Noting the importance of capacity-building activities in parties operating under paragraph 1 of Article 5 of the Montreal Protocol that expand scientific expertise and have the added benefit of expanding the geographic area that can be measured and data archives in respect of the key variables related to the ozone layer and changing climate,

1. To take note with appreciation of the report of the ninth meeting of the Ozone Research Managers, published in 2014 (World Meteorological Organization Global Ozone Research and Monitoring Project Report No. 54);
2. To encourage parties to adopt and implement as appropriate the recommendations of the Ozone Research Managers under the topics of research, systematic observations, data archiving and capacity-building;
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;
4. To encourage the Ozone Research Managers to review, at their tenth meeting, in 2017, the capacity-building activities that have been conducted, with a view to assessing their effectiveness, and to include further specific recommendations in their report to the Conference of the Parties;

5. To encourage the national ozone focal points, or other appropriate officials, to distribute information on, and coordinate where relevant, monitoring, research and scientific activities in their countries;

X/3: General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention

Recalling decision VI/2, by which the Conference of the Parties established the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, and noting that the current life of the Trust Fund will expire at the end of 2015,

Noting with appreciation the contributions to the Trust Fund by several parties and the joint efforts of the World Meteorological Organization and the Ozone Secretariat in the implementation of the activities funded by the Trust Fund since it became operational in 2003,

Noting that important activities, including calibrations, inter-comparisons and relevant training, have been implemented successfully under the Trust Fund to date,

Noting with concern, however, that the resources available in the Trust Fund are not sufficient to enable substantial and sustainable improvements to be made to the global ozone observing system,

Noting that the coming decade is a crucial time during which the status of the recovery of the ozone layer will become clearer, but that such clarity will be dependent on continued high-quality observations,

Aware that improvements in ozone observations should take into account the existing strong and intricate linkages between ozone and climate, and carry out relevant observations and analyses for both ozone and climate wherever possible,

Noting that the Ozone Research Managers, at their ninth meeting, in 2014, reviewed the status and activities of the Trust Fund, considered options for the way forward for the Fund and provided specific recommendations on the matter,

1. To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to extend the life of the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention up to 31 December 2020;

2. To request the Ozone Secretariat to coordinate with the World Meteorological Organization to establish a small advisory committee for the Trust Fund, which would convene electronically or in the margins of other relevant meetings, consisting of not more than 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, and one representative of the World Meteorological Organization as an observer, striving for equitable geographical and gender representation, with a mandate:

(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;

(b) To develop a short-term action plan that takes into account the most urgent needs of the Global Ozone Observing System and which will 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;

3. To request the Ozone Secretariat to continue inviting parties, and relevant international organizations as appropriate, to make financial and/or in-kind contributions towards well-defined and well-budgeted project proposals developed under the Trust Fund;

4. To request the Ozone Secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting on the operation of, contributions to and expenditures from the Trust Fund and on the activities funded by the Trust Fund since its inception, as well as on the activities of the advisory committee;

X/4: Financial reports and budgets for the Vienna Convention

Recalling decision IX/3 on financial matters,

Taking note of the financial report on the Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer for the biennium 2012–2013, ended 31 December 2013,

Recognizing that voluntary contributions are an essential complement for the effective implementation of the Vienna Convention,

Welcoming the continued efficient management by the Secretariat of the finances of the Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer,

1. To take note with appreciation of the financial statement of the Trust Fund for the biennium 2012–2013, ended 31 December 2013, and the report on the actual expenditures for 2012 and 2013 as compared with the approvals for those years;

2. To approve the establishment of a working capital reserve equivalent to 15 per cent of the proposed budget for 2015 to be used to meet the final expenditures under the Trust Fund, noting that the working capital reserve shall be set aside from the existing fund balance;

3. To approve the revised 2014 budget for the Trust Fund in the amount of \$1,280,309, the budget for 2015 in the amount of \$800,937, the budget for 2016 in the amount of \$773,578 and the budget for 2017 in the amount of \$1,363,368, as set out in annex I to the report on the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol;¹⁰

4. To authorize the Secretariat to draw down the amounts of \$197,937 in 2015, \$170,578 in 2016 and \$760,368 in 2017 from the Fund balance;

5. To approve, as a consequence of the drawdowns referred to in paragraph 4 of the present decision, the payment of contributions by the parties amounting to \$603,000 for each of the years 2015, 2016 and 2017, as set out in annex II to the report of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol;

6. To request the Secretariat to indicate in future financial reports of the Trust Fund for the Vienna Convention the amounts of cash in hand in the section entitled “Total reserves and fund balances”, in addition to contributions that have not yet been received;

7. To urge all parties to pay their outstanding contributions as well as their future contributions promptly and in full;

8. To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to extend the Trust Fund until 31 December 2025;

X/5: Eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention

To convene the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention back to back with the Twenty-Ninth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol.

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¹⁰ UNEP/OzL.Conv.10/7-UNEP/OzL.Pro.26/10.