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**United Nations
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**Meeting of the Bureau of the Twenty-Third
Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol
on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer**
Geneva, 10 November 2012

**Report of the meeting of the Bureau of the Twenty-Third
Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances
that Deplete the Ozone Layer**

I. Opening of the meeting

1. The Bureau of the Twenty-Third Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer met at the Geneva International Convention Centre, Geneva, on Saturday, 10 November 2012.
2. The meeting was opened by Mr. Syanga Abilio (Angola), President of the Bureau, at 10.40a.m.
3. Mr. Marco González, Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat, noting that 2012 marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Montreal Protocol, said that several activities and events had been organized throughout the year to celebrate that milestone. The Secretariat had produced a host of documents and other materials, including a new press kit and handbooks to raise awareness of the Protocol. It had also launched a global youth video competition, which had been open to those under 25 years of age; a certificate would be awarded to winner, who was from China, and the top 10 videos would be shown all year on the Montreal Protocol website and other related sites. Several activities had been held at the national level to celebrate the anniversary, while the global celebrations would include a seminar, to be held in Geneva on 11 November 2012, on the theme "Protecting our atmosphere for generations to come". The seminar would comprise three sessions, on the themes "Perspectives on the experiences gained and their usefulness to address other global challenges"; "The science of the atmosphere (ozone and climate)"; and "Policies to protect the atmosphere". Several high-level speakers would participate throughout the day and the seminar would be followed by a reception hosted by the Government of Switzerland.
4. He informed the Bureau that the Deputy Executive Secretary had resigned from his post in September 2012 owing to pressing personal matters. The process of recruiting a staff member to fill the vacancy would begin after the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Parties; an acting Deputy had been appointed from within the Secretariat to serve in the interim.
5. The meeting was attended by the following Bureau members:

President:	Mr. Syanga Abilio (Angola) (African States)
Vice-Presidents:	Ms. Azra Rogovic-Grubic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) (Eastern European States)
	Mr. Javier Ernesto Camargo (Colombia) (Latin American and Caribbean States)

Ms. Sulistyowati Hanafi (Indonesia) (Asia-Pacific States)

Rapporteur: Mr. Bernard Madé (Canada) (Western European and other States)

6. A full list of participants is set out in the annex to the present report.

II. Adoption of the agenda

7. The provisional agenda of the meeting, set out in document UNEP/OzL.Pro.23/Bur.1/R.1, was adopted as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Work to date on implementation of decisions of the Twenty-Third Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol.
4. Overview of the working documents prepared for the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol.
5. Review of the agenda and presentation of a road map for the conduct of the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol.
6. Other matters.
7. Adoption of the report.
8. Closure of the meeting.

III. Work to date on implementation of decisions of the Twenty-Third Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol

8. The representative of the Ozone Secretariat introduced agenda item 3, providing an outline of the note by the Secretariat on work to date on the implementation of decisions, an overview of working documents and the road map for the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Parties (UNEP/OzL.Pro.23/Bur.1/2). Annex I to that note contained a tabular summary of actions taken to implement the decisions adopted by the Twenty-Third Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol.

9. The Secretariat had noted with concern that 14 parties had not yet completed the ratification of the Montreal Amendment and/or the Beijing Amendment to the Montreal Protocol. Those parties that did not complete the process of ratification by the end of 2012 would face restrictions on the trade of hydrochlorofluorocarbons from 1 January 2013 if the Meeting of the Parties did not approve any requests for extensions for the non-application of trade sanctions that they might submit.

10. Responding to a request for clarification from one member on the tabular summary of actions taken, the representative of the Secretariat said that it was intended to serve as an overview and that documents prepared for the meetings of other bodies, such as the Implementation Committee under the Non-Compliance Procedure for the Montreal Protocol and the Open-ended Working Group of the parties, provided more detail on actions for the implementation of decisions. The documents prepared for particular items on the agenda of the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Parties would also provide information on actions undertaken to implement the decisions of the previous meeting. Responding to the same member on the implications of the trade sanctions for parties, the representative said that the 14 parties were aware of the consequences of the non-ratification of amendments, but several had to contend with lengthy national procedures involving their parliaments, relevant ministries and permanent missions in New York before ratification could be confirmed. The Secretariat provided what assistance it could to accelerate or facilitate ratification, including by visiting countries to explain the process to the relevant authorities. Approximately half of the 14 parties were in the final stages of ratification but still had to contact the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat of the United Nations to complete the process. One member expressed appreciation for the visits that the Secretariat had made to a number of countries, including her own; this had proved to be a valuable tool in accelerating the amendment ratification process.

11. The Bureau took note of the information presented.

IV. Overview of the working documents prepared for the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol

12. The representative of the Secretariat drew attention to annex II to document UNEP/OzL.Pro.23/Bur.1/2, which set out a list of documents prepared for the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Parties. He informed the Bureau that, since the issuance of that document, two additional information documents had been prepared; they would be made available on the website, together with an updated list of documents prepared for the Meeting of the Parties.

13. The Bureau took note of the information presented.

V. Review of the agenda and presentation of a road map for the conduct of the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol

14. The representative of the Secretariat outlined the expected programme of work for the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Parties, summarizing and supplementing the information contained in section IV of document UNEP/OzL.Pro.23/Bur.1/2.

15. Regarding the road map for the preparatory segment, the Executive Secretary said that the intention was to tackle all agenda items in plenary by the end of the afternoon session of the second day, including the establishment of the necessary contact groups, and to leave the third day free for meetings of any contact groups that had been established. If more time was needed for parties to discuss all items in plenary, however, provision had been made for a session to be held on the evening of the second day. Responding to a comment by one member regarding contact groups, he confirmed that, as was the usual practice, their meetings would be staggered. This would allow delegations, including those with a small number of representatives, to participate in as many groups as they wished.

16. One member recalled that at the previous Meeting of the Parties, several parties had expressed their disappointment that agreement had not been reached on forming a contact group to discuss proposed amendments to the Montreal Protocol relating to hydrofluorocarbons. As the issue was likely to be raised again at the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Parties, he hoped that all parties would now be more receptive to the idea of establishing a contact group to discuss those amendments.

VI. Other matters

17. No other matters were considered.

VII. Adoption of the report

18. The President said that a draft of the report would be prepared by the Secretariat and circulated to the Bureau members as soon as possible. The report would then be finalized, taking their comments into account, and presented to them for their approval.

VIII. Closure of the meeting

19. The President declared the meeting closed at 12.25 p.m.

Annex

List of participants

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