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**United Nations  
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**Twenty-Ninth Meeting of the Parties to  
the Montreal Protocol on Substances  
that Deplete the Ozone Layer**  
Montreal, Canada, 20–24 November 2017

## **Issues that the Secretariat would like to bring to the attention of the parties**

### **Note by the Secretariat**

1. The present note briefly summarizes issues of relevance to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the activities that took place from June to October 2017 that the Secretariat wishes to bring to the attention of the parties.

## **I. Activities to promote the ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol**

### **A. United Nations General Assembly high-level event**

2. The Secretariat participated in a high-level event on the ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, co-hosted by the Governments of Canada and Rwanda on 18 September 2017 in the margins of the seventy-second session of the United Nations General Assembly.

3. The panellists at the event were the Minister of Environment of Rwanda, Vincent Biruta; the Minister of Environment and Climate Change of Canada, Catherine McKenna; the Minister of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica and current President of the United Nations Environment Assembly, Edgar Gutiérrez; the Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition of France, Nicolas Hulot; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Marshall Islands, John Silk; the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Erik Solheim; the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, Achim Steiner; and the Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat, Tina Birmpili.

4. The event served as a platform for ministers and permanent representatives of States Members of the United Nations to mobilize parties to the Montreal Protocol to prioritize the ratification of the Kigali Amendment.

5. The panellists urged the parties to expedite their processes to ratify the Kigali Amendment.

### **B. Round table discussion and workshop on the Kigali Amendment**

6. At the invitation of the Government of the Comoros, the Secretariat held a round table discussion on the Kigali Amendment with Government representatives on 21 September 2017, and at the invitation of the Government of Mauritius, the Secretariat sensitized stakeholders on the ratification of the Kigali Amendment during a workshop held on 18 September 2017.

### **C. High-level declarations in support of the Kigali Amendment**

7. Global leaders and environment ministers from various countries have made high-level declarations in support of the Kigali Amendment and called for its ratification during various meetings held in recent months, notably the Group of Twenty Summit held on 7 and 8 July 2017 in Hamburg, Germany; the sixteenth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held from 12 to 16 June in Libreville; and the Group of Seven Environment Ministerial Meeting held on 11 and 12 June 2017 in Bologna, Italy.

### **D. Call of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-lived Climate Pollutants for the ratification of the Kigali Amendment**

8. On 23 February 2017, Ms. McKenna and the then Minister of Environment of Chile, Pablo Badenier, in their capacity as co-chairs of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-lived Climate Pollutants, sent a letter to States members of the coalition urging them to ratify the Kigali Amendment as part of the commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the Montreal Protocol in 2017.

## **II. Activities to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Montreal Protocol**

### **A. Communication campaign**

9. The year 2017 marks the thirtieth anniversary of the Montreal Protocol. In honour of this milestone, the Ozone Secretariat and the global community are conducting a public engagement campaign entitled “Ozone Heroes” to celebrate the Protocol’s success in protecting Earth against ozone depletion and mitigating climate change.

10. The global campaign seeks to inspire the same collaborative energy that propelled the Protocol’s mission and led to its continued success in protecting all life on Earth.

11. The campaign was launched in Montreal, Canada, on 15 September 2017 at an event presided over by Ms. McKenna, the European Union Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, Miguel Arias Cañete, and Ms. Birmpili. The event was attended by the Chinese special envoy Xie Zhenhua, United Nations representatives, scientists, policymakers, environmentalists and special guests, including an indigenous elder who offered a traditional welcoming prayer.

12. The campaign storyline is centred on a partnership with Marvel Comics, the company behind some of the world’s most beloved superheroes. Through this partnership, the campaign follows the journey of Iron Man and the Guardians of the Galaxy in a Marvel Comics-produced comic as they discover that humans are the superheroes who solved the global issue of ozone depletion.

13. The campaign story leads the audience to the Ozone Heroes website ([www.ozoneheroes.org](http://www.ozoneheroes.org)), where people can take a quiz to discover their own ozone superpower. This serves to remind people that our human qualities are what equip us to solve the world’s most pressing problems and that we are all Ozone Heroes.

14. The campaign has received widespread support globally, with messages about it disseminated by various United Nations programmes, funds and specialized agencies, and by several celebrities who are Goodwill Ambassadors of the United Nations.

15. During the week of the campaign launch, messages about the campaign were viewed more than 32 million times by more than 19 million users on Twitter, while 4,000 people visited the Ozone Heroes website to participate in the campaign and downloaded communication materials more than 2,000 times. UNEP social media channels reached nearly 500,000 people, with campaign messages that were shared by more than 13,000 people. The campaign also received prominent coverage by leading media outlets.

16. The Secretariat will continue to conduct various outreach activities to garner more support for the campaign.

### **B. Ozone Awards 2017**

17. In celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the Montreal Protocol, the Secretariat, in cooperation with the Government of Canada, will host the 2017 Ozone Awards at the Twenty-Ninth Meeting of the Parties in Montreal on 23 November 2017.

18. In response to a call for nominations that ran from 8 May to 27 July 2017, the Secretariat received 143 nominations of individuals, groups and organizations across the eight categories of the awards. The categories are political leadership, policy and implementation leadership, scientific leadership, technical leadership, exemplary project, partnership, youth creativity and best media coverage.
19. The nominations were reviewed by a technical screening committee comprising 24 experts from around the world who are knowledgeable about the Montreal Protocol and its activities.
20. The committee's recommendations of the winners in each of the eight categories are currently under review by an international jury made up of eight eminent experts who will decide on a final list of award recipients in each of the award categories.
21. The reviews by the technical screening committee and the international jury were guided by procedures and rules that are available on the Secretariat website.<sup>1</sup> The names of the committee and jury members will be published upon selection of the award recipients.
22. The Secretariat was not involved in the selection of the award recipients, who will be announced and recognized during the Ozone Awards ceremony.

### **III. Other Secretariat activities**

#### **A. United Nations Environment Assembly**

23. The third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly will be held in Nairobi from 4 to 6 December 2017 under the overarching theme of how to address pollution.
24. The Secretariat has contributed inputs to a background report informing member States and other stakeholders of the human and ecosystem dimensions of pollution and the contribution of the Montreal Protocol to efforts to address the problem.

#### **B. Environment Management Group**

25. The Secretariat participated in the annual meeting of the senior officials of the Environmental Management Group held in New York on 20 September 2017. The meeting approved recommendations from the technical segment of the meeting, which took place on 18 September 2017, on actions related to ongoing and future work of the Group.
26. The issues considered by the senior officials included e-waste; environmental and social sustainability in the United Nations system; environmental sustainability management; peer reviews of environmental management at the United Nations; the ongoing consultative process on a United Nations system-wide framework of strategies on the environment; the work of the task team on maximizing the effectiveness of the Environmental Management Group in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Environmental Management Group nexus dialogues on the environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda; poverty and environment in the Sustainable Development Goals; and strengthening partnerships between the environmental and humanitarian sectors in the context of the 2030 Agenda.
27. The senior officials at their annual meeting approved the Environmental Management Group work plan for the next year and held strategic discussions on key environmental issues warranting a United Nations system-wide response and directions for the future work of the Group, including on the reform proposals of the Secretary-General; biodiversity in the context of preparing for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and beyond, within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals; and pollution, which is the focus of the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

#### **C. Carbon offsetting for 2016**

28. As part of its continuing efforts to maintain climate neutrality, the Secretariat has initiated the process of offsetting the greenhouse gas emissions created during the meetings held and operations conducted under the Montreal Protocol in 2016.
29. The Secretariat is in the process of purchasing, through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, certified emission reductions equivalent to 2,215 tons of carbon dioxide, the greenhouse gas emissions associated with travel to the meetings for all participants, including travel to assessment panel meetings and related operations in 2016.

<sup>1</sup> <http://ozone.unep.org/en/ozone-awards-procedures-and-rules>.

30. The certified emission reductions will be purchased by the end of 2017 from the Adaptation Fund, which finances projects and programmes to help developing countries to adapt to the negative effects of climate change.

31. The Secretariat needed to wait for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to collect sufficient requests from the United Nations community to purchase the certified emission reductions in bulk.

#### **D. Cooperation with the International Plant Protection Convention**

32. Upon request by and in consultation with the co-chairs of the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee, in 2016 the Secretariat approached the secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention seeking to revive cooperation, as set out in the memorandum of understanding signed between the two secretariats in 2012.<sup>2</sup> The aim of such cooperation, as stated in paragraph 14 of section II of the memorandum, on the scope of cooperation between the two secretariats, is to promote and facilitate collaboration between the Montreal Protocol and the International Plant Protection Convention through joint participation of technical experts in the technical panels and committees of both treaties, such as the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee, the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments and the International Plant Protection Convention Expert Working Group on Alternatives to Methyl Bromide, to enhance communication and advice consistent with the aims of both agreements.

33. Since the Secretariat's call in 2016, the two secretariats have interacted on several occasions. Examples of such interaction include submission of comments by members of the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee to draft documents prepared under the Convention on International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures for methyl bromide through the Convention's online comment system and participation of Committee members in meetings of the Technical Panel of Phytosanitary Treatments.

#### **E. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development e-platform of the partnership for effective international rule-making**

34. The Secretariat is participating in a collaborative workspace of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development designed to facilitate the exchange of ideas and sharing of knowledge on the rule-making and governance practices of international organizations.

35. The overarching objective of the partnership is to promote greater quality, effectiveness and impact of international rules.

36. The Secretariat is participating in the theme on strengthening the implementation of international organization instruments, which include the Montreal Protocol. Other themes include building greater understanding of the variety in international instruments and their benefits/challenges; ensuring efficient stakeholder engagement; developing a greater culture of evaluation of international organization instruments; and maximizing the opportunities for coordination among international organizations.

#### **F. Cooperation with the United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements**

37. As part of its cooperation with the United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (InforMEA), the Secretariat is assisting with the mapping of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets to activities and commitments under both the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol.

### **IV. Secretariat missions for the period June to October 2017**

38. Between June and October 2017, the Secretariat either undertook or will undertake a number of missions in furtherance of the goals of the Montreal Protocol as described below.

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<sup>2</sup> [https://www.ippc.int/static/media/uploads/mou\\_btwn\\_ozone\\_&\\_ippc\\_signed.pdf](https://www.ippc.int/static/media/uploads/mou_btwn_ozone_&_ippc_signed.pdf).

**A. United Nations Environment Programme and University of Eastern Finland training on multilateral environmental agreements**

39. At the invitation of UNEP, the Secretariat will participate on 13 October 2017 in a joint training course on the multilateral environmental agreements, organized by UNEP and the University of Eastern Finland, and provide information on “Trade Measures and Specific MEAs: The Case of the Montreal Protocol”.

40. The annual training course, which will take place in Chambéry, France, from 9 to 19 October 2017 under the theme “Trade and environment”, will draw participants from both developed and developing countries.

**B. Annual meeting of the Green Customs Initiative**

41. The Secretariat will participate in the annual meeting of the Green Customs Initiative on 3 and 4 October 2017 in Brussels to review joint activities carried out by the partners and those planned for the future on preventing environmental crime related to hazardous waste dumping and smuggling proscribed hazardous materials; exploiting and trafficking protected natural resources; illegal trade in environmentally sensitive commodities such as ozone-depleting substances, toxic chemicals, hazardous wastes, endangered species, and living modified organisms that undermine the effectiveness of multilateral environmental agreements by circumventing rules and procedures agreed in international treaties, including the Montreal Protocol.

**C. First international congress for the integrated management of ozone-depleting substances and its contribution to the protection of climate stability**

42. The Secretariat participated in the first international congress for the integrated management of ozone-depleting substances and its contribution to the protection of climate stability, held in Bogota from 27 to 29 September 2017. The event brought together a number of technicians and professionals in the fields of ozone layer and climate protection.

**D. Scientific symposium for the thirtieth anniversary of the Montreal Protocol**

43. The Secretariat participated in the scientific symposium for the thirtieth anniversary of the Montreal Protocol held in Paris on 19 and 20 September 2017 and organized by the International Ozone Commission. The Secretariat delivered messages on the linkages between science, diplomacy and policy.

**E. Global “Cooling for All” panel**

44. In July 2017, the “Sustainable Energy for All” initiative, supported by the Kigali Cooling Efficiency Programme, announced the new “Cooling for All” initiative to identify the challenges and opportunities of providing access to affordable, sustainable cooling solutions for all. A global panel is being established under the initiative and its inaugural meeting was held in New York on 18 and 19 September 2017.

45. The panel consists of leaders from business, policy and academia, and also United Nations staff members. The outcome of their work will be a report that is scheduled to be released in 2018 to help create a pathway to ensure that the poorest populations and relevant countries can have sustainable access to cooling solutions.

**F. Thirtieth anniversary of the Montreal Protocol and 2017 Ozone Day celebrations**

46. The Secretariat participated in the thirtieth anniversary of the Montreal Protocol and 2017 Ozone Day celebrations, held in New Delhi on 16 September 2017 and in Beijing on 13 September 2017; and in the global launch of the Ozone Heroes commemorative campaign, held in Montreal, Canada, on 15 September 2017.

**G. Eighth meeting of the steering committee of the InforMEA Knowledge Management Initiative**

47. The Secretariat participated in the eighth meeting of the steering committee of the InforMEA Knowledge Management Initiative, held in Montreux, Switzerland, from 20 to 23 June 2017. The initiative, facilitated by UNEP, brings together multilateral environmental agreements to develop harmonized information systems for the benefit of parties and the environment community at large.

48. The meeting discussed enhancement of the e-learning section, expanding InforMEA to support work at the national level, further exploring auto-indexing of multilateral environmental agreement documents, piloting United Nations system-wide standards in document management and showing the joint contribution of multilateral environmental agreements to internationally agreed goals, which are all the results of the strong and unequivocal commitment of the initiative to knowledge-sharing and interoperability.

## **H. Briefing to the World Trade Organization Committee on Trade and Environment**

49. The Secretariat participated in a video conference briefing to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Committee on Trade and Environment on 20 June 2017 at the request of the Committee. The briefing, requested by WTO, was to provide a general overview of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol and particularly its main trade-related provisions. WTO members were briefed on how the hydrofluorocarbon phase-down will be implemented from 1 January 2019 once the requisite number of ratifications is achieved.

## **I. Network meetings of ozone officers**

50. In the period between June and October 2017, representatives of the Secretariat will participate in the following network meetings of ozone officers, organized by UNEP under its OzonAction Compliance Assistance Programme:

(a) Thematic meeting on hydrochlorofluorocarbon phase-out management plans and hydrofluorocarbon phase-down initiatives, to be held in Tbilisi from 24 to 26 October 2017;

(b) Network Meeting of National Ozone Officers for Latin America, to be held in San José from 3 to 5 October 2017.

51. At the above meetings, the Secretariat will present updates on recent developments under the Montreal Protocol, focusing on the Kigali Amendment, its expected impact, the specifics of the ways in which it will work, the requirements for its entry into force, the ratification process, the benefits of ratification and other key issues related to the Amendment. The Secretariat will also address the status of compliance with the Montreal Protocol by parties in the various regions and consult bilaterally with parties, offering advice on matters of interest. In addition, the Secretariat plans to provide an overview of the Ozone Heroes campaign and urge the parties to mobilize active participation in the campaign in their respective countries.

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