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**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

**Thirty-First Meeting of the Parties to
the Montreal Protocol on Substances
that Deplete the Ozone Layer**
Rome, 4–8 November 2019

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

Note by the Secretariat

1. The present note summarizes issues of relevance to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and activities that have taken place, or will take place, during the period from June to December 2019 that the Secretariat wishes to bring to the attention of the parties.

I. Information related to the United Nations

A. United Nations Climate Action Summit 2019

2. On 23 September 2019, the Secretary-General hosted the United Nations Climate Action Summit in New York. The Summit was intended to showcase the leap forward that has taken place in collective national political ambition and to demonstrate that massive movements are under way in the real economy in support of the climate-related agenda. Together, these developments will send out strong market and political signals and inject momentum into the race among countries, companies, cities and civil society that is needed to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. Further information is available on the United Nations website.¹

B. High-level political forum on sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals summit

3. The 2019 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, was held from 9 to 18 July 2019 in New York and included a three-day ministerial meeting from 16 to 18 July.

4. The theme of the 2019 forum was “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”. Sustainable Development Goals 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17² were examined from that perspective. In 2019, a total of 47 countries agreed to present their national voluntary reviews to

¹ <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/un-climate-summit-2019.shtml>.

² Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all; Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all; Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries; Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

the high-level political forum, mostly countries in Africa (17 countries) and the Asia-Pacific region (16 countries). Reports were also submitted by 67 intergovernmental bodies and forums and 31 major groups and other stakeholders. As was reported at the forty-first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, the Secretariat, in consultation with the Presidents of the Meeting of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties, submitted a document outlining the contributions of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol to the achievement of those Sustainable Development Goals under review in 2019 that are relevant to the work of the two instruments. The document is available on the website of the forum, along with further information about the forum's 2019 meeting.³

5. The *Sustainable Development Goals Report for 2019*, which is available on the United Nations website,⁴ uses the latest available data to track global progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report shows that there has been progress in some areas, but also highlights the challenges ahead, with climate change being identified as the most urgent area in which action is required.

6. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/299, the format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum will be reviewed by the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session. The review is intended to take into account the lessons learned in the first cycle of the forum and those from other relevant processes under the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. In this regard, an expert group meeting was held on 6 and 7 May 2019 in New York, bringing together Member States, elements of the United Nations system, experts, representatives of academia and other stakeholders to prepare for the discussions to be held during the seventy-fourth session. A summary of that meeting can be found on the website of the forum.⁵ The page also contains links to a series of background notes relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals under review in 2019 and the effectiveness to date of the 2030 Agenda.

7. On 24 and 25 September 2019, the Sustainable Development Goals summit will be held in New York under the auspices of the General Assembly, during which heads of State and Government will comprehensively review progress made in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and in the achievement of the Goals for the first time since their adoption in 2015.

C. Model code of conduct to prevent harassment, including sexual harassment, at United Nations system events

8. On 5 July 2019, the United Nations High-level Committee on Management, on behalf of the United Nations Chief Executives Board, endorsed the model "Code of conduct to prevent harassment, including sexual harassment, at U N system events". The code of conduct, which applies to all participants in United Nations meetings, is attached, in English, as an annex to the present document and is available on the Secretariat website in all official languages of the United Nations.⁶

9. In line with the model code of conduct, any incidents involving harassment, including sexual harassment, in the context of events held under the auspices of the Secretariat should be reported to a Secretariat staff member. The Secretariat will gather relevant information, taking into account applicable United Nations policies and procedures, and, if necessary, engage with United Nations security personnel. Appropriate action, which may include suspending or revoking access to the event or to future such events, may then be taken in response to a credible complaint.

³ Available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=30022&nr=1815&menu=3170>.

⁴ Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/>.

⁵ Available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2019>.

⁶ Available at https://ozone.unep.org/resources?term_node_tid_depth%5B864%5D=864.

II. Information specifically related to the United Nations Environment Programme

A. United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations resident coordinators' dialogue on United Nations country support for integrated action on environmental and climate change challenges in Africa

10. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Development Operations Coordination Office jointly organized a dialogue in Nairobi on 2 and 3 September 2019 with the aim of developing a strategic vision for addressing environmental and climate change challenges in Africa. The dialogue also explored how UNEP could support the resident coordinator system in integrating environmental considerations into cooperation frameworks in the context of United Nations reforms.

11. The Secretariat provided substantive support to UNEP in this initiative and, in addition to participating in the dialogue itself, took advantage of the opportunity to conduct an interactive open clinic with participants, including resident coordinators and other United Nations entities in Africa, on the implementation of the Montreal Protocol in Africa and support for the ratification of the Kigali Amendment.

B. Cool Coalition

12. The present section provides an update to the information set out in the note prepared by the Secretariat for the forty-first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on issues that it wished to bring to the attention of the parties.⁷ The Cool Coalition is a collective platform that brings together a variety of groups that share a common vision and interest in setting ambitious cooling targets and supporting cross-sectoral national strategies and policies, such as national cooling action plans. The aim is to raise climate ambition in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals.

13. The Cool Coalition is one of the initiatives moving ahead in preparation for the Climate Action Summit and is among efforts by UNEP to advance efficient and climate-friendly cooling. The Coalition is organized into five clusters, each led by a key partner (a national Government, city, business, civil society entity or financial institution). It takes a cross-sectoral and holistic approach to reducing emissions from the cooling sector by looking at a broad range of solutions, relating for example to urban planning, building design, district cooling, nature-based solutions and highly efficient and climate-friendly cooling technologies that use refrigerants with low or zero global-warming potential.

14. As at the date of issue of the present note, 25 Governments were working on or had finalized their national cooling action plans with support from the Kigali Cooling Efficiency Programme. Those plans are intended to contribute to the enhancement of nationally determined contributions and accelerated action by countries. Additional commitments with private-sector partners are being explored, and multilateral development banks are being mobilized through the World Bank and other partners. In preparation for the Climate Action Summit, information on the Cool Coalition has been shared with United Nations Member States, including their permanent missions to the United Nations in New York, by the Special Envoy of the Secretary General on Cities and Climate Change. In addition, the co-leads of the energy transition track (track 4) of the Climate Action Summit, the Permanent Representatives of Denmark and Ethiopia, have sent a letter inviting countries to join the initiative.

C. Biarritz Pledge for Fast Action on Efficient Cooling initiated at the Group of Seven Summit

15. Several Group of Seven (G7) countries and other countries invited to attend the G7 Summit held in Biarritz, France, from 24 to 26 August 2019 have pledged to take immediate steps to improve energy efficiency in the cooling sector while phasing down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). The Biarritz Pledge for Fast Action on Efficient Cooling includes actions such as the development of national cooling plans, the use of minimum energy performance standards and labelling, the promotion of good servicing practices and the use of States' bulk-purchasing power to facilitate market access to highly efficient and affordable cooling technologies with low or zero global-warming potential, to encourage private-sector involvement and to garner

⁷ UNEP/OzL.Pro.WG.1/41/INF/2.

support from funds and financial institutions in mobilizing additional funding for activities beyond those covered by the Montreal Protocol and the Kigali Amendment. The Pledge also calls for the provision of support to the Efficient Cooling Initiative of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants and to related initiatives. The Efficient Cooling Initiative, which was launched at the meeting of G7 environment ministers in May 2019, brings together Governments, intergovernmental organizations and the private sector to facilitate high-level political leadership and collaboration among stakeholders in order to raise awareness of the issue, increase the visibility of alternative refrigerants and technologies and identify additional resources to assist developing countries in enhancing the energy efficiency of cooling equipment while phasing down HFCs.

D. Basel Convention Partnership on Plastic Waste

16. In August 2019, the joint secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants invited the Ozone Secretariat to join the Basel Convention Partnership on Plastic Waste. The Partnership was established pursuant to decision BC-14/13, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention at its fourteenth meeting, held in April and May 2019.⁸ The goal of the Partnership is to improve and promote the environmentally sound management of plastic wastes at the global, regional and national levels and to prevent and minimize their generation so as to, among other things, significantly reduce, and in the long term eliminate, the discharge of plastic wastes and microplastics into the environment, in particular the marine environment. The Secretariat will follow up on the work of the Partnership as an observer.

E. Sustainable nitrogen management

17. The United Nations Environment Assembly, at its fourth session, held from 11 to 15 March 2019 in Nairobi, adopted resolution 4/14 on sustainable nitrogen management. The resolution was discussed at the fourth meeting of the International Nitrogen Management System, which was held from 29 April to 2 May in Nairobi. The Secretariat delivered a presentation at the meeting on the relevance of the ozone treaties to the issue at hand. Meeting participants recognized the multiple opportunities for better nitrogen management associated with water, air, climate, biological diversity, soils, stratospheric ozone, food and energy, including the need to develop improved coordination among relevant multilateral environmental agreements, and agreed on a coordination mechanism and on a list of requests directed primarily to the Executive Director of UNEP for the implementation of the resolution.

18. In August 2019, the Government of Sri Lanka and the Executive Director of UNEP announced the launch of a global campaign on sustainable nitrogen management, as part of which a high-level segment and a science-policy dialogue would be held on 23 and 24 October 2019 in Colombo. The ultimate goal of the campaign is to develop a comprehensive global strategy for nitrogen management.

F. Environment Management Group

19. The twenty-fifth meeting of the senior officials of the United Nations Environment Management Group⁹ will be held in New York on 25 September 2019 in the margins of the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly and the Climate Action Summit, following a technical segment that was held by means of an audio and video conference on 17 September. Relevant documentation for those meetings is available on the website of the Environment Management Group.¹⁰ The senior officials will receive a briefing on the outcome of the technical segment and will consider key emerging environmental issues that warrant a collaborative response by the United Nations.

20. The midterm technical segment of the twenty-fifth meeting of senior officials was held on 20 May 2019. The aim of the meeting was to update members on the progress made by the Environment Management Group since the previous meeting of senior officials, on issues including e-waste, sand and dust storms, environmental and social sustainability in the United Nations system, environmental and humanitarian action and the United Nations

⁸ Available at <http://www.basel.int/Portals/4/download.aspx?d=UNEP-CHW-COP.14-BC-14-13.English.docx>.

⁹ See <https://unemg.org/about-emg/senior-officials-meeting-som/>.

¹⁰ <https://unemg.org/>.

System-wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment. Meeting participants also discussed proposals for the Group's work plan for 2020 for approval by the senior officials at their twenty-fifth meeting. New issues proposed for inclusion in the work plan included sustainable food systems, sustainable infrastructure and climate-altering technologies and measures such as solar radiation management.

21. Upcoming nexus dialogues on environmental issues will deal with chemicals management in the context of textiles and fashion (in October 2019) and sustainable finance (during 2020).

G. Climate and Clean Air Coalition 2030 Vision

22. On 22 September 2019, at a meeting of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, ministers and high-level representatives agreed to accelerate efforts to significantly reduce short-lived climate pollutants such as methane, black carbon and HFCs by the end of the next decade. The Coalition's 2030 Vision Statement aims to ensure that, with warming limited to 1.5°C, the Earth's atmosphere will continue to enable people and the planet to thrive. Further information is available on the Coalition's website.¹¹

III. Secretariat activities

A. Cooperation with the secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention

23. The Secretariat continues its cooperation with the secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention on the basis of the memorandum of understanding signed between the two secretariats in 2012.¹² In recent years, cooperation has involved the submission, by members of the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee, of comments relating to methyl bromide on draft documents prepared by the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments addressing the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, including standard 15. There has also been occasional participation of the members of the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee in meetings of the Technical Panel and other events. A co-chair of the Committee will attend the 2019 meeting of the Phytosanitary Measures Research Group, to be held from 24 to 27 September 2019 in Cairns, Australia.

24. At the invitation of the secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention, in January 2019, the Secretariat submitted a written status report, prepared by the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee, that was considered by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures at its fourteenth session, held from 1 to 5 April 2019 in Rome.¹³ In that report and subsequent communications, the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee suggested that the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments might consider providing a list of pests and alternatives to treatment with methyl bromide in quarantine and pre-shipment applications. Upon consideration of that request, the Standards Committee of the Convention asked the Technical Panel to prepare the list, which was submitted to the Secretariat and the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee in August 2019.

B. Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

25. During the third meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, held from 2 to 4 April 2019 in Montevideo,¹⁴ the stakeholders of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 invited UNEP to provide an assessment of linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste management and options for coordinating and cooperating in areas of common interest. In response, the UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch is preparing an assessment paper that will review the linkages between the chemicals and waste cluster and other identified clusters and propose options for collaboration. In July 2019, the Strategic Approach secretariat invited the Ozone Secretariat to review and provide comments on a draft concept note and, at a later stage, the draft assessment paper. As at the date of issue of the present note, the Secretariat had provided feedback on the draft concept note, as requested. The assessment paper will be submitted as an information document at the

¹¹ <https://www.ccacoalition.org/en/resources/2030-vision-statement>.

¹² Available at www.ippc.int/static/media/uploads/mou_btwn_ozone_&_ippc_signed.pdf.

¹³ Available at <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/86967/>.

¹⁴ See <http://www.saicm.org/About/OEWG/OEWGmeetings/tabid/5984/language/en-US/Default.aspx>.

third meeting in the intersessional process to consider the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, to be held from 1 to 4 October 2019 in Bangkok.¹⁵

C. Engagement with the International Maritime Organization

26. In decision XXX/7 of the Thirtieth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, on the future availability of halons and their alternatives, in relation to the potential lack of halons for use by the civil aviation industry in the upcoming decades to service aircraft currently being manufactured, the parties to the Protocol requested the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel, through its Halons Technical Options Committee, to continue engaging with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to identify ways to enhance the recovery of halons from the breaking of ships. In response to that decision, as reported by Halons Technical Options Committee at the forty-first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, the Committee has established an internal working group to pursue engagement with both IMO and the International Civil Aviation Organization. In February 2019, the Halons Technical Options Committee met with IMO staff at the Committee's 2019 meeting and attended part of the seventy-fourth session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee of IMO, held from 13 to 17 May 2019 in London. The Ozone Secretariat, in accordance with paragraph 1 of decision XXX/7, has been liaising with the IMO secretariat to facilitate the exchange of information among halon experts.

27. The Halons Technical Options Committee will continue to work with IMO to refine estimates of the expected lifetime of ships containing halon-1301 and the amounts expected to be available for recovery and reuse in the future. The Committee has also identified other ways of retrieving relevant information, such as through the International Ship Recycling Association, based in the Netherlands, and Lloyd's Register, located in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

D. Online data reporting tool and website enhancement

28. During the forty-first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, held in July 2019, the Secretariat launched and gave demonstrations of the use of a new online data reporting tool, which was then made available for parties to test over the following few months. The Secretariat is pleased to report that the final version of the tool will go live before the Thirty-First Meeting of the Parties, for use by all parties in submitting their Article 7 data reporting, starting with data for 2019, and for other reporting obligations.

29. In addition, the Secretariat has been refining and enhancing its new website since its launch in 2018, including in response to comments and suggestions from the parties and other users. Particular attention has been paid to the "Treaties" page, including the online versions of the handbooks for the Montreal Protocol and the Vienna Convention, and to the inclusion of a new "Resources" tab that allows quick access to key documents on the website.

30. As part of this process, the Secretariat is building into its country profile pages the possibility for parties to voluntarily share their legislation and regulations on licensing systems. While doing so is not a requirement under the Protocol or any decisions of the Meeting of the Parties, a number of parties have indicated their interest in sharing those documents. Parties that wish to make their licensing legislation and regulations available on the website are invited to send to the Secretariat (mea-ozoneinfo@un.org and gerald.mutisya@un.org) a PDF version of the documents or a weblink to the legislation for sharing through the site.

E. Carbon offsetting for 2018

31. Further to the update provided to the forty-first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, the Secretariat has completed the process of measuring and offsetting the greenhouse gas emissions created during the meetings held and operations conducted under the Montreal Protocol in 2018, which consisted of the emissions associated with the round-trip travel of meeting participants, including travel to assessment panel meetings, and related operations during the year.

32. As is recorded on the voluntary cancellation certificate issued by the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on 15 August 2019,¹⁶ the Secretariat

¹⁵ See

<http://www.saicm.org/Beyond2020/IntersessionalProcess/ThirdIntersessionalmeeting/tabid/8024/language/en-US/Default.aspx>.

has offset 1,387 tonnes of CO₂-equivalent for its 2018 operations. This is the fifth consecutive year in which the Secretariat's operations have been carbon neutral.

33. A report on the Greening the Blue programme, which aims to reduce the environmental footprint of the United Nations system, was made available in September 2019, ahead of the Climate Action Summit.¹⁷

F. World Ozone Day 2019

34. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/114, the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer (World Ozone Day) is observed each year on 16 September to commemorate the signing of the Montreal Protocol on 16 September 1987. As was stated in the note prepared by the Secretariat for the forty-first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, the theme for World Ozone Day 2019 is "32 years and healing". The theme was posted on the Secretariat's website¹⁸ in the six official languages of the United Nations, together with communication materials for parties to use in their commemorative activities. A message from the Secretary-General and a video address by the Executive Director of UNEP for World Ozone Day 2019 were shared ahead of the day for further dissemination.

35. The Secretariat, in accordance with its usual practice, was able to provide financial assistance to a small number of Article 5 parties as a contribution towards the cost of organizing national activities to commemorate World Ozone Day and increasing awareness at the national level.

G. Ozone treaties logo

36. The Secretariat has developed a logo for restricted use in connection with communication campaigns, such as that for World Ozone Day, and in publications, posters and other materials related to ozone protection. The logo depicts the earth surrounded by hand-drawn circles representing the ozone layer, above and alongside the words "Vienna Convention" and "Montreal Protocol", and is intended to provide an enduring visual identity for the two treaties. It is being used for the first time for the visual branding of materials for World Ozone Day 2019 and the Thirty-First Meeting of the Parties.

37. Unlike earlier logos that were developed for specific, ad hoc events such as anniversaries, this logo will be used consistently for the foreseeable future. In line with applicable United Nations policy, the logo will not replace the logos of the United Nations or UNEP in official Secretariat documentation. Guidelines for the use of the logo are available on the Secretariat's website.¹⁹

IV. Secretariat participation in relevant events from June to December 2019

38. Between June and December 2019, the Secretariat has undertaken, or plans to undertake, a number of missions, described below, to further the goals of the Montreal Protocol.²⁰

A. Eighty-fourth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol

39. The Secretariat will participate in the eighty-fourth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol, to be held in Montreal, Canada, from 16 to 20 December 2019.

B. Third meeting in the intersessional process to consider the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

40. The Secretariat will participate in the third meeting in the intersessional process, to be held in Bangkok from 1 to 4 October 2019.

¹⁶ https://ozone.unep.org/sites/default/files/4087555_10098.pdf.

¹⁷ <https://www.greeningthebluereport2019.org/>.

¹⁸ See <https://ozone.unep.org/ozone-day/32-years-and-healing>.

¹⁹ <https://ozone.unep.org/resources>.

²⁰ The list includes events in which the Secretariat plans to participate and is subject to change.

C. Stakeholder meeting to support the Kigali Amendment ratification process in Turkmenistan

41. The Secretariat will provide support to a stakeholder meeting on the ratification of the Kigali Amendment, to be held from 30 September to 2 October 2019 in Ashgabat.

D. Meeting of the Environmental Effects Assessment Panel

42. The Secretariat will participate by videoconference in the opening of the meeting of the Environmental Effects Assessment Panel, to be held in Auckland, New Zealand from 22 to 30 September 2019.

E. Twenty-fifth meeting of senior officials of the United Nations Environment Management Group

43. At the invitation of UNEP, the Secretariat will participate in the twenty-fifth meeting of senior officials of the United Nations Environment Management Group, to be held in New York on 25 September 2019.

F. Thematic workshops of regional networks

44. The Secretariat participated in a workshop for the Pacific island countries network of national ozone officers on the theme “Compliance with the Montreal Protocol post-Kigali”, held in Koror, Palau, from 12 to 15 August 2019. It also took part, through remote means, in the thematic workshops organized for the South-East Asia network of national ozone officers, held in Cebu, Philippines, from 30 July to 2 August 2019, and for the South-Asia network of national ozone officers, held in Ulaanbaatar from 26 to 29 August 2019.

45. The Secretariat also participated in similar workshops for the anglophone Africa network, held in Accra from 23 to 27 September 2019, and for the Europe and Central Asia network, to be held in Kiev from 24 to 27 September. It will participate in the workshop for the national ozone officers of Haiti and the English-speaking Caribbean and customs officers, to be held in Paramaribo from 7 to 11 October.

G. World Ozone Day celebrations

46. In celebration of World Ozone Day on 16 September 2019, the Secretariat participated in the opening ceremony of a refrigeration and air-conditioning training centre at the Dekwaneh vocational school in Beirut and attended World Ozone Day celebrations and an international workshop focused on cracking down on illegal activities relating to ozone-depleting substances and strengthening the supervision and management of Montreal Protocol implementation in China, held in Jinan, China.

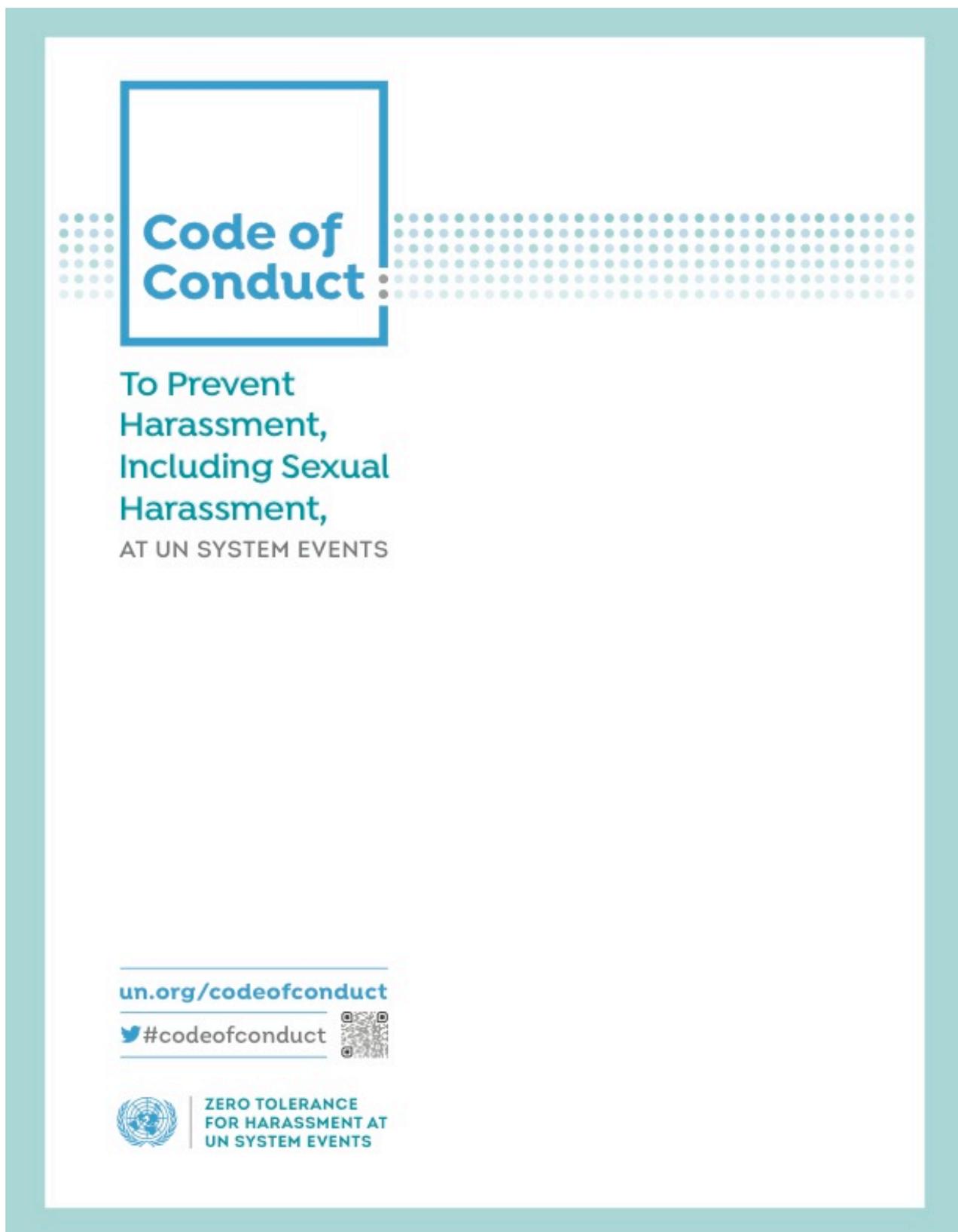
H. Meeting of the Japan Fire and Environment Protection Network

47. The Secretariat participated in the meeting of the Japan Fire and Environment Protection Network held in Tokyo on 8 and 9 July 2019 and gave a presentation on the climate benefits of controlling HFCs under the Montreal Protocol and the Kigali Amendment.

I. Workshop by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization on the theme “Kigali in action”

48. The Secretariat participated remotely in an expert group meeting arranged by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, held on 20 and 21 June 2019 in Vienna, and gave a presentation on data collection and reporting requirements under the Kigali Amendment.

Annex



Purpose

The organizations of the United Nations system are committed to enabling events at which everyone can participate in an inclusive, respectful and safe environment.

UN system events are guided by the highest ethical and professional standards, and all participants are expected to behave with integrity and respect towards all participants attending or involved with any UN system event.

Applicability

The Code of Conduct applies to any UN system event, which shall include meetings, conferences and symposia, assemblies, receptions, scientific and technical events, expert meetings, workshops, exhibits, side events and any other forum organized, hosted or sponsored in whole or part by a UN system entity wherever it takes place, and any event or gathering that takes place on UN system premises whether or not a UN system entity is organizing, hosting or sponsoring.

The Code of Conduct applies to all participants at a UN system event, including all persons attending or involved in any capacity in a UN system event.

The UN system or other entity responsible for a UN system event commits to implementing the Code of Conduct.

The Code of Conduct is not legal or prescriptive in nature. It supplements, and does not affect, the application of other relevant policies, regulations, rules and laws, including laws regulating the premises in which the UN system event takes place and any applicable host country agreements.

Prohibited conduct

Harassment is any improper or unwelcome conduct that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offence or humiliation to another person. Harassment in any form because of gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, physical ability, physical appearance, ethnicity, race, national origin, political affiliation, age, religion or any other reason is prohibited at UN system events.

Sexual harassment is a specific type of prohibited conduct. Sexual harassment is any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that might reasonably be expected or be perceived to cause offense or humiliation. Sexual harassment may involve any conduct of a verbal, nonverbal or physical nature, including written and electronic communications, and may occur between persons of the same or different genders.

Examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

- Making derogatory or demeaning comments about someone's sexual orientation or gender identity
- Name-calling or using slurs with a gender/sexual connotation
- Making sexual comments about appearance, clothing or body parts
- Rating a person's sexuality

- Repeatedly asking a person for dates or asking for sex
- Staring in a sexually suggestive manner
- Unwelcome touching, including pinching, patting, rubbing or purposefully brushing up against a person
- Making inappropriate sexual gestures, such as pelvic thrusts
- Sharing sexual or lewd anecdotes or jokes
- Sending sexually suggestive communications in any format
- Sharing or displaying sexually inappropriate images or videos in any format
- Attempted or actual sexual assault, including rape

Complaint process

A participant who feels that they have been harassed at a UN system event may report the matter to the organizer of the UN system event or relevant security authority, and a participant who witnesses such harassment should make such a report. Such reporting shall have no effect on any applicable rules and procedures that may apply in the UN system or to other personnel. The organizer of the UN system event will be expected to take appropriate action in accordance with its applicable policies, regulations and rules.

Examples of appropriate action may include, but are not limited to:

- undertaking a fact-finding exercise
- requesting the perpetrator to immediately stop the offending behavior
- suspending or terminating the perpetrator's access to the UN system event or refusing registration at future UN system events, or both
- conveying the complaint to any investigative or disciplinary authority with jurisdiction over the person accused of harassment
- conveying a report to the employer or entity with jurisdiction over the person accused of harassment for appropriate follow-up action

The victim of alleged harassment may also seek help from other relevant authorities, such as the police, bearing in mind the applicable legal framework.

A participant should never knowingly make a false or misleading claim about prohibited conduct.

Prohibition of retaliation

Threats, intimidation or any other form of retaliation against a participant who has made a complaint or provided information in support of a complaint are prohibited. The UN system or other entity responsible for a UN system event will take any reasonable appropriate action needed to prevent and respond to retaliation, in accordance with its applicable policy, regulations and rules.