
**Montreal Protocol
on Substances that
Deplete the Ozone Layer**

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**Thirty-Fourth Meeting of the Parties to
the Montreal Protocol on Substances
that Deplete the Ozone Layer**
Montreal, Canada, 31 October–4 November 2022

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

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

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 July to October 2022 that the Secretariat wishes to bring to the attention of the parties.

II. Activities of the Ozone Secretariat

A. World Ozone Day 2022

2. 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.

3. The 2022 theme of “Global cooperation protecting life on earth”¹ was developed to highlight the positive impact and influence of the Montreal Protocol, including in areas beyond the ozone layer and climate, over the past 35 years, emphasizing the importance of global cooperation and partnerships which have underpinned the success of the Protocol.

4. The Secretariat developed eight posters in all six official languages of the United Nations, a thirty-fifth anniversary commemorative video and a comprehensive social media pack. A video message from the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, Inger Andersen, and a written message from the Secretary-General were also included to help the parties and ozone stakeholders raise awareness of World Ozone Day 2022 activities and commemorative events.

5. The Secretariat supported a number of events, with expert contributions to discussions organized by China and Indonesia to mark World Ozone Day, and took part in radio and media interviews.

6. The additional tools developed to support events and promote World Ozone Day generated 1,776 visits to the World Ozone Day 2022 web page between 1 and 31 August 2022, and 10,192 visits between 1 and 22 September. The Secretariat also used its social media accounts on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter to promote World Ozone Day 2022 in the run-up to 16 September. This generated increased following of, respectively, 214 per cent, 30 per cent and 143 per cent, totalling more than 350,000 views/reach instances/impressions.

¹ See <https://ozone.unep.org/montreal-protocol-global-cooperation-protecting-life-on-earth>.

B. Carbon offsetting for 2021

7. The Secretariat is completing the process of measuring and offsetting its greenhouse gas emissions for 2021. The operations of the Secretariat conducted under the Montreal Protocol in 2021 remained scaled down owing to the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Although the United Nations Office at Nairobi remained closed to non-essential staff, there was little travel and most meetings were held online, the Secretariat nevertheless expects a reduced but attributable level of carbon emissions to be offset.

8. Feedback from Sustainable United Nations on carbon data reported by the Secretariat confirmed the carbon emissions for the Secretariat for its 2021 operations at 5 tonnes of CO₂-equivalent. Equivalent carbon credits will be purchased from a project promoting the use and adoption of sustainable and high-efficiency biomass cooking stoves. This will be the eighth consecutive year in which the operations of the Secretariat are expected to be carbon-neutral.

C. Improvement of the digital presence and access of the Secretariat

9. The Secretariat developed and improved access to platforms, including:

(a) A new online platform developed for the collection, approval and posting of annual disclosures of interest for the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel and the technical options committees;

(b) A virtual exhibition on sustainable cold chains which collects and reviews nominations from technology manufacturers and developers for inclusion;

(c) Hosting of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel primer, which comprises a web-based version of the Panel primer for easy access anywhere, any time;

(d) A tool with improved data capture capabilities to generate and manage the lists of participants for meetings;

(e) Meeting portal enhancement (mobile compatibility) to allow users instant access through mobile devices;

(f) Additional development of the education portal, designed as a resource tool with access to educational material for teachers to help engage their students on the ozone layer.

D. Environmental management system

10. In support of the efforts of the United Nations Secretariat to create climate-smart entities that are aligned with the recommendations made by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its 2018 special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways,² and in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from its operations and facilities by 2030, the Ozone Secretariat has developed an environmental management system framework to mitigate and reduce its carbon emissions, particularly for its travel and external events. The system will record and report on the activities and outcomes of the work of the Ozone Secretariat.

11. The environmental management system framework underwent its first trial at the forty-fourth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol in July 2022 and will be trialled further at the Thirty-Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol before being finalized.

E. Technology and Economic Assessment Panel primer

12. In early 2022, the Secretariat produced a primer on the operation of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel and its subsidiary bodies. The primer was posted on the portal for the Panel on the website of the Secretariat in the form of a compendium of questions and answers.³

13. The main purpose of the primer is to provide new delegates attending the meetings of the Montreal Protocol and new members of the Panel with a concise description of the way the Panel operates in discharging its mandate under the Protocol.

² Available at <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/download/>.

³ Available at <https://ozone.unep.org/teap-primer>.

14. The compendium of questions and answers consists of an introduction and two parts. Part I describes the role and structure of the Panel and its subsidiary bodies, the nomination and appointment procedures followed for the recruitment of members, the functioning and organization of the work of the Panel, its code of conduct, and disclosure and conflict of interest guidelines. Answers to questions on these matters are provided verbatim as contained in the terms of reference of the Panel set out in the annex to decision XXIV/8 on terms of reference, code of conduct and disclosure and conflict of interest guidelines for the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel and its technical options committees and temporary subsidiary bodies. It is anticipated that the compendium will be updated as necessary.

15. Part II summarizes the reporting carried out by the Panel and its subsidiary bodies, including an outline of the main processes under the Protocol that engage the Panel.

III. Cooperation with and contribution to the United Nations Environment Programme and other bodies

A. Global governance of plastics and chemicals

16. Following the adoption of resolution 5/14 of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme entitled “End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument”, the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions has been preparing a study addressing the global governance of chemicals and plastics. The objective of the study is to identify relevant gaps and synergies, and to contribute to the consideration of a new global treaty on plastic pollution. In this regard, the Ozone Secretariat was invited to provide input and comments on a mapping document compiling information on the coverage of chemicals and plastics of existing multilateral environmental agreements, commissioned by the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. The Ozone Secretariat did so and subsequently attended a workshop, held online on 30 June 2022, to discuss all submitted comments.

17. Taking into account the feedback received, the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions circulated the first draft of a report tentatively entitled “Closing the gaps in the governance of plastics and associated chemicals: the role of a new global agreement and international sustainability criteria”. The Ozone Secretariat reviewed the document and on 9 September 2022 provided comments for further consideration.

B. World Cold Chain Symposium 2022

18. The World Cold Chain Symposium 2022, in conjunction with the Global Food Cold Chain Council and the United Nations Environment Programme, through OzonAction, organized a side event during the forty-fourth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, held in Bangkok.

19. The symposium, with the theme of “Promoting the sustainable food cold chain: pursuing the action agenda”, was held on 10 July 2022 to highlight global efforts to reduce food loss and waste in an environmentally friendly manner, and to highlight means by which the sustainable cold chain can further this effort. It gathered a diverse group of stakeholders working in this field. The Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat made opening remarks, highlighting the role of the Montreal Protocol and the Rome Declaration on the Contribution of the Montreal Protocol to Food Loss Reduction through Sustainable Cold Chain Development (UNEP/OzL.Pro.31/9, annex I).

20. Participants in the symposium noted the momentum for the sustainable cold chain, with several initiatives under way, including the joint OzonAction and Global Food Cold Chain Council database and modelling programme, the work of the Cool Coalition cold chain working group addressing the objectives of the Rome Declaration, and the efforts of Champions 12.3 to promote public and private sector finance mechanisms.

21. Discussions at the symposium highlighted a unique combination of perspectives in relation to cold chains and how these can create multidimensional inputs connected to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the work of the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment. Moving forward, recommendations from participants included supporting capacity-building, promoting and implementing financial support and building partnership programmes.

IV. Secretariat participation in relevant events and meetings from July to October 2022

A. Assessment panel meetings

22. The Secretariat participated in the meeting of the Scientific Assessment Panel held from 24 to 29 July 2022 in Geneva and the meeting of the Environmental Effects Assessment Panel held from 19 to 27 September 2022 in Kalmar, Sweden. The purpose of those meetings was to finalize the key messages of the 2022 quadrennial assessment reports that are being prepared in response to decision XXXI/2 of the Thirty-First Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on potential areas of focus for the 2022 quadrennial reports of the Scientific Assessment Panel, the Environmental Effects Assessment Panel and the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel.

B. Science-policy panel on chemicals, waste and pollution

23. In resolution 5/8, the United Nations Environment Assembly decided that a science-policy panel should be established to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution. The Environment Assembly further decided to convene, subject to the availability of resources, an ad hoc open-ended working group to prepare proposals for the science-policy panel, to begin work in 2022 with the ambition of completing it by the end of 2024.

24. The first session of the ad hoc open-ended working group will be held in two parts. The first part will take place in Nairobi on 6 October 2022 in a hybrid format to discuss procedural issues. The second part will be held in person in Bangkok early in the first quarter of 2023 (dates to be confirmed).

25. The Secretariat has been invited to participate in the meetings of the ad hoc open-ended working group. Furthermore, the Executive Secretary has been invited to give a presentation on the assessment process under the Montreal Protocol at a webinar on lessons learned for the science-policy panel on 5 October 2022. Presentations will also be delivered by the heads of other relevant institutions, such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

C. Regional network meetings of national ozone officers

26. In the period between July and October 2022, representatives of the Secretariat either participated in or will participate in the following network meetings of ozone officers (in person and online), organized by the United Nations Environment Programme under its OzonAction compliance assistance programme:

(a) The joint meeting of the South Asia, Southeast Asia and Pacific Island Countries regional networks of ozone officers, in Bangkok from 17 to 19 July 2022;

(b) Thematic and network meetings of the West Asia regional network, as well as Ozone Day celebrations and an event entitled “Eurovent Middle East HVACR Industry Summit”, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 11 to 16 September 2022;

(c) The meeting of the Europe and Central Asia regional network on the experience of Czechia with the Montreal Protocol and the preparation of Kigali Amendment hydrofluorocarbon implementation plans, in Prague and Cheb, Czechia, from 20 to 22 September 2022;

(d) The joint meeting of the Africa regional networks and the Kigali Amendment hydrofluorocarbon implementation plan preparation meeting, in Nairobi from 3 to 7 October 2022;

(e) The joint meeting of the South Asia and Southeast Asia regional networks, in Chiang Mai, Thailand, from 3 to 5 October 2022;

(f) The meeting of the Pacific Islands Countries regional network, in Coral Coast, Fiji, from 10 to 14 October 2022.

27. The Ozone Secretariat also opened a session on the sustainable food cold chain at the Global Methane, Climate and Clean Air Forum 2022 in Washington, D.C., on 27 September 2022, delivering a presentation on the Rome Declaration and the Kigali Amendment and their contribution to promoting the sustainable cold chain.