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

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**Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Parties to
the Montreal Protocol on Substances
that Deplete the Ozone Layer**
Nairobi, 3–7 November 2025

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

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The present note summarizes issues that are not directly related to the implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer or decisions of the meetings of the parties but are still of possible interest to the parties. It includes information on activities undertaken by the Secretariat, its cooperation with and contributions to the work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other bodies, and its participation in relevant activities and meetings since the forty-seventh meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, which was held in Bangkok from 7 to 11 July 2025.

II. Activities of the Ozone Secretariat

A. World Ozone Day 2025

2. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/114, the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer (World Ozone Day) is observed every year on 16 September to commemorate the adoption of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer on 16 September 1987.

3. The theme for World Ozone Day 2025, “From science to global action”, was posted on the Secretariat website¹ in the six official languages of the United Nations, together with communication materials for parties to use in their commemorative activities. Different digital assets were developed, including social media cards, as well as a message from the Secretary-General and a video address by the Executive Director of UNEP for World Ozone Day 2025, which were shared ahead of the day for further dissemination. Noting the fortieth anniversary of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer adopted in 1985, social media reels celebrating the work of the Vienna Convention and a short trailer of the anniversary documentary were also created for use on World Ozone Day.

4. 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.

¹ <https://ozone.unep.org/ozone-day/from-science-to-global-action>

5. The Secretariat supported a number of events, with expert contributions to discussions to mark World Ozone Day, organized by China, Mexico, Nigeria and Kenya, as well as the Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP.
6. The additional communication tools developed to support events and promote World Ozone Day 2025 helped to increase the number of views of the Secretariat's website from 2.2 million to 3.9 million since World Ozone Day 2024. The Secretariat also used its social media accounts with Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, X (formerly Twitter) and more recently Threads and BlueSky to promote World Ozone Day 2025 in the run-up to 16 September.
7. Owing to staff cuts, the UNEP Communication Division² was unable to provide any statistics on the UNEP outreach of the posts on their English social media accounts or the media outreach achieved. The Ozone Secretariat World Ozone Day 2025 social media campaign, however, reached over 600,000 people, generating almost 1 million video views and nearly 8,000 reactions (likes, shares, comments or saves) on Instagram. On LinkedIn, the posts reached over 200,000 people with 351,000 video views. This generated an increase of 1,023 followers (up 80 per cent) on Instagram and an additional 134 LinkedIn followers (an increase of 6 per cent).

B. Carbon offsetting for 2024

8. The Secretariat completed the process of measuring and compensating for the greenhouse gas emissions created during 2024. Confirmation from the Sustainable United Nations initiative on carbon data reported by the Secretariat confirmed 2024 operations generated 516 tonnes CO₂e (mandatory reporting of facilities and travel (staff and funded)). It should be noted that, in line with UNEP travel guidelines, a number of Secretariat staff voluntarily downgraded to economy class travel for official trips on which they were entitled to a higher class so as to reduce Secretariat emissions.
9. To ensure that the Secretariat compensates for all of its meeting-related emissions, an additional 731 tonnes of CO₂e emissions (unfunded travel of parties not operating under paragraph 1 of Article 5 of the Montreal Protocol) was calculated, bringing the total to 1,247 tonnes CO₂e. While this is an increase from the 952 tonnes of CO₂e calculated for 2023, 2024 saw an increase in meeting activities including the Ozone Research Managers meeting in April and the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer which was combined with the Thirty-Sixth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol in November.
10. The equivalent carbon credits will be purchased from a project supporting the improvement of landfill waste management practices to capture and utilize methane gas. This will be the tenth consecutive year in which the emissions generated by the activities of the Secretariat will be compensated for.

C. Update on digital presence and access improvements

11. The Secretariat has undertaken a desktop review of its website to assess areas for improvement in terms of updating content, revising the look and feel as well as determining accessibility for users with hearing or visual challenges.
12. The Secretariat is developing an artificial intelligence tool in house to automatically identify and embed hyperlinks across more than one thousand decisions contained in the *Montreal Protocol Handbook* in all official United Nations languages. This innovation enhances the user experience by enabling seamless navigation and cross-referencing of related content across the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish, and Russian editions. The tool for the English edition has been fully implemented, and work is in progress to extend this functionality to the remaining language versions.
13. The MOP37 meeting mobile app has been developed and updated by the Secretariat to enhance the meeting experience for delegates during the Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Parties (MOP37).

² <https://www.unep.org/about-un-environment-programme/why-does-un-environment-programme-matter/divisions>.

III. Cooperation with and contribution to UNEP and other bodies

Second part of the fifth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee on plastic pollution

14. In a spirit of collaboration and sharing expertise among the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements and processes administered by UNEP and UNEP divisions, the Ozone Secretariat provided legal, substantive and general conference support, as part of the expanded secretariat team, to the second part of the fifth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. The resumed session was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 5 to 14 August 2025.

IV. Secretariat participation in relevant events and meetings from August to October 2025

A. Upcoming Montreal Protocol meetings

15. The Secretariat will organize the seventy-fifth meeting of the Implementation Committee under the Non-Compliance Procedure of the Montreal Protocol, to be held in Nairobi on 31 October and 1 November 2025,³ along with a meeting of the Bureau of the Thirty-Sixth Meeting of the Parties on 1 November 2025, an informal meeting on facilitating the implementation of the Montreal Protocol on 2 November 2025 and the Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol from 3 to 7 November 2025, to be held at the same venue.

B. World Meteorological Organization meetings

16. The Secretariat participated in three back-to-back meeting organized by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) from 30 June to 3 July 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland:

(a) The 2025 WMO/Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) Scientific Advisory Group on Ozone and Ultraviolet Radiation, to review the status of the global network for systematic observations of ozone, UV radiation, and related gases and parameters; identify data gaps and needs for improvement and decide on appropriate actions to address those needs; and finalize the 2025 edition of the “WMO Ozone and UV Bulletin”;

(b) The WMO/GAW Meeting on a Global Ozone Monitoring Strategy, to address critical challenges faced by ozone monitoring networks worldwide;

(c) The WMO/GAW First Joint Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Groups on Ozone and UV and Greenhouse Gases, to share information on their activities, discuss similar challenges (such as data gaps, financing and emerging technologies) and reflect on the ideal future network design for monitoring controlled substances.

17. The issues dealt with by these meetings are strongly related to the work of the Advisory Committee of the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention as they largely concern the implementation of projects monitoring ozone, UV radiation and greenhouse gases. The close cooperation and coordination of the Secretariat with WMO on these matters is, therefore, essential in promoting synergistic action and avoiding duplication of work.

C. Twentieth Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

18. The Ozone Secretariat attended various agenda item discussions of the twentieth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment held in Nairobi from 14 to 17 July 2025. The goal was primarily to follow the negotiations on resolutions or decisions where the Montreal Protocol was mentioned. Two relevant decisions were adopted, including AMCEN decision 20/4, on the environmental priorities of Africa for the biennium 2025–2027, where there was a call to promote the ratification and implementation of global environmental agreements of interest to the continent,

³ https://ozone.unep.org/system/files/documents/MOP37_info_note.e.pdf

including, among others, the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol. In addition, AMCEN decision 20/7, on the participation of Africa in the sixth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, in its preambular paragraphs, welcomed domestic regulatory actions by some exporting parties to prohibit the export of, among other things, inefficient energy consuming equipment that does not comply with the national standards of importing countries. This is in line with decision XXXV/13, adopted at the Thirty-Fifth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on the import and export of prohibited cooling equipment.

D. Environmental Effects Assessment Panel meeting

19. The Secretariat attended part of the 2025 meeting of the Environmental Effects Assessment Panel of the Montreal Protocol, held from 29 August to 3 September 2025 in Bari, Italy. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss progress made and the way forward in the Panel's response to its terms of reference set out in decision XXXV/3 in the preparation of its 2026 quadrennial assessment on the environmental effects of stratospheric ozone depletion, ultraviolet radiation, and interactions with climate change, due for submission to the Secretariat by 31 December 2026.

20. In addition to assessing the effects of exposure to solar radiation on human health, terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, air quality and materials, the 2026 report will include information on the potential consequences of stratospheric aerosol injection; on the chemistry, fate, and toxicology of replacements for ozone-depleting substances and their degradation products including trifluoroacetic acid; on microplastics; and on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) of relevance to the Montreal Protocol, with information on PFAS prepared in close cooperation with the Scientific Assessment Panel and the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel.⁴

E. Sixth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific

21. The Secretariat participated by virtual means at a side event entitled "The Montreal Protocol and Kigali Amendment – A Legacy of Ozone and Climate Action" that took place on 28 August 2025 during the sixth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific, held in Nadi, Fiji from 26 to 29 August 2025. In her recorded keynote address, the Executive Secretary emphasized the global impact of the Montreal Protocol, how the Kigali Amendment can contribute to climate protection, and reiterated the call for universal ratification of the Amendment by 2026.

F. Webinar on "Enhancing Environmental Oversight in Trade: A Focus on Free Trade Zones, Trans-shipment and MEA Obligations"

22. The Secretariat participated in the webinar on enhancing environmental oversight in trade: A focus on free trade zones, trans-shipment and MEA obligations, on 9 September 2025, organized by the UNEP Law Division. The webinar raised awareness of the environmental and legal risks associated with free trade zones, transit, and trans-shipment operations, and explored how (MEAs) and international customs legal and regulatory frameworks deal with trade-related compliance challenges. The Secretariat participated in a panel discussion with other MEA secretariats focusing on trade controls.

23. The webinar built upon the recently published information note by UNEP on "Free Trade Zones, Trans-shipment and Multilateral Environmental Agreements"⁵, prepared with the support of the Secretariat and other MEA secretariats. Discussions highlighted how free trade zones and trans-shipment operations can complicate the tracking of goods, making it difficult to monitor and enforce trade-related laws.

G. Fifteenth InforMEA Steering Committee Meeting

24. The Secretariat participated online in the 15th InforMEA Steering Committee Meeting held from 16 to 18 September 2025, organized by the InforMEA secretariat. The meeting brought together representatives from MEA secretariats and partner organizations to review progress and set priorities

⁴ <https://ozone.unep.org/treaties/montreal-protocol/meetings/thirty-fifth-meeting-parties/decisions/decision-xxxv3-potential-areas-focus-2026-quadrennial-reports-environmental-effects-assessment-panel>.

⁵ https://ozone.unep.org/sites/default/files/2025-05/FTZ_Final_23_April_2025.pdf

for InforMEA Phase V. Discussions focused on strengthening InforMEA as a global knowledge platform, enhancing interoperability across MEA portals, and leveraging digital innovation to improve access to environmental information. The Secretariat participated in the sessions on both technical and joint issues groups, contributing to exchanges on e-learning, outreach, semantic indexing and responsible integration of artificial intelligence.

25. The meeting underscored the importance of continued collaboration among MEA secretariats and the responsible use of emerging technologies to strengthen transparency and capacity-building. Key recommendations included the development of cross-thematic e-learning courses, adoption of Akoma Ntoso standards for digital legal texts, improvement of semantic search functions, establishment of an artificial intelligence working group, and redesign of InforMEA's website to become more inclusive.

H. World Ozone Day commemorative events

26. The Executive Secretary travelled to China to attend World Ozone Day 2025 commemorative events that included a celebration on 16 September with Mr. Yu Huiwen, Vice Minister of Ecology and Environment, followed by the International Workshop on HFC-23 at Fudan University, Beijing on 18 September 2025.

27. The Deputy Executive Secretary attended the Kenyan national celebrations of World Ozone Day on 16 September 2025 at the John Michuki Memorial Park in Nairobi. Celebrations were attended by officials of the Kenyan Government, led by Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Ms. Deborah Mlongo Barasa.

28. The Senior Legal Officer joined by virtual means the event organized by Nigeria to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Vienna Convention and 2025 World Ozone Day held on 16 September 2025. The celebration was headed by Mr. Balarabe Abbas Lawal, Minister of Environment.

29. The Senior Legal Officer also attended virtually the Mexico World Ozone Day celebrations on 26 September 2025, headed by Ms. Ileana Villalobos Estrada, Undersecretary of Environmental Regulation, and delivered a presentation on science and the ozone treaties.

30. The Communications and Information Officer joined the online webinar hosted by the Children and Youth Major Group to UNEP on 16 September 2025 to mark World Ozone Day. The Secretariat was requested to provide an update on the Kigali Amendment as well as the Montreal Protocol mechanisms used to respond to the issue of hydrofluorocarbons to create an amendment.

I. Eighth meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Sustainability Management

31. The Secretariat's Environmental Management Focal Point attended the Eighth Meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Sustainability Management from 23 to 25 September 2025 in Geneva.

32. Discussions included sustainability management, climate change 2025 and the way forward, climate neutrality and carbon offsets and the travel task team (of which the Secretariat is a member) findings and recommendations.

33. Key takeaways included improvements to the annual emissions report produced by Greening the Blue, targets of the sustainability strategy which have not been met, such as all entities adopting an Environmental Management System by 2025, and addressing emerging challenges considering current and future budget and personnel constraints.

J. Regional network meetings of national ozone officers

34. In the period between July and October 2025, representatives of the Secretariat participated in the following network meetings of ozone officers, organized by the United Nations Environment Programme under its OzonAction Compliance Assistance Programme:

35. Network Meeting of South Asia National Ozone Officers, 3 to 5 July 2025, Bangkok: The Secretariat gave a presentation on the key outcomes and decisions of the combined thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and Thirty-Sixth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol as well as on issues coming up for discussion at the forty-seventh Meeting of the Open-ended Working Group. In addition, the Secretariat provided greater detail about decision

XXXVI/9 on possible next steps to further strengthen Montreal Protocol institutions, and presented the process for baseline changes through the Implementation Committee, highlighting the main requirements, current issues and examples of recent cases of HFC baseline changes.

36. Joint Network Meeting of 54 African National Ozone Officers, Dakar, 22 to 25 September 2025: The Secretariat made an online presentation on key outcomes and decisions of the Thirty-Sixth Meeting of the Parties, including decisions of particular relevance to Africa, key outcomes of the forty-seventh meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the seventy-fourth meeting of the Implementation Committee, as well as on issues to be considered by the Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Parties.

37. Network Meeting of Latin America National Ozone Officers, 25 September 2025 (online only): A webinar on the online reporting system and Article 7 reporting. The Secretariat gave a presentation on the online reporting system highlighting key features of the system, errors to avoid, online checks as well as other tools and sources of information related to data reporting available from the Secretariat.

38. Network Meeting of Pacific Island Countries National Ozone Officers, 29 and 30 September 2025, Nadi, Fiji: The Secretariat provided a recorded presentation on the outcomes of the forty-seventh meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the seventy-fourth meeting of the Implementation Committee and on key issues to be discussed at the upcoming meetings of the Montreal Protocol.

39. Europe and Central Asia Network Meeting of National Ozone Officers, 7–9 October 2025, Yerevan, : The Secretariat participated online to present key updates from the forty-seventh meeting of the Open-ended Working Group, issues to be considered by the Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, and data reporting and compliance issues of particular interest to the region.

40. Caribbean Regional Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) Banks Workshop for National Ozone Officers and National ODS Banks Consultants, 6–10 October 2025, Panama City: The Secretariat gave an online presentation on the key outcomes of the workshop on life-cycle refrigerant management (LRM) that took place in Bangkok on 27 October 2024. Outreach on the outcomes of the workshop is consistent with decision XXXVI/2 on LRM, which encourages parties operating under paragraph 1 of Article 5 to use their regional networks of national ozone officers to further build capacity, share knowledge and other resources and advance cooperative approaches to enhancing LRM.