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Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

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**Thirty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer**
Kigali, 2–6 November 2026

# 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 13 to 17 July 2026.

## II. Activities of the Ozone Secretariat

### A. World Ozone Day 2026

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 2026, "Global action for a cooler planet – celebrating 10 years of sustainable cooling under the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol", was posted on the Secretariat website[1] 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 2026, which were shared ahead of the day for further dissemination. Noting the 10th anniversary of the Kigali Amendment adopted in 2016, social media reels documenting the road to the Kigali Amendment were also created and used for World Ozone Day.

4. The Secretariat, in accordance with its usual practice, was able to provide financial assistance to a small number of parties operating under paragraph 1 of Article 5 of the Montreal Protocol (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 two events, with expert contributions to discussions to mark World Ozone Day, one organized by China and the other by Singapore in the margins of the Global Cooling Pledge Assembly from 15 to 18 September 2026.

6. The additional communication tools developed to support events and promote World Ozone Day 2026 helped to increase the number of views of the Secretariat's website from 3.9 million to 6.3 million since World Ozone Day 2025. The Secretariat also used its social media accounts with Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, X, Threads and Bluesky to promote World Ozone Day 2026 in the run-up to 16 September.

7. As a result of staff cuts, the UNEP Communication Division[2] 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 2026 social media campaign, the only media campaign for 2026, helped to generate an increase of 950 LinkedIn followers (an increase of 41 per cent) since the previous World Ozone Day, with a smaller increase of 27 per cent on Bluesky and 8 per cent on Threads. Without paid boosts to social media posts, organic growth is difficult, and virtually impossible across the Meta platforms of Facebook and Instagram, as well as X.

## B. Carbon offsetting for 2025

8. The Secretariat completed the process of measuring and compensating for the greenhouse gas emissions created during 2025. Confirmation from the Sustainable United Nations initiative on carbon data reported by the Secretariat confirmed that 2025 operations generated 507 tonnes $CO_2e$ (mandatory reporting of facilities and travel (staff and funded)) – a reduction from the 516 tonnes $CO_2e$ for 2024. 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 614 tonnes of $CO_2e$ emissions (unfunded travel of parties not operating under paragraph 1 of Article 5 of the Montreal Protocol) was calculated (also a reduction from 731 $CO_2e$ emissions calculated for unfunded travel in 2024), bringing the total to 1,121 tonnes $CO_2e$.

10. The equivalent carbon credits will be purchased from a project supporting a catalytic $N_2O$ abatement project in the tail gas of a fertilizer plant. This will be the twelfth 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. **OzoneGPT launch at MOP38:** In a significant step toward modernizing institutional knowledge access, the Ozone Secretariat will launch OzoneGPT at the Thirty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties. Serving as an AI-driven conversational assistant and institutional intelligence platform, OzoneGPT enables parties and stakeholders to seamlessly query decades of treaty-related decisions, technical evaluations, and historical records. By utilizing a closed-archive retrieval architecture that searches only within resources stored on the Secretariat's website, the platform guarantees that all generated outputs are factual, uncompromised by unverified external sources, and directly referenced to source texts. Moreover, the platform supports both standard conversational and autonomous AI agent frameworks that synthesize accurate, evidence-based responses.

# III. Cooperation with and contribution to UNEP and other bodies

## World Customs Organization webinar of environmental crime

12. The Secretariat delivered a keynote address at a webinar on environmental crime organized by the World Customs Organization (WCO). The webinar forms part of a series of events organized by the WCO under its official theme for 2026, "Customs Protecting Society through Vigilance and Commitment." The address focused on how international environmental frameworks and multilateral environmental agreements can be effectively translated into action through coordinated enforcement, including the important role of Customs in preventing and detecting the illicit cross-border movement of environmentally sensitive goods. The Secretariat has, for several years, been coordinating with the WCO on the matter of illegal trade in controlled substances.

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

# IV. Secretariat participation in relevant events and meetings from mid-July to end October 2026

## A. Upcoming Montreal Protocol meetings

13. The Secretariat will organize the seventy-seventh meeting of the Implementation Committee under the Non-Compliance Procedure of the Montreal Protocol, to be held in Kigali on 30 and 31 October,[3] along with a meeting of the Bureau of the Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Parties on 31 October 2026, and the Thirty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol from 2 to 6 November 2026, to be held at the same venue.

## B. Assessment panel meetings

14. The Secretariat participated in the meeting of the Scientific Assessment Panel held from 20 to 24 July 2026` in Geneva, and the meeting of the Environmental Effects Assessment Panel held from 9 to 15 August 2026 in Copenhagen. The purpose of those meetings was to finalize the key messages of the 2026 quadrennial assessment reports that are being prepared in response to decision XXXV/3 of the Thirty-Fifth Meeting of the Parties on potential areas of focus for the 2026 quadrennial reports of the Environmental Effects Assessment Panel, the Scientific Assessment Panel and the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel. The reports will be submitted to the Secretariat by 31 December 2026 for the parties' consideration in 2027.

## C. World Ozone Day commemorative events

15. The Executive Secretary was invited by China to attend World Ozone Day 2026 commemorative events that included a celebration on 16 September preceded by the Workshop on Pathways, Policies and Scientific and Technological Needs of the Phasedown of Hydrofluorocarbons HFC-23 at Peking University, Beijing on 15 September 2026. The Executive Secretary provided video addresses for both events.

16. The Secretariat provided opening remarks on Day 2 of the Global Cooling Pledge Assembly in Singapore on 16 September 2026 to mark World Ozone Day.

## D. Global Cooling Pledge Assembly

17. The Secretariat participated in the inaugural Global Cooling Pledge Assembly convened from 15 to 18 September 2026 in Singapore, at the invitation and sponsorship of the UNEP Cool Coalition as a serving member of the Cool Leaders Selection Committee.

## E. Sixteenth Annual InforMEA Steering Committee Meeting

18. The Secretariat participated in the 16th meeting of the InforMEA Steering Committee from 12 to 14 October 2026 in Geneva, to strengthen digital collaboration and data harmonization across multilateral environmental agreements. Through active engagement in the working group discussions, the team reaffirmed its commitment to enhancing interoperability and knowledge-sharing across various multilateral environmental agreements/frameworks.

## F. Regional network meetings of national ozone officers

19. In the period between July and the end of October 2026, representatives of the Secretariat participated or will participate in the following network meetings of ozone officers, organized by UNEP under its OzonAction Compliance Assistance Programme:

(a) Inter-regional Meeting of Caribbean and Pacific Island Countries National Ozone Officers on strengthening licensing systems, quota management and energy efficiency synergies under the Montreal Protocol, 12 July 2026, Bangkok (in person, back-to-back with the 48th meeting of the Open-ended Working Group).

(b) Thematic Meeting of South Asia National Ozone Officers on HFC Quota and Licensing Systems, 4 to 6 August 2026, Thimphu (online).

(c) Anglophone Network Meeting of Ozone Officers of 28 African Countries, 10 to 13 August 2026, Addis Ababa (in person).

[3] https://ozone.unep.org/system/files/documents/MOP38_info_note.e.pdf.

(d) Joint Network Meeting of National Ozone Officers of the South Asia, Southeast Asia and Pacific Island Countries, 14 to 16 October 2026, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam (in person).