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**Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to
the Montreal Protocol on Substances that
Deplete the Ozone Layer
Forty-third meeting**

Online, 22 and 24 May and 14–17 July 2021*
Item 7 (a) of the provisional agenda**

**Nominations for critical-use exemptions for methyl
bromide for 2022 and 2023**

Issues for discussion by and information for the attention of the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol at its forty-third meeting

Addendum

Nominations for critical-use exemptions for methyl bromide for 2022 and 2023

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. Owing to the continuing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and related travel restrictions, the forty-third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer cannot be held in person in Bangkok as planned. Instead, a number of issues have been selected from the provisional agenda (UNEP/OzL.Pro.WG.1/43/1) for online work. Those issues are: (a) replenishment of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol for the period 2021–2023 (agenda item 3); (b) unexpected emissions of trichlorofluoromethane (CFC-11) (decision XXX/3, para. 4; decision XXXI/3, para. 7) (agenda item 4); (c) nominations for critical-use exemptions for methyl bromide for 2022 and 2023 (agenda item 7 (a)); and (d) energy-efficient and low-global-warming-potential technologies (decision XXXI/7) (agenda item 12).

* Some agenda items will be discussed online and others will be deferred to a later date.

** UNEP/OzL.Pro.WG.1/43/1.

2. The online work includes an online forum,¹ established on the website of the Ozone Secretariat, to facilitate the parties' review and posting of comments on specific meeting documents, and online meetings² on some prioritized agenda items. In the case of critical-use nominations of methyl bromide, the online work will be facilitated only by the online forum.

3. Section II of the present addendum contains information on the organization of work pertaining to critical-use nominations of methyl bromide submitted by parties in 2021, and section III contains a summary of the interim recommendations by the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel and relevant information.

II. Organization of work on nominations for critical-use exemptions for methyl bromide

4. The Secretariat has set up a dedicated tab on critical-use nominations in the online forum referred to in paragraph 2 of the present addendum. The purpose of the forum is to enable parties to comment on and ask questions about the interim report of the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee, contained in volume 2 of the 2021 report of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel.³ The interim report and the present addendum will be available in the online forum. Parties are invited to post comments and questions in the dedicated tab on critical-use nominations.

5. That tab will be open for the posting of comments from 31 May to 21 June 2021. The Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee is expected to respond to parties' questions in writing in the online forum thereafter. Subsequently, the Committee will prepare its final report on critical-use nominations, to be presented at and considered by the Thirty-Third Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol.

III. Nominations for critical-use exemptions for methyl bromide for 2021 and 2022

6. As is indicated in the note by the Secretariat (UNEP/OzL.Pro.WG.1/43/2, paras. 28–30), the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee evaluated a total of four nominations for critical-use exemptions that were submitted in 2021. One party operating under paragraph 1 of Article 5 of the Montreal Protocol (Article 5 party), Argentina, submitted two nominations for 2022, and two parties not so operating (non-Article 5 parties), Australia and Canada, submitted one nomination each, for 2023 and 2022, respectively.

7. Another Article 5 party which had been nominating critical-use exemptions in recent years, South Africa, has advised that it will not put forward nominations this year, as little methyl bromide was used in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and therefore stocks existed for current treatments. However, the party noted that it would consider applying for future years.

8. According to the Committee, the general reasons for seeking critical-use exemptions cited by nominating parties were related to environmental conditions and regulatory restrictions that did not allow for partial or full use of alternatives; difficulties in the scaling-up of alternatives; and the fact that potential alternatives were considered uneconomical, insufficiently effective and/or unavailable.

9. The total amount of methyl bromide nominated for 2022 and 2023 by the three parties mentioned above is 29.107 metric tons, representing a 67 per cent reduction from the total amount requested by four parties in 2020. The Committee has made interim recommendations for authorization of the total nominated amount on the basis that nominating parties had either made significant reductions or were not able to have alternative options available. The table below presents a summary of the nominations of the parties and the interim recommendations by the Committee.

¹ The online forum is available at www.online.ozone.unep.org/login and contains separate tabs on: (a) replenishment of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol for the period 2021–2023; (b) unexpected emissions of trichlorofluoromethane (CFC-11) (decision XXX/3, para.4; XXXI/3, para.7); (c) nominations for critical-use exemptions for methyl bromide for 2022 and 2023; and (d) energy-efficient and low-global-warming-potential technologies (decision XXXI/7).

² The online meetings pertain to: (a) guidance to the task force of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel on further work on its assessment of the funding requirement for the replenishment of the Multilateral Fund for the period 2021–2023 (replenishment report) (22 and 24 May 2021); (b) unexpected emissions of CFC-11 (decision XXX/3, para.4; XXXI/3, para.7) (14 and 15 July 2021); and (c) energy-efficient and low-global-warming-potential technologies (decision XXXI/7) (16 and 17 July 2021).

³ <https://ozone.unep.org/system/files/documents/TEAP-CUN-interim-report-may%202021.pdf>.

Summary of the nominations for 2022 and 2023 critical-use exemptions for methyl bromide submitted in 2021 and the interim recommendations of the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee

(Metric tons)

<i>Party</i>	<i>Nomination for 2022</i>	<i>Interim recommendation for 2022</i>	<i>Nomination for 2023</i>	<i>Interim recommendation for 2023</i>
Non-Article 5 parties and sectors				
1. Australia				
Strawberry runners			14.49	[14.49]
2. Canada				
Strawberry runners	5.017	[5.017]		
Subtotal	5.017	[5.017]	14.49	[14.49]
Article 5 parties and sectors				
3. Argentina				
Strawberry fruit	3.70	[3.70]		
Tomato	5.90	[5.90]		
Subtotal	9.60	[9.60]		
Total	14.617	[14.617]	14.49	[14.49]

10. In addition to the interim recommendations on parties' critical-use nominations, the report of the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee recalls the reporting requirements under relevant decisions and includes information on trends in methyl bromide critical-use nominations and exemptions for all nominating parties to date, as well as on the reported accounting frameworks for critical uses and stocks of methyl bromide, and on the submission of national management strategies for the phase-out of critical uses of methyl bromide.

11. Based on the accounting framework information received from the nominating parties in 2021, there were no stocks of methyl bromide available at the end of 2020. The Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee reiterated, however, that the accounting information does not show accurately the total stocks of methyl bromide held globally for controlled uses by Article 5 parties, as some parties have no formal mechanism to account accurately either for such stocks or for stocks used in quarantine and pre-shipment applications, and there is no requirement for parties under the Montreal Protocol to report pre-2015 stocks. According to the Committee, such stocks may be substantial (approximately 1,500 metric tons).

12. Recent decisions⁴ have reiterated the requirement for Article 5 parties requesting critical-use exemptions to submit their national management strategies for the phase-out of critical uses of methyl bromide in accordance with paragraph 3 of decision Ex.I/4. The Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee reports that in this round of nominations no detailed management plans were received from Argentina, but notes the progress made by the party in reducing its nominated amounts.

13. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to consider the report and interim recommendations of the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee and provide comments through the online forum in line with the organization of work outlined in section II of the present addendum.

⁴ Decisions XXXI/4 and XXXII/3.