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

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**Open-ended Working Group of the Parties
to the Montreal Protocol on Substances
that Deplete the Ozone Layer
Forty-fourth meeting
Bangkok, 11–16 July 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 since the previous such note (UNEP/OzL.Pro.33/INF/3), or will take place in the coming months, that the Secretariat wishes to bring to the attention of the parties.

II. Activities of the Ozone Secretariat**A. Global launch of the *Reset Earth* education platform**

2. Building on the success of the *Reset Earth* animation and game application, the Secretariat developed the first stage of the *Reset Earth* education portal,¹ developing academic material to support teaching about the vital work of the Montreal Protocol and protection of the ozone layer.

3. The platform was officially launched on World Education Day, 24 January 2022, with the first phase of academic material targeting 8 to 12-year-olds, comprising lesson guidelines for teachers, student worksheets, the *Reset Earth* episodes, explainer videos and links to other resources. The materials, which are free of charge, have been designed to maximize accessibility, with video storybooks developed to supplement the videos in case of access or technical constraints.

4. By the end of April, the education portal and *#ResetEarth* content had reached over 23 million people, including 1.5 million people directly through the Secretariat's social media channels (Twitter, Instagram and Facebook), and there had been more than 4,000 downloads of the education materials.

B. World Ozone Day 2022

5. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/114, the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer (World Ozone Day) is observed on 16 September every year to commemorate the signing of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer on 16 September 1987. The theme for World Ozone Day 2022 is “Montreal Protocol@35: global cooperation protecting life on earth”, which notes the milestone anniversary of thirty-five years of positive contribution by the

¹ www.ozone.unep.org/education-portal.

Protocol to the protection of the ozone layer, climate change mitigation and the protection of nature and biodiversity.

6. As the world faces a triple environmental crisis – climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution – the Ozone Secretariat wishes to emphasize the importance of the global cooperation and partnerships that have underpinned the success of the Montreal Protocol so far and will continue to be key to its efforts to protect the ozone layer and in global efforts to safeguard all life on earth.

7. The theme is visually conceptualized through posters in the six official languages of the United Nations, which, together with communication materials, are available on the Secretariat website² for parties to download. In addition, a comprehensive social media pack, infographics, a video in support of the theme and its messaging, and a video message from the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), will be produced for dissemination on World Ozone Day. The message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for World Ozone Day 2022 will be shared prior to the day for further dissemination.

8. As global coronavirus disease (COVID-19) restrictions begin to ease, the Secretariat will once again request submissions from parties on their planned national commemorative events and provide limited financial assistance to a small number of developing countries as a contribution towards the cost of organizing national activities to commemorate World Ozone Day.

C. Environmental Management System

9. In 2007, under the leadership of then Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the Executive Heads of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes committed themselves to the United Nations Climate Neutral Strategy, asked each entity to achieve climate neutrality and to become more environmentally sustainable. In 2013, the Executive Heads committed themselves to implementing environmental management systems (EMS) in each entity and in 2021, the Ozone Secretariat embarked on developing its own EMS.

10. While the Ozone Secretariat has offset its annual carbon emissions fully for the past seven years, this has been with respect to travel related to meetings of the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol, and the carbon footprint of the physical office of the Secretariat, housed within UNEP. However, entities need not only to offset their carbon emissions but also to make efforts to mitigate emissions and become increasingly environmentally sustainable. The Secretariat seeks to do that through its EMS.

11. A draft EMS policy and manual have been prepared for the Ozone Secretariat to provide guidelines and procedures for staff to manage event-related activities and work with host governments, suppliers and participants to reduce the carbon footprint of its meetings. The guidelines will be applied during the forthcoming Forty-fourth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group to guide the Secretariat and venue staff in assessing and reporting on the carbon footprint and sustainability of the meeting, and to determine potential corrective actions to be included in the draft EMS.

D. Launch of an ozone introductory course on InforMEA

12. The Ozone Secretariat has launched an introductory course on the international legal framework for the protection of the ozone layer on the InforMEA e-learning platform. The course is designed for government representatives and national stakeholders new to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol, students of environmental law and anyone interested in learning about the ozone treaties. Before the course was launched, a trial version was tested by a small number of parties and colleagues from UNEP OzonAction, who provided valuable feedback to improve the course content and interactive features suitable for the online learning environment.

13. InforMEA is the United Nations information portal on multilateral environmental agreements that serves as a one-stop information hub on international environmental law. It is searchable by key terms across treaty texts, decisions of conferences of the parties and meetings of the parties, national plans and reports, laws, court decisions and other documentation. In addition, part of the platform is dedicated to e-learning, containing some 40 free-of-charge online courses on topics related to multilateral environmental agreements.

14. The Ozone introductory course is a self-paced course which can be found under “Climate and Atmosphere” on the portal. From its launch in February 2022 until 13 May, 218 users had enrolled on

² <https://ozone.unep.org/montreal-protocol-global-cooperation-protecting-life-on-earth>.

the course, of whom 131 had completed it and obtained a certificate of completion from UNEP and InforMEA.

15. The Ozone Secretariat is currently developing an advanced course to complement the introductory course. The advanced course will examine the ozone treaties in greater depth to further enhance stakeholders' knowledge.

E. Multilateral Fund contributions page

16. To enhance the country profile pages on the Ozone Secretariat website, the Secretariat, with support and data from the Fund secretariat, has updated the "funding received" section. It now provides information about the total funding approved and disbursed to each party operating under paragraph 1 of Article 5, as well as a detailed breakdown of funding for ongoing projects related to hydrochlorofluorocarbons phase-out management plans and Kigali Implementation Plans. The section will be regularly updated after meetings of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol.

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

A. Resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

17. During the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, convened under the theme "Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals", and its special session commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of UNEP, a number of events focused on multilateral environmental agreements. The following sessions were organized with the support or direct participation of the Ozone Secretariat:

(a) The leadership dialogue: "Looking Back: 50 years of UNEP" was held on 4 March 2022 and brought together stakeholders from across government, civil society, United Nations organizations and the UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements. The dialogue focused on UNEP's achievements and the foundations of the Programme's success, exploring its contribution to multilateralism and international cooperation, its contribution to the science-policy interface and its comparative advantage in inspiring new opportunities to address today's multilateral global challenges in tackling the triple planetary crisis. The Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat participated in the session and delivered the remarks on three lessons learned from the Montreal Protocol.³

(b) In a joint side-event on compliance mechanisms, the Ozone Secretariat joined with other multilateral environmental agreement secretariats to host an event celebrating 35 years of implementation and compliance mechanisms established under multilateral environmental agreements administered by UNEP. The panellists represented 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, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The Montreal Protocol was represented by China as the current President of the Implementation Committee under the non-compliance procedure.

(c) The World Environment Situation Room (WESR) initiative was launched on 3 March 2022 during the UNEP@50 celebrations by the Executive Director of UNEP. The WESR is the new UNEP platform for data, information and knowledge sharing. It enables users to access, visualize, share and download data, information and knowledge services on the global environmental situation in near real time. It targets national policymakers, top environmental policymakers, the environmental scientific community, business and interested citizens. The platform is a key knowledge instrument to support progress in delivering the environmental dimension of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9HfSEH8I05w&list=PLZ4sOGXTWw8FmCiC8ozDHm-1bnwTeJbv&index=30>

The Ozone Secretariat is part of the WESR initiative and contributes information and data to the repository. A dedicated section on ozone protection issues was established on the WESR website (<https://data.unep.org/article-category/browse-topic>), which includes a geographical visualization of production and consumption data of ozone-depleting substances reported under the Montreal Protocol. Links to the WESR website and its ozone pages have also been created on the Ozone Secretariat home page. It is envisaged that other visualizations will be developed in the future.

B. Letter from Ukraine requesting the suspension of the operation of international environmental treaties with regard to the Russian Federation

18. On 3 March 2022 the Secretariat received a letter from the Government of Ukraine, which addressed a range of issues, including calling for a joint effort to protect humanity and nature following the actions of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. The letter cited, among other things, the violation of international law, human rights, environmental and nuclear security, and global peace, following what it referred to as the “full-scale invasion” by the Russian Federation into Ukraine. According to the Government of Ukraine, the actions by the Russian Federation made it impossible to accomplish the object and purpose of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Government of Ukraine therefore invited contracting parties to start consultations over the suspension of the operation of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer in respect of the Russian Federation on the basis of articles 57 (b) and 60 (2) (c) of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (1969).

19. In its response to Ukraine, the Secretariat indicated that the operation of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer is governed by the provisions of the two treaties and guided by the decisions of the parties. The treaties’ own authority alone determines and directs the operation and implementation of the treaties and, therefore, the violation of other treaties such as the Charter of the United Nations and the 1949 Geneva conventions and the protocols thereto are matters beyond the scope of the ozone treaties.

20. The Secretariat further noted that neither the Vienna Convention nor the Montreal Protocol contains provisions concerning the suspension of the operation of the two treaties in respect to a party, except for suspension of specific rights and privileges under the indicative list of measures that might be taken by a Meeting of the Parties in respect of non-compliance with the Montreal Protocol in the context of the non-compliance procedure for the Protocol.

21. In response to the request by Ukraine for the Secretariat to forward its letter to the parties, the Secretariat undertook to inform them by distributing the letter in an information note for the forthcoming Forty-fourth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (see the annex to the present note).

C. Contribution of the Montreal Protocol to the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development

22. The high-level political forum on sustainable development is convened annually under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council to review, among other things, the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. In March 2022, the Ozone Secretariat submitted a report to the Forum in response to an invitation from the President of the Economic and Social Council, Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile.

23. The report presented the work of the parties to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer up to January 2022 in relation to the theme of the 2022 Forum, “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The report highlights the contribution of the ozone treaties to the Sustainable Development Goals that are being reviewed in depth by the Forum in 2022, namely Goal 4 on quality education, Goal 5 on gender equality, Goal 14 on life below water, Goal 15 on life on land and Goal 17 on partnerships for the Goals.

24. The report was prepared in coordination with the presidents of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and the Thirty-Third Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol and is available on the website of the Forum.⁴

⁴ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=30022&nr=3138&menu=3170>.

D. Activities related to the sustainable cold chain and cooling sector

1. Launch of the report *Sustainable Food Cold Chains: Opportunities, Challenges and the Way Forward*

25. As part of the activities associated with the United Nations Food Systems Summit in 2021, to promote the Montreal Protocol, the Kigali Amendment and the Rome Declaration, the Ozone Secretariat collaborated with the Cool Coalition and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations to develop the report *Sustainable Food Cold Chains: Opportunities, Challenges and the Way Forward*. The main objectives of the analysis were to provide an overview of the status, drivers and implications of food cold chains globally; describe the benefits of sustainable food cold chains; identify the key drivers of, barriers to and opportunities in achieving those benefits; and showcase existing technologies, projects, policies and finance and business models, both locally and internationally.

26. The Ozone Secretariat also provided substantive input, highlighting the role of sustainable cold chain technologies and political platforms, such as the Rome Declaration, in sharing experiences and knowledge and scaling existing solutions.

2. Virtual exhibition on sustainable cold chain

27. The virtual exhibition on sustainable cold chains⁵ was developed jointly by the Ozone Secretariat and UNEP's OzonAction Programme and was launched on World Ozone Day in 2021 to demonstrate commercially available cold chain technologies, mainly targeting applications and equipment with refrigeration and cooling cycles that use ozone- and climate-friendly refrigerants and have enhanced energy efficiency characteristics. The exhibition aims to identify and highlight game-changing and systemic approaches to cold chains for both food and vaccines.

28. The exhibition is the result of collaboration between the Ozone Secretariat, the Government of Italy, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other relevant organizations and initiatives to promote the Montreal Protocol, the Kigali Amendment, and the Rome Declaration on the Contribution of the Montreal Protocol to Food Loss Reduction through Sustainable Cold Chain Development. The Rome Declaration⁶ was signed by 84 parties to the Montreal Protocol.

29. The online exhibition aims to provide access to critical information for policymakers, decision-makers, and public and private sector end-users, to enable them to identify technological options and stay abreast of the latest state-of-the-art cold chain solutions. The organizing committee, which was composed of independent experts, including technical experts from FAO, received 43 nominations from technology providers from around the world and accepted 21 technologies, which are currently displayed on the exhibition website.

30. In an effort to increase the visibility of the exhibition, the Ozone Secretariat and OzonAction conducted a consultation with current exhibitors to gauge their feedback and with technical experts of the virtual exhibition to leverage their opinions and networks. A second promotion phase is currently being conducted. Parties are also welcome to disseminate the exhibition to their own networks.

31. The virtual exhibition will be available on the Ozone Secretariat website, with nominations from technology and solutions providers being accepted on a continuous basis, and in due course it will be taken over by other initiatives active in the field of cold chains.

3. Chilling Prospects 2022 report

32. Sustainable Energy for All (SEforAll) invited the Ozone Secretariat to contribute to the *Chilling Prospects: Tracking Sustainable Cooling for All 2022* report. The report series focuses on the contribution of access to sustainable cooling for all to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and equity in a warming world. The 2022 edition shines a light on the cooling access challenges currently faced and the ways in which they might change by 2030. The Ozone Secretariat contributed a story entitled "Ozone treaties – a global partnership for more sustainable cooling",⁷ which provided an update on the progress achieved by the parties to the Montreal Protocol since the adoption of the Kigali Amendment. The report was launched at the SEforAll forum, held in Kigali in May 2022.

⁵ www.ozone.unep.org/coldchainexhibition/index.html.

⁶ www.ozone.unep.org/node/3883.

⁷ www.seforall.org/data-stories/ozone-treaties.

E. Sixteenth session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

33. 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 2012.⁸ At the invitation of the International Plant Protection Convention secretariat, in January 2022 the Ozone Secretariat submitted, in consultation with the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee, an updated report for the information of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures at its sixteenth session, held online in April 2022.⁹ In that report an invitation was extended to qualified technical experts of the International Plant Protection Convention Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments in methyl bromide use for quarantine to consider participating in the Committee through the nomination procedure established under the Montreal Protocol.

34. Additionally, the report noted the work of the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee on its 2022 Quadrennial Assessment Report, due for submission to the Secretariat at the end of 2022, which would include a review of ways in which to minimise emissions of methyl bromide. Listing certain areas for action under consideration, the Committee expressed its appreciation for any input the International Plant Protection Convention could provide in that regard. The report also outlined several activities on matters of common concern that might benefit from collaboration and would enhance coherence between the two treaties.

F. Stockholm+50

35. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 75/280,¹⁰ an international meeting will be convened in Stockholm on 2 and 3 June 2022, hosted by the Governments of Sweden and Kenya, to commemorate the 50 years since the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.¹¹ Under the theme “Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity”, the meeting aims to promote a multistakeholder approach for acceleration in the coming decade in areas that are crucial for a sustainable future: the relationship between humans and nature, what we invest in, and how resources are used and shared. It is envisioned that by identifying cross-cutting solutions, the meeting will result in an action-oriented outcome that paves the way forward by highlighting key actions that the global community can take to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and beyond. The Executive Director of UNEP has been appointed Secretary-General of the meeting.

36. The international meeting will include an opening segment, four plenary meetings, three leadership dialogues (on reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity for all; achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic; and accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the context of the Decade of Action) and a closing segment. In addition, many side events are being organized, both in-person and online. Substantive and practical support to the organization of Stockholm+50 is being coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme in close consultation with the co-host countries. The Ozone Secretariat has provided input for the preparation of the meeting through the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Management Group. The Executive Secretary will participate both in the meeting and in a side event featuring a round-table discussion with heads of United Nations entities entitled “Accelerating integrated action for a healthy planet and prosperity of all – a dialogue with United Nations heads of agencies”.

IV. Secretariat participation in events from January to July 2022

37. Between January and July 2021, the Secretariat undertook several missions and participated in the meetings set out below, to further the goals of the Montreal Protocol.¹²

⁸ Memorandum of understanding between the Ozone Secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on behalf of the secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention on collaboration on issues related to methyl bromide. Available at www.ippc.int/static/media/uploads/mou_btwn_ozone_&_ippc_signed.pdf.

⁹ International Plant Protection Convention, document CPM 2022/INF/13. Available at www.ippc.int/en/cpm-sessions/cpm-16/.

¹⁰ International meeting entitled “Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity”. Available at www.undocs.org/en/A/RES/75/280.

¹¹ www.stockholm50.global/.

¹² The list includes events in which the Secretariat plans to participate and may be subject to change.

A. Forthcoming meetings of the Montreal Protocol

38. The Secretariat will organize the sixty-eighth meeting of the Implementation Committee under the Non-Compliance Procedure for the Montreal Protocol, to be held in Bangkok on 9 July 2022, along with the Fifth Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, to be held at the same venue on 16 July.

B. Thirty-eighth meeting of the International Management Group on Environmental Sustainability

39. The Ozone Secretariat attended the online thirty-eighth meeting of the International Management Group on Environmental Sustainability on 8 and 10 March 2022. During the session on 10 March, the Secretariat presented its experience and challenges with and lessons learned in developing its Environmental Management System to the delegates.

40. It is anticipated that the Secretariat will also attend the thirty-ninth meeting due to be held online in June.

C. Eighty-ninth and ninetieth meetings of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol

41. The Ozone Secretariat participated in the eighty-ninth meeting of the Executive Committee, held online on 16, 18 and 20 May 2022. The Secretariat anticipates attending the ninetieth meeting of the Executive Committee, which is scheduled to be held in-person from 16 to 18 June 2022 in Montreal, Canada.

D. Climate and Clean Air Coalition

42. The Ozone Secretariat participated in the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) Kigali workstream meeting on 10 May 2022, at which the analysis *A Study on Hydrofluorocarbon Consumption Trends in Article 5 Countries* and the inventory of international cooling programmes and initiatives were discussed. The Secretariat also participated in the first CCAC Efficient Cooling Hub Leadership Group meeting on 11 May, which focused on CCAC engagement with the cooling sector.

Annex

Letter from the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine



МІНІСТЕРСТВО ЗАХИСТУ
ДОВКІЛЛЯ ТА ПРИРОДНИХ
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3 March 2022
Kyiv, Ukraine

Re: Suspension of the operation of the international environmental treaties in regard to the Russian Federation

Dear Ms. Seki,

We kindly ask to forward this letter to all other parties as a matter of urgency.

Hereby we address an urgent call for a joint effort to protect humanity and nature. Actions of the Russian Federation against Ukraine represent a brutal breach of the universal principles and norms of the international environmental law and therefore, require immediate response.

A full-scale invasion into Ukraine by the Russian Federation is a flagrant violation of international law, human rights, environmental and nuclear security, and global peace. Actions of the Russian Federation pose existential threats to international peace and security, and bring unprecedented and long-lasting challenges to the environment and human health.

As of today, Russian troops captured Chernobyl Exclusion Zone. They use nuclear fuel storage and landfills. Consequently, the global nuclear security is at stake today. There is also a direct threat of Russian terrorist actions in the Chernobyl zone, which might result in radiation damage to the people in Europe and beyond.

Ms. Megumi Seki
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Russian's missiles hit residential buildings and critical infrastructure miles from original targets, which constitute blatant violation of all norms of international humanitarian law. In addition, these actions pose risks to environmental security as reactors and other nuclear facilities can be exploded.

Russian intruders destroy our natural heritage. As of today, Russian armed forces use more than half of the Ramsar sites in Ukraine during hostilities against the Ukrainian people. This concerns the coasts of the Azov and Black Seas and in the lower reaches of the Danube and Dnieper. The Russian armed forces did not have and do not show any respect for wild nature. In particular, the occupied since 2014 Ramsar sites "Kryva Zatoka and Kryva Kosa" in Donbas and the "Water-coastal complex of Cape Opuk" in Crimea were constantly used for military exercises. More than 20 nature and biosphere reserves and national nature parks have suffered losses due to Russian aggression.

Today, every country in the world should make every effort to stop Russia's invasion into Ukraine, which has the potential to lead to a global environmental catastrophe.

According to Article 26 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (1969) every treaty in force is binding upon the parties to it and must be performed by them in good faith. The Russian Federation is in a grave breach of its obligations and commitments under several international environmental conventions and other international treaties. The above listed actions make impossible to accomplish the object and purpose of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer.

Based on Article 57 (b), 60 (2) (c) of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (1969), the Government of Ukraine invites the contracting parties to start consultations over suspension of the operation of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer in regard to the Russian Federation.

Yours sincerely,



Ruslan Strilets
Acting Minister