

400EWG, 11 – 14 July 2018, Vienna
Opening statement

Distinguished co-chairs and representatives of the parties to the Montreal Protocol,
Representatives of the UN and other International Organizations,
Members of the Assessment Panels,
Dear colleagues from the Fund Secretariat and Implementing Agencies,
Representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations and industry,
Ladies and gentlemen,

As you start your discussions in the beautiful city of Vienna, it is important to remember the many impacts that the ozone treaties and your decisions under the Montreal Protocol have on the planet and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

The submission this year by the presidents of the Conference of the Parties and the Meeting of the Parties to the High Level Political Forum, which is also meeting this week, highlighted the ozone treaties' contribution to 13 out of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Beyond protecting the ozone layer, these contributions include important impacts on climate, health, food waste, economic prosperity and social cohesion. As we move towards implementation of the Kigali Amendment from 1 January of next year, these contributions are set to increase.

Distinguished delegates,

I would like to thank all the [39] parties that have ratified the Amendment so far and ensured that it will enter into force in 2019. I thank you for your leadership and the example you have set, as we continue to work in the months and years ahead towards eventual universal ratification of the Amendment.

In preparation for the implementation of the Amendment, the Secretariat has, following the discussions within the contact group at the 29th Meeting of the Parties, updated the Article 7 data reporting forms based on your comments. We hope that they provide a firm basis for your ongoing discussions this week.

The Technology and Economic Assessment Panel will present many reports at this meeting. Members of the Panel, working under very tight deadlines, have completed a Herculean task in preparing these reports, proving once more their dedication to the Protocol and to you, the parties.

The Panel will present its 2018 report including among other issues, their assessment on the destruction technologies for all controlled substances, the nominations for exemptions of methyl bromide use in agriculture, and possible requirements for HCFCs after the phase-out period for developed countries.

The Panel will also inform us on the availability of halons and their alternatives, the laboratory and analytical uses that no longer require the use of ozone depleting substances and process agent applications.

New substantive technical and scientific issues, which require expert review and advice, continue to expand your discussions. The Panel is striving to meet your needs by working towards its own renewal, seeking new ideas, new expertise and more women. We all need to support TEAP in this effort.

In this meeting you will also continue with your discussion which begun at the 29th Meeting of the Parties on the linkages between HCFCs and HFCs in transitioning to low-global-warming alternatives, with reference to decision XXVIII/2 that accompanied the Kigali Amendment.

You will also have the chance, through the TEAP report and the feedback from the energy efficiency workshop, to deepen your understanding of energy efficiency opportunities in the refrigeration and air-conditioning sector. This is a critical issue for many parties.

Access to cooling is an essential and growing need in everyday life. A number of the Sustainable Development Goals - zero hunger, no poverty, economic growth, sustainable cities, among those – are contingent on access to cooling.

More efficient and robust cold chains from the farmer to the consumer can reduce the global problem of food waste and help to feed an ever-increasing population. Thanks to the Kigali Amendment, the linkages between cooling, energy efficiency and climate change have risen considerably on the international agenda.

In this meeting you will also consider two proposals for adjustment to the Montreal Protocol, one by the United States and the other one by Australia and Canada. The proposals seek to add fire suppression to the existing servicing tail for HCFCs for the 2020 to 2030. The joint proposal by Australia and Canada also seeks to permit essential-use exemptions of HCFCs as is the case for other ozone-depleting substances.

Another recent important development related to the implementation of the Montreal Protocol is the approval of the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility at its recent Council in Viet Nam. The replenishment includes funding for the phase down of production and consumption of HFCs for the countries with economies in transition and continued funding for the phase-out of HCFCs.

Distinguished delegates,

I would now like to turn to an issue of concern that has lately been in the news. New findings from a study released in May in the journal *Nature* report that emissions of CFC-11, the second most abundant ozone-depleting gas controlled by the Montreal Protocol, have unexpectedly increased in recent years, despite a global phase-out of production since 2010.

If these increased emissions continue unabated, they will slow down the recovery of the ozone layer. It is therefore critical that we take stock of this science, identify the causes of these emissions and take necessary action.

We, collectively, as governments, industries, civil society, Implementing Agencies, and institutions of the Protocol, all have a deep stake in sorting out this issue, in finding the source of the emissions and abating them.

We have an obligation to use the institutions of the regime that we have created. This is how the treaty works. This is why we have been successful so far. Scientists see an anomaly, scientists and experts attempt to identify the cause of the anomaly, parties consider it, discuss it and then take appropriate action. We cannot relax our vigilance for a second. We cannot let this go unaddressed.

The recent scientific findings also underscore the efficacy of the Montreal Protocol, its institutions and mechanisms, with science at their core. As long as the research community remains vigilant in monitoring the ozone depleting substances in the atmosphere, emissions of these chemicals will not go unnoticed.

As you will recall, the findings of the Ozone Research Managers report at our joint meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the Meeting of the Parties last year urged continued monitoring of ozone as well as ozone-depleting substances. We cannot allow these measurement stations to close due to lack of funding.

Any illegal consumption and production of CFC-11 would demand decisive action. Further scientific investigations are needed to establish a clear picture of the quantities and sources of emissions as well as possible scientific explanations. All our projections of the future benefits of the Montreal Protocol are premised on the adherence to its provisions.

It is in these moments that the mechanisms of the international community are more valuable than ever and that information needs to be shared to understand what happened. We must ensure adherence to the Protocol and think if and how we can further strengthen the mechanisms in our treaty to prevent such situations arising in the future.

The Montreal Protocol has a reputation as one of the most successful multilateral environmental agreements in history. We cannot let that reputation be tarnished and the world's trust in the Protocol's institutions and mechanisms be dampened. We must identify with accuracy the problem and rectify it.

Distinguished delegates,

In honour of the Montreal Protocol's rich history over 30 years, we have decided to publish the Montreal Protocol handbook in print format. This edition is an update that includes the

decisions of the parties by meeting, by article and, as a new feature by issue, to make the search of whatever you need easier. An online version will also be available as of today. The distribution of the handbooks will be done in meeting room 18 here at the first floor. I would like to thank the European Union for providing part of the resources to publish the book.

Before I conclude, I wish to sadly inform you about the recent passing of Mr. Kurbanov Abdukarim Kurbanovich, the former coordinator of National Ozone Unit of Tajikistan. For many years, he led the Tajikistan State Agency on Hydrometeorology and served in the Ministry of Nature Protection, as first Deputy Minister. We express our deep condolences to his family.

All that remains for me to say is that the Ozone Secretariat looks forward to supporting your frank and productive discussions as you move ahead with your meeting agenda for this week.

Thank you