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**United Nations
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**Bureau of the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Parties to
the Montreal Protocol on Substances that
Deplete the Ozone Layer**
Bangkok, 19 October 2013

Report of the meeting of the Bureau of the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer

I. Opening of the meeting

1. The Bureau of the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer met at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok on 19 October 2013.
2. The meeting was opened by the President of the Bureau, Iftikhar ul Hasan Shah Gilani (Pakistan), at 4.20 p.m., after which the Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat, Marco González, welcomed the participants to the meeting.
3. The meeting was attended by the following Bureau members:

President:	Mr. Iftikhar ul Hasan Shah Gilani (Pakistan) (Asia-Pacific States)
Vice-Presidents:	Mr. Alain Wilmart (Belgium) (Western European and other States)
	Mr. Leslie Smith (Grenada) (Latin American and Caribbean States)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Wylbur Simuusa (Zambia) (African States)
4. The Vice-President from Ukraine (Eastern European States) did not attend. A full list of participants is set out in the annex to the present report.

II. Adoption of the agenda

5. The provisional agenda of the meeting, set out in document UNEP/OzL.Pro.24/Bur.1/R.1, was adopted as follows:
 1. Opening of the meeting.
 2. Adoption of the agenda.
 3. Work to date on implementation of decisions of the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol.
 4. Overview of the working documents prepared for the Twenty-Fifth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol.
 5. Secretariat staffing issues.
 6. Review of the agenda and presentation of a road map for the conduct of the Twenty-Fifth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol.

7. Other matters.
8. Adoption of the report.
9. Closure of the meeting.

III. Work to date on implementation of decisions of the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol

6. The representative of the Secretariat provided an outline of the note by the Secretariat on work to date on the implementation of decisions, an overview of working documents and the road map for the Twenty-Fifth Meeting of the Parties (UNEP/OzL.Pro.24/Bur.1/2/Rev.1). Annex I to that note contained a tabular summary of actions taken to implement the decisions adopted by the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Parties.

7. The Secretariat had noted with concern that five parties had not yet completed the ratification of the Montreal Amendment and/or the Beijing Amendment to the Montreal Protocol: Kazakhstan, Libya, Mauritania, Papua New Guinea and Saudi Arabia. Of those parties, it was likely that all but Kazakhstan would complete the ratification process imminently. In the case of Libya, the instrument of ratification for the Montreal and Beijing amendments was pending with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where it was awaiting signature. It would then be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The same was true of Saudi Arabia, where the relevant internal processes had been completed and all that remained to be done was to transmit the instrument of ratification for the Beijing and Montreal amendments to the Secretary-General. The case of Papua New Guinea was even more advanced; the instrument of ratification for the Beijing Amendment had been transmitted to the Secretary-General but had not reached him owing to confusion regarding the address. The instrument would be resent soon. With regard to Mauritania, the ratification process had been delayed by election campaigning. The Government had committed itself to submitting the relevant documentation to the parliament immediately after the general elections in October so that the ratification of the Beijing Amendment could be completed. The case of Kazakhstan was rather more problematic and had been under discussion since 2005. The party was facing trade sanctions, but the efforts of the Secretariat to ensure ratification of the Beijing Amendment had yet to bear fruit.

8. Another representative of the Secretariat explained that efforts had been made to enlist the assistance of the Russian Federation with regard to Kazakhstan, given that those two parties and Ukraine had signed a free trade agreement that involved harmonization of customs regulations. Should the remaining parties ratify the outstanding amendments, universal ratification of all the ozone instruments and the amendments thereto would be achieved. He pointed out that compliance with all the control measures of the Montreal Protocol in 2010 had stood at more than 99 per cent, the only exception being Kazakhstan.

9. The Bureau took note of the information presented.

IV. Overview of the working documents prepared for the Twenty-Fifth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol

10. The representative of the Secretariat drew attention to annex II to document UNEP/OzL.Pro.24/Bur.1/2/Rev.1, which set out a list of documents prepared for the Twenty-Fifth Meeting of the Parties.

11. The Bureau took note of the information presented.

V. Secretariat staffing issues

12. The representative of the Secretariat said that his tenure as Executive Secretary would conclude at the end of October 2013 and he would be replaced by Ms. Tina Birbili, a Greek national and former Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change. Following the resignation of the Deputy Executive Secretary for personal reasons, a staff member from within the Secretariat was currently carrying out the functions of the post on an interim basis. The recruitment process would soon be completed. The Senior Administrative and Finance Officer had taken up her post on 19 August 2013. Lastly, the post of Information Officer had become vacant and it was hoped that the position would be filled by the end of 2013.

13. He had hoped that the new Executive Secretary would have been able to attend the Twenty-Fifth Meeting of the Parties in order to begin the handover process, but that did not appear

likely. Accordingly, he had postponed his repatriation travel until mid-November with a view to performing a handover at the seat of the Secretariat in Nairobi. Should such a handover not prove possible, the staff of the Secretariat, both General Service and Professional, would do their utmost to ensure a smooth transition.

14. In response to the concerns expressed regarding the current staffing situation of the Secretariat, the representative of the secretariat said that the recruitment procedure for all the posts had been carried out in accordance with the United Nations rules and regulations on recruitment. The posts had been advertised, applications had been reviewed and a shortlist of candidates deemed suitable for interview had been established for each post. Following interviews, the final decision on recruitment had been taken by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the case of the post of the Executive Secretary. With regard to the other posts, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme would take the decision.

15. The Bureau took note of the information presented.

VI. Review of the agenda and presentation of a road map for the conduct of the Twenty-Fifth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol

16. The representative of the Secretariat outlined the expected programme of work for the Twenty-Fifth Meeting of the Parties, summarizing and supplementing the information contained in section IV of document UNEP/OzL.Pro.24/Bur.1/R.2/Rev.1. Regarding the road map for the preparatory segment, he said that the intention was to tackle all agenda items in plenary session by the end of the morning of the second day, including the establishment of contact groups and working groups, and to leave the afternoon of the second day and the third day free for the meetings of those groups. He anticipated the establishment of between 7 and 10 such groups and said that, to the extent possible, their meetings would be staggered to enable delegations, including those with a small number of representatives, to participate in as many groups as they wished. The high-level segment would be opened by the Minister for Industry of Thailand on the morning of the fourth day.

17. The Bureau took note of the information presented.

VII. Other matters

18. In response to a question, the representative of the Secretariat described progress in the recovery of the ozone layer. Although recovery was a long-term process, the concentration of ozone-depleting substances in the atmosphere was reducing daily. According to the most recent technical assessment, the scientific community believed that the ozone layer would regain its pre-1998 level between 2050 and 2060. In the past three years, however, there had been some thinning of the ozone layer over the Arctic, which was a new development and did not form part of the hole in the ozone layer. Scientists were increasingly concerned about the interaction between climate and ozone, and there was a need for further research into the dynamics of the ozone layer to be carried out jointly by scientists and climate change researchers. A new scientific assessment would be carried out in 2014 and the ozone research managers would also discuss the interaction between climate and ozone protection at their meeting in 2014.

19. The Bureau took note of the information presented.

VIII. Adoption of the report

20. The President said that a draft of the report would be prepared by the Secretariat and circulated to Bureau members as soon as possible. The report would then be finalized, taking their comments into account, and presented to them for their approval.

IX. Closure of the meeting

21. The President declared the meeting closed at 5.55 p.m.

Annex

List of participants

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