

## **INFORMATIONAL NOTE: TEAP Organisational Matters**

### **Introduction**

In chapter 8.4 of volume 1 of its 2022 Progress Report, TEAP provided its proposal for the consideration of parties on possible adjustments to its current structure to more effectively and efficiently support the parties' efforts to phase out ozone-depleting substances and phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). Subsequent internal TEAP discussions prior to the Forty-fourth Open-ended Working Group meeting (OEWG-44) refined our thinking about the proposals. At OEWG-44, TEAP presented its proposal, and then responded to questions from parties in plenary as well as during contact group discussions. There was general interest from parties for further explanation and more time to consider the proposal, especially the potential change to the RTOC and FTOC. The OEWG agreed to continue work on this matter during the intersessional period and to resume discussions at the Thirty-Fourth Meeting of the parties.

In response to the interest from parties and to support further discussions, TEAP now provides this informational note that summarises the information provided in its presentation, which elaborated the proposal contained in its 2022 Progress.

### **Background**

TEAP continually reviews its organisation and structure to ensure that TEAP and its TOCs are structured in size and expertise to support future efforts of the parties, during the transition to ODS and HFC alternatives. In May 2022, at its hybrid meeting in London, TEAP again discussed its structure, membership, particularly within its TOCs, and how best to address the continuing trends and challenges that may impact the future efforts of the parties in ensuring the phase-out of ODS and phase-down of HFCs.

In particular, TEAP considered the increasing emphasis on sustainability, on food and vaccine cold chains and the overall health and performance of buildings, including energy efficiency, safety, and availability of alternatives. Based on its discussions at its meeting, in its 2022 Progress Report, TEAP thought it timely to consider changes to the structure within its TOCs, coming at it completes its 2022 quadrennial assessment report, and proposed for the consideration of parties the following approach:

- The formation of two new TOCs to replace the current Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heat Pumps Technical Options Committee (RTOC) and the Flexible and Rigid Foams Technical Options Committee (FTOC), one to be focused on the Cold Chain and the other to be focused on Building & Indoor Climate Control;
- The appointment of the current RTOC and FTOC co-chairs to serve as co-chairs of the new committees;
- The appointment of members to the new TOCs would be made by the co-chairs, in consultation with TEAP, for the needed expertise (based on the TEAP Matrix of Needed Expertise) starting in 2023 following the requirements in the TEAP TOR for nominations and appointments to the TOCs.

In addition, TEAP considered the scope of work for its three additional TOCs and proposed for the consideration of parties the following:

1. The Halons Technical Options Committee (HTOC) be renamed the Fire Protection TOC (FPTOC), reflecting the increasing range of fire suppressant options to Halons, including Annex F HFCs, and the broader technical relevance of fire safety to actions taken under the Montreal Protocol;

2. The Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee (MBTOC) be renamed the Methyl Bromide, Agriculture and Sustainability TOC (MBASTOC), reflecting the broader technical relevance of sustainability in food production, food safety, and sustainable agriculture to actions taken under the Montreal Protocol while still addressing important MB uses - controlled (CUNs) and exempted (QPS) and their alternatives;
3. The Medical and Chemicals Technical Options Committee (MCTOC) remains unchanged.

## **Presentation**

In its presentation of its 2022 Progress Report to parties, TEAP re-iterated the need to periodically consider its structure to continue to best serve the needs of parties. This is especially true with changing circumstances under the Montreal Protocol, with an evolving focus on the climate while at the same time maintaining the phase-out of ODS.

Despite the COVID pandemic, TEAP and its TOCs and Task Forces have continued working virtually and participating in on-line forums. Since 2020, TEAP has provided 17 reports for parties within strict timelines, with an additional eight reports to be completed within 2022, including reports for the quadrennial assessment. Without the benefits of face-to-face meetings, TEAP and its TOCs have faced challenges with keeping a motivated and engaged cadre of global expert volunteers connected to its continuing tasks. TEAP and its TOCs structure, membership, and expertise need continuous review to respond to the changing demands placed on them, and their ability to deliver.

TEAP has been well served for over three decades by its TOC structure, which is primarily based on industry sectors. These have been focused on the global transitions away from ODS within those sectors. As the ODS phase-out has progressed under the Montreal Protocol and more emphasis placed on addressing climate-damaging HFCs, the TEAP structure and membership has also evolved, particularly within the TOCs, to support the needs of parties. As an example, in 2015, TEAP evaluated its structure, membership, and future direction and proposed to merge the Medical and Chemicals TOCs forming the MCTOC primarily in response to the phase-out of CFC MDIs during that period. With the Kigali Amendment, there are now new challenges and cross-cutting topics that require consideration (e.g., energy efficiency, interaction with building construction, food and medicine in cold chains). In responding to decisions taken by parties even before the Kigali Amendment, TEAP has been carefully considering these new topics important to parties, and with its proposed changes in TOC structure, TEAP thought it timely to propose these now to try to better align the structure with the evolving challenges to parties in meeting the goals of the Montreal Protocol.

The historical scope covered by the RTOC and FTOC continue to be important in the phase down of HFCs and the proposal intends to continue the coverage for these sectors. RTOC has historically followed the global transition in the refrigeration and air conditioning sectors, covering many applications and technologies along with issues related to new alternatives such as testing, adoption into standards, improving energy efficiency, servicing practices, and recovery/recycling. FTOC has historically followed the global transition to alternative foam blowing agents across a variety of applications. Without diminishing or losing the core focus of the RTOC and FTOC in these important sectors of ODS and HFC uses, TEAP proposed an option to integrate RTOC and FTOC into two new committees as above. The most important advantage of this option is to develop a systems approach to the interconnected nature of these technologies and their applications, such as across buildings and indoor climate control or the cold chain, and intersectional cross-cutting issues, such as system efficiency and energy efficiency. TEAP recognised that to seamlessly retain the historic RTOC and FTOC functions, the change to the new committees would need to be carefully managed. TEAP proposed that experienced, current RTOC/FTOC co-chairs would be appointed as the co-chairs of the new TOCs. This would ensure continuity and seamless integration in the new structures; meeting the

same historical standards for reports, presentations, and committee management; and the intermixing of capabilities to provide the opportunity to refresh approaches for addressing the new challenges.

TEAP participated in the discussions with parties in the contact group at OEWG-44. We heard the concerns of parties including those related to the need for this restructure versus continuing to work within its existing structure; reasons why coordination on these topics could not occur within the current structure; the role of experts across the new committees on overlapping topics; retaining the historical expertise in the sectors; managing cross-cutting topics such as energy efficiency; and the internal consultation process within the TOC membership. TEAP responded to these and other questions during the contact group discussions and understands that parties were interested in more time to further consider both the merits and perhaps the timing of a proposed change. TEAP welcomes the opportunity to respond to any further questions in related discussions of parties on this topic at the MOP.