



United Nations
Environment
Programme



Distr.
LIMITED
UNEP/CCOL/5/7
1 September 1981
Original: ENGLISH

Co-ordinating Committee
on the Ozone Layer
Fifth Session

Copenhagen, 12-16 October 1981

Discussion Paper on Technical Aspects of a
Draft Convention to Protect the Ozone Layer

Contribution

by

Sweden and Denmark

DISCUSSION PAPER ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF A DRAFT
CONVENTION TO PROTECT THE OZONE LAYER, submitted
by the Danish and Swedish delegations to the 5th
SESSION OF THE CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE ON THE
OZONE-LAYER

INTRODUCTION

This discussion paper attempts to identify and treat those non-legal aspects that must be dealt with in the drafting of a global convention for the protection of the ozone layer. The paper is only a discussion paper intending to assist CCOL members in responding to UNEP Governing Council decision 9/13B, which invites the CCOL to contribute to the work of the ad hoc working group of legal and technical experts, in elaborating a global framework convention.

The protection of the ozone layer can be achieved only through controlling the eventual emissions of ozone-depleting substances. The methods and degree of such control will need to be optimized with respect to costs and benefits and will require selection among various and possibly numerous alternatives.

Against this background it is possible to identify the functions that must be performed under the convention. The CCOL might wish to comment upon the following functions;

FUNCTIONS TO BE PERFORMED

The desired degree of control of eventual emissions depends upon:

- a prediction of the depletion associated with different releases of atmospheric constituents,

- an assessment of the effects of the associated UVB,
- monitoring of the state of the ozone layer, airborne constituents, UVB levels, and effects.

The selection among competing control alternatives will depend also upon:

- identification of the socio-economic costs of the different alternatives.

All of these above must be improved through

- continuing research efforts.

These functions must be assigned, their implementation monitored, and their results made available as a basis for

- recommending controls.

Finally, there must be an

- evaluation of the implementation of the controls.

RELEVANT EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS, INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR ACTIVITIES

Some of the necessary functions are already being carried out, although perhaps not all with the necessary level of effort and speed.

Under the World Plan of Action on the Ozone Layer (UNEP/WG.7/25/Rev. 1, 7 March, 1977), UNEP was asked to "exercise a broad co-ordinating and catalytic role aimed at the integration and co-ordination of research efforts by arranging for:

- collation and dissemination of information on ongoing and planned research activities,
- presentation and review of the result of research,
- identification of further research needs,
- appropriate encouragement of such research."

The Plan directed UNEP to fulfill that responsibility using a Co-ordinating Committee on the Ozone Layer, and to provide this CCOL with secretariat services. The CCOL makes recommendations to UNEP's Executive Director who reports these to the UNEP Governing Council.

The Plan itself addresses and assigns responsibilities for the following topics:

- Monitor Ozone (WMO)
- Monitor Solar Radiation (WMO)
- Simultaneous Species Measurement (WMO)
- Chemical Reactions (WMO)
- Development of Computational Modelling (WMO)
- Large-Scale Atmospheric Transport (WMO)
- Global Constituent Budgets (WMO)
- Monitor UV-B Radiation (WMO, WHO, FAO)
- Develop UV-B Instrumentation (WMO, WHO, FAO)
- Promote UV-B Research (WMO, WHO, FAO)
- Statistics on Skin Cancer (WHO)
- Research on Induction Mechanisms (WHO)
- Other Health Aspects (WHO)
- Responses to UV-B (FAO)
- Terrestrial Ecosystems (FAO)
- Aquatic Ecosystems (FAO)
- Other Agricultural Effects (FAO)
- Development of Computational Modelling (WMO)
- Regional Climate (WMO)

- Production and emission data (UNEP, ICC, OECD, ICAO)
- Methodology for comprehensive assessment of costs and benefits (UNESA, OECD, ICAO, FAO, WHO).

The draft provisional agenda for CCOL 5 calls for a review of these above assignments and their rate of progress as part of a review of the Plan.

In addition to UNEP, the OECD Environment Committee has an active effort on the ozone issue under the co-ordination of the Chemistry Division of the secretariat. This current effort is focused on CFCs and includes:

- Collection of data on production, use and trade
- Collection of data on options for control of emissions
- Assessment of options for reduction of emissions
- Collection of information on approaches used by OECD and European Communities
- Construction of implications to the ozone layer of broad courses of action with regard to total emissions.

The Commission of the European Communities (EC) provides assessments and recommendations to the Council of EC, deriving these through use of consultants, workshops, data from members, and reports from the CCOL, and others as pertinent.

There exists a tripartite agreement between France, UK and the USA to co-operate in monitoring and research on the stratosphere, in particular with respect to the ozone problem.

The Chemical Manufacturers Association (CMA) collects data and makes estimates on production, trade and use of CFCs for UNEP.

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR A CONVENTION

It may be assumed that a convention will require certain special institutional arrangements, both at the political and technical levels. Against this background and the description given on the functions performed by various existing organizations, the CCOL might wish to express its views on:

- a) what functions are not adequately performed today by existing organizations?
- b) what additional functions can be envisaged for the proper implementation of the technical aspects of a convention?
- c) what would be the general estimate of the resources required to perform these functions?
- d) on the basis of a), b) and c), what institutional arrangements can be envisaged for the implementation of the technical part of a convention?
- e) what could be the future role of CCOL in this context?

DEFINITIONS

A convention should contain definitions of those words that are critical to its interpretation. The CCOL may wish to offer a list of technical words and their definitions for use in the drafting of a convention. The list might include some of the following words: impact, UV or UVB radiation, ozone depleting substances, control strategies, scenarios, best available technology and acceptable effects.