

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Executive Director I am pleased to welcome you all to a resumed eighth session of the Co-ordinating Committee on the Ozone Layer.

I regret that circumstances obliged UNEP to take the unusual step of separating consideration of effects of ozone layer modification from that of the assessment of the physical and chemical state of the ozone layer. However, as you will have appreciated, the COOL consideration of the vast NASA and other organizations' assessments upon which the COOL assessment was based, required a special effort by the physical scientists, resulting in a COOL document several times larger than ever before. It required evening sessions and a cancellation of social events to complete the scheduled work on time and is it patently obvious that an adequate consideration of effects was not possible at the same time.

Further, UNEP had planned with the US Environment Protection Agency (EPA), the convening of a Conference on Effects of Ozone Layer modification to be held in June 1986 and it was obviously more appropriate to make a COOL effects assessment after, rather than before, the major conference to review current effects research. Many of you attended that Conference. For those who were not, I plan to allow a short time for an outline of the Conference and its results by John Hoffmann of EPA who played the major organizational role in the Conference.

The papers of that Conference are being published in four volumes, and the first has already been distributed and is available here.

I did take the opportunity at that Conference to identify from among the participants, experts in particular aspects of effects science and asked them to supply me with a draft overview of the state of the science in those sectors - Health, Agriculture, Materials and so on, which might assist us in our task for the next few days, namely, the assessment of effects of ozone layer modification. I regret time did not permit the preparation and distribution of this document prior to this meeting and I hope we can give a little time to looking at it, remembering of course that we will be, as usual, reviewing national research programmes and results as the primary input to the

assessment process.

It would have been my preference to convene this meeting early next year as no other COOL assessment meeting will be scheduled in 1987. But as you know, there is an additional urgency put upon us. UNEP, other organizations and your Governments are deeply involved in a process to elaborate a protocol on the control of chlorofluorocarbons to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. The schedule, dictated by Governing Council decision obliges the special ad hoc group - the Vienna Group - which will develop this protocol to meet in the first week in December, and again early next year, to agree to a draft protocol for adoption by Diplomatic Conference hopefully before June 1987. This Group will base their work on the best available scientific and technical advice and it is within the mandate of the COOL to provide it. Thus, this meeting had to precede the first Vienna Group meeting and your report, or at least, the Executive Summary of the COOL Assessment of Effects of Ozone Layer modification must be available to it and this, my friends, is the principal task for us during the following days.

Other COOL-generated documents to be made available to the Vienna Group will be the Executive Summary of Ozone Modification made by the physics and chemistry group in February, at Nairobi. Another will be, what we have dubbed the Policy Support Document, copies of which are available to you here. This document, began at the COOL meeting in February, and completed by an ad hoc group of COOL participants in London in August provides an outline of some of the issues the Vienna Group needs to consider in developing a protocol. The document, as you will see, is still a draft needing improved figures and some editorial work. Again, time pressure has prevented the final polishing of the document. Nevertheless - even in its present form it fulfills a need and will be of much use to the Vienna Group in its series of meetings.

There have also been other supportive meetings on ozone-related issues aimed at better facilitating the protocol process. Chief among these was a two-part workshop on the control of chlorofluorocarbons. The first part, in May, took place in Rome and discussed in detail the current and projected production, use, emissions regulatory measures, technology and substitutes for CFCs. Later in Leesburg, Virginia, a range of possible control measures were examined against an agreed set of criteria. These measures, which included

production and emission controls, the setting of production capacity caps, taxes and incentives will be borne in mind in agreeing to control measures to be incorporated in the protocol to the Vienna Convention. Reports of both parts of the Workshop are published and copies can be supplied on request.

As you have heard, the schedule of meetings has been tight and the range of activities broad and demanding - nevertheless necessary and important. Concern has been heightened by recent discoveries of stratospheric ozone depletion well in excess of predictions by current models. Perhaps, the most attention grabbing has been the 'ozone hole' over the Antarctic. A major campaign to examine this phenomenon indicates that a chemical explanation for the hole is possible, which if so must demand even more priority given to finalizing an effective protocol.

The Effects Conference at Washington provided new and worrying information on the implications of enhanced UV-B on human health and ecosystems and on the consequences of climate change to which ozone depletion and chlorofluorocarbons emissions are inextricably linked.

In parallel to the ozone layer at risk programme, I am developing, within UNEP, a major programme on the socio-economic implications of greenhouse gas induced climate change and for 1992 UNEP is setting a target of developing a legal instrument to protect the earth's climate from unacceptable change and as a first step will convene an international conference on global energy demands and greenhouse gas emissions, hopefully next year or in 1988.

However, that is for your information and not entirely relevant to this meeting. We must now proceed to the tasks incumbent upon us. The information available to us, the national reports, the UNEP/EPA Conference proceedings and the UNEP draft assessment is the largest volume of paperwork we have had to consider in all of the seven previous COOL meetings. Even so, there does not exist an assessment of effects comparable to that on physical aspects as represented by the volumes Atmospheric Ozone 1985. I believe there is a need for a comparable international assessment and UNEP will encourage the undertaking of such an exercise should the COOL also recommend it at this meeting.

In closing, I shall apologise for the absence of our chairman, Dr. M.D. Gwynne required by the limited availability of staff to participate in another environmental meeting elsewhere in Europe. I also apologise for the late receipt of information from UNEP by some members. Again it is an indication of stress within the Organization requiring a limited number of staff to address the multitude of procedures demanded by protocol in communication with Governments. In future, I intend preparing informal information sheets on meetings for despatch under my own signature to individual experts, such as yourselves, within countries and organizations which will be additional to the formal invitation process and hopefully well in advance of it.

In closing, let me offer the thanks of my organization to the Government of the Netherlands and the Institute of Public Health and Environmental Hygiene that I have left this till last is no indication of the importance attached to it. The support of the Netherlands in ozone-related activities and in other areas of the Environment Programme has been instrumental in achieving the progress we have made. Its support, and that of other Governments which regularly give material and other support additional to their commitment to UNEP, through more formal mechanisms, is deeply appreciated.

Thank you.

---