

Ref: Oz.Sec/Decisions XIV/7, XXXI/3, XXXIV/8 and XXXV/12

16 February 2024

Reminder: Cases of illegal trade in controlled substances and prevention of illegal production, import, export and consumption

Dear Sir/Madam,

I refer to paragraph 1 of [decision XXXV/12](#) adopted by the Thirty-Fifth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in 2023. The decision encourages parties to facilitate the exchange of information on best practices to prevent illegal trade of controlled substances and to inform the Secretariat of practices used by entities attempting unauthorized imports of controlled substances that may include the mislabeling of containers of controlled substances or misreporting of controlled substances on customs declarations. This, together with other actionable parts of the decisions taken at the meeting, was communicated to all parties in a [letter dated 24 January 2024](#).

Paragraph 2 of decision XXXV/12 requests the Secretariat to provide, before the forty-sixth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG46) and on an annual basis thereafter, a compilation of information provided by parties pursuant to paragraph 1 as well as and decision XXXIV/8 (see below).

In addition, the parties to the Montreal Protocol had adopted other related decisions concerning illegal trade in controlled substances, namely:

- [Decision XIV/7](#), by which parties highlighted the importance of actions aimed at improving the monitoring of trade in ozone-depleting substances and preventing illegal trade in those substances for their timely and smooth phase-out. The Secretariat is also requested to collect any information on illegal trade received from the Parties and to disseminate it to all Parties.
- Paragraph 5 of [decision XXXI/3](#), by which parties were encouraged to take action to discover and prevent the illegal production, import, export and consumption of controlled substances and to report fully proved cases of illegal trade in such substances to the Secretariat. In addition, such information could include how such cases have been addressed and, to the best knowledge of parties, what were the causes, in order to facilitate an exchange of information among parties.
- Paragraph 3 of [decision XXXIV/8](#), by which parties were encouraged to facilitate the exchange of information to prevent the illegal trade of controlled substances by reporting to the Secretariat fully proved cases of illegal trade and to the extent that parties are able to do so, providing additional information about illegal trade situations.

Consequently, I encourage your Government to report any available information related to these decisions to the Secretariat, including cases of illegal trade that are not fully proven. You might wish to do so by filling out the attached reporting forms (Annexes I and/or II) and sending the form(s) by email to Liazzat Rabbiosi (rabbiosi@un.org, copied to MEA-ozoneinfo@un.org). You can also send us any other pertinent information in relation to illegal trade practices and situations in your country, as applicable.

We would appreciate receiving this information by 22 March 2024 so that we can include it in the compilation of information related to illegal trade to be provided before OEWG46 in accordance with paragraph 2 of decision XXXV/12.

All the reports received by the Secretariat pursuant to these decisions relevant to illegal trade have been made available on the online database of illegal trade cases at this link:
<https://ozone.unep.org/countries/additional-reported-information/illegal-trade>.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration with your Government to implement the decisions of the parties to the Montreal Protocol.

Yours sincerely,


Megumi Seki Nakamura
Executive Secretary