



Ref: Oz-Sec/Decision XXXV/3-SAP

8 October 2024

Dear Montreal Protocol Parties,

**Decision XXXV/3 on potential areas of focus for the 2026 quadrennial reports of the Montreal Protocol Assessment Panels**

In accordance with Decision XXXV/3 of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, an assessment of the state of understanding on the science of the ozone layer will be prepared by the Scientific Assessment Panel (SAP). This scientific assessment will be completed by the end of 2026. As you know, the SAP is responsible for undertaking the periodic assessment of scientific knowledge regarding the ozone layer to meet the needs of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol.

As Co-Chairs of the Protocol's Scientific Assessment Panel, we hereby invite the nations that are Parties to the Montreal Protocol to nominate by **15 November 2024**, scientific experts in the field of atmospheric chemistry and dynamics for consideration as participants in authoring, contributing to, or reviewing the document. The Scientific Assessment Panel's work will begin in early 2025 and extend until the end of 2026, with the extensive review process occurring in the first half of 2026. Decision XXXV/3, paragraph 6, requested that the scientific assessment include the following topics:

- (a) An assessment of the state of the ozone layer and its future evolution;
- (b) An evaluation of global and polar stratospheric ozone, including the Antarctic ozone hole and Arctic winter and spring ozone depletion and the predicted changes in these phenomena;
- (c) An updated assessment of past and projected contributions of the Montreal Protocol to mitigating climate change in terms of total avoided CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent emissions and avoided temperature increase;
- (d) An evaluation of trends in the top-down derived emissions, abundances and fate in the atmosphere of trace gases of relevance to the Montreal Protocol, in particular controlled substances and other substances of importance to the ozone layer, which should include a comparison of top-down estimations and available bottom-up estimations of such emissions with a view to identifying currently unknown emission sources and explaining discrepancies between emissions derived from reported information and observed atmospheric concentrations (in cooperation with the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel);
- (e) An evaluation of consistency with reported production and consumption of those substances and the likely implications for the state of the ozone layer, including its interaction with the climate system;
- (f) An assessment of the interaction between changes in stratospheric ozone and the climate system, including consideration of related policy scenarios;
- (g) Information regarding scenarios designed to contribute further to ozone layer protection and climate change mitigation, and a presentation of their benefits in terms of impacts on total column ozone and equivalent effective stratospheric chlorine, advancing the recovery of the ozone layer, and avoiding CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent emissions, as relevant;

- (h) Early identification and quantification of any substances that could be of concern for the ozone layer and relevant for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol and the objectives of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, including other halogenated gases, in particular those with high global warming potential, breakdown products of controlled substances and their alternatives that are very persistent, such as perfluoro- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, including trifluoroacetic acid, N<sub>2</sub>O and very short-lived substances such as dichloromethane, and their main sources of emissions;
- (i) An assessment of information and research related to solar radiation modification, in particular stratospheric aerosol injection and its potential effects on the ozone layer and relevant information on the potential effects of supersonic aircraft, rockets, satellites, wildfires and volcanic eruptions on the stratospheric ozone layer;
- (j) Identification and quantification of any other issues relevant to the objectives of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol.

We seek experts in the above scientific areas. Nominees should meet the following criteria:

- They must be scientists currently practicing in an applicable field, as shown by their authorship or co-authorship of relevant articles in peer-reviewed scientific literature.
- If chosen by the Co-Chairs as authors, co-authors, or contributors, they must be willing and able to participate for the time period from approximately early 2025 until the end of 2026. Attendance at one or more international meetings may be requested by the Co-Chairs and/or the lead authors of the chapter team.
- If chosen by the Co-Chairs as reviewers, they must be willing and able to participate for the time period of late-2025 through the first half of 2026. Attendance at one international peer-review meeting may be requested by the Co-Chairs.

Financial assistance cannot be provided for participation in the Scientific Assessment Panel, with the exception of some travel assistance provided by the United Nations Environment Programme for experts from parties operating under paragraph 1 of Article 5 of the Montreal Protocol for attendance at Panel Meetings.

Please submit nominations directly to the Ozone Secretariat (Attention: Sophia Mylona, [Sophia.Mylona@un.org](mailto:Sophia.Mylona@un.org)). To be considered by the Co-Chairs, the nominations (i) must be received by the Ozone Secretariat 15 November 2024, and (ii) must include all of the following information concerning the nominee:

1. Name
2. Mailing address
3. Telephone number
4. Fax number
5. E-mail address
6. Field of specialization
7. Summary of scientific career accomplishments (short resume) that includes a short list of recent publications relevant to the scientific study of the ozone layer

Scientists who participated in the previous (2022) assessment report of the Scientific Assessment Panel will be automatically considered for participation in the 2026 process and need not be re-nominated.

With best regards,

Lucy Carpenter  
David Fahey  
Kenneth W. Jucks  
Bonfils Safari

Co-Chairs: Scientific Assessment Panel