

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

--

**MESSAGE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE  
OZONE LAYER**

**16 September 2024**

At a time when multilateralism is under severe strain, the Montreal Protocol to help protect the ozone layer stands out as a powerful symbol of hope. It is a reminder that when countries show political resolve for the common good, change is possible.

In uniting the world to phase out the consumption and production of different ozone depleting substances, the Protocol has also contributed to shielding carbon sinks, protecting humanity's health, and avoiding economic losses.

The ozone layer, once an ailing patient, is on the road to recovery.

Now, it's time to go further.

The Protocol's Kigali Amendment -- which focuses on phasing down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) -- powerful climate-warming gases -- can contribute to advancing climate mitigation efforts, protecting people and planet. And that is needed more than ever as temperature records continue to shatter.

If fully ratified and implemented, the Kigali Amendment could help avoid as much as 0.5 degrees Celsius of global heating by the end of this century. Yet, a range of climate solutions -- including those related to refrigerants and energy efficiency -- are also needed to avert a climate crisis by mid-century.

Four out of every five nations have ratified the Kigali Amendment, but the clock is ticking.

On this World Ozone Day, let's commit to making peace with our planet. Let's commit to build on the success of the Montreal Protocol to show what international cooperation at its best can achieve.

\*\*\*