
**Montreal Protocol
on Substances that
Deplete the Ozone Layer**

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**Thirty-Fifth Meeting of the Parties to
the Montreal Protocol on Substances
that Deplete the Ozone Layer**
Nairobi, 23–27 October 2023

Issues that the Secretariat would like to bring to the attention of the parties

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The present note summarizes issues of relevance to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and activities that have taken place, or will take place, during the period from July to October 2023 that the Secretariat wishes to bring to the attention of the parties.

II. Activities of the Ozone Secretariat

A. World Ozone Day 2023

2. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/114, the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer (World Ozone Day) is observed each year on 16 September to commemorate the signing of the Montreal Protocol on 16 September 1987.

3. The theme for World Ozone Day 2023 “Montreal Protocol: fixing the ozone layer and reducing climate change” was posted on the Secretariat’s website¹ in the six official languages of the United Nations, together with communication materials for parties to use in their commemorative activities. Different digital assets were developed, including social media cards, a video outlining this year’s theme as well as a message from the Secretary-General and a video address by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for World Ozone Day 2023, which were shared ahead of the day for further dissemination.

4. The Secretariat, in accordance with its usual practice, was able to provide financial assistance to a small number of Article 5 parties as a contribution towards the cost of organizing national activities to commemorate World Ozone Day and increasing awareness at the national level.

5. The Secretariat supported a number of events, with expert contributions to discussions to mark World Ozone Day organized by Armenia, China and Kenya. The additional tools developed to support events and promote World Ozone Day generated 193 thousand visits to the World Ozone Day 2023 webpage in the run up to 1 September, which increased to 228 thousand visits by 25 September 2023. The Secretariat also used its social media accounts with Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn and X (formerly Twitter) to promote World Ozone Day 2023 in the run up to 16 September. The posts on UNEP’s English accounts (14 posts in total on X, Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn) achieved a reach of 287 thousand and at least 10 thousand engagements. Media outreach resulted in 751 articles

¹ <https://ozone.unep.org/ozone-day/montreal-protocol-fixing-the-zone-layer-and-reducing-climate-change>.

published in 527 media outlets in 19 languages across 81 countries of which 85 mentioned UNEP and/or Ozone Secretariat.

B. Carbon offsetting for 2022

6. The Secretariat completed the process of measuring and offsetting the greenhouse gas emissions created during 2022. Confirmation from the Sustainable United Nations initiative on carbon data reported by the Secretariat notes the carbon emissions for the Secretariat for its 2022 operations comprising 513 tonnes CO₂e (mandatory reporting of facilities and travel (funded)).

7. In line with ensuring that the Secretariat offsets all its meeting-related emissions, an additional 439 tCO₂e emissions (unfunded travel of parties not operating under paragraph 1 of Article 5 of the Montreal Protocol) will be offset, totalling 952 tonnes CO₂e. The equivalent carbon credits will be purchased from a project supporting sustainable energy creation through wind power. This will be the ninth consecutive year in which the operations of the Secretariat anticipate being carbon neutral.

C. Update on digital presence and access improvements

8. The Secretariat has undertaken a desktop review of its website to assess areas for improvement in terms of updating content, revising the look and feel as well as determining accessibility for users with hearing or visual challenges.

9. In addition, the Secretariat is developing a dedicated webpage highlighting gender mainstreaming within the Montreal Protocol as well as a review and redesign of the dedicated World Ozone Day platform.

10. The MOP35 meeting mobile app is developed and updated by the Secretariat to enhance the meeting experience for delegates during the Thirty-Fifth Meeting of the Parties (MOP35). With a more intuitive user interface, delegates will experience real-time daily schedule updates, and improved navigation, staying informed and engaged.

III. Cooperation with and contribution to UNEP and other bodies

A. Second Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution

11. In the spirit of collaboration and sharing expertise among the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements and processes administered by UNEP, the Deputy Executive Secretary provided legal, substantive and general conference support, as part of the secretariat team, to the second session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, that took place in Paris from 29 May to 2 June 2023.²

B. Global Environment Facility

12. The Deputy Executive Secretary represented the Ozone Secretariat at the Seventh GEF Assembly and associated meetings that were held in Vancouver, Canada, from 22 to 25 August 2023. She participated in a dialogue that brought together executive secretaries and other senior representatives from the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements and representatives from the GEF Secretariat to discuss how to further foster synergies and contribute to greater coherence in implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements that GEF serves, contribute to minimizing the fragmentation of funds and funding opportunities, and further catalyse the engagement of international financing institutions and multilateral development banks on global environmental priorities.

13. This was the first time that the Ozone Secretariat had been invited to such a dialogue. While most funding for parties to the Montreal Protocol is provided through the Multilateral Fund, projects

² The cost of her participation in this meeting was paid for by the Secretariat of the INC on Plastic Pollution.

for the phaseout of ozone-depleting substances and the phasedown of HFCs in countries with economies in transition were or are being funded by GEF.

C. Network of legal officers of UNEP and the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements

14. The Deputy Executive Secretary participated in the first meeting of the network of legal officers of UNEP and of the secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements that took place in Nairobi on 10 and 11 July 2023. The meeting was convened to provide an opportunity for informed and in-depth discussions on environmental law, governance, and rules of procedure in the light of recent developments in these areas as well as to provide an opportunity for colleagues to informally exchange views and engage in discussions. The meeting, which was organized by the UNEP Law Division, was participated in by legal officers from UNEP and from the secretariats of UNEP-administered multilateral environmental agreements and related bodies and processes (such as the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) as well as representatives from the Regional Seas secretariats. Legal advisers from the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat also joined the meeting.

D. UNIDO Kigali in Action workshop

15. The Ozone Secretariat was honoured with an invitation to contribute to the scene setting session of the UNIDO event entitled “Kigali in Action” workshop. The Secretariat made a presentation during Session 1, labelled “Scene setting for Kigali Implementation Plans” (KIPs), of the workshop, highlighting some of the challenges that Article 5 parties could face in developing Stage I of their KIPs in view of the new obligations under the Kigali Amendment.

16. The presentation covered challenges such as:

- (a) dealing with the large number of HFC blends used in trade;
- (b) using the few Harmonized System (HS) codes for many HFCs (too many HFCs and blends and not enough codes);
- (c) the complexity of managing HFC quotas where blends are also involved;
- (d) the new learning required to include Energy Efficiency (EE) aspirations in phase-out activities;
- (e) dealing with the new exemption for High Ambient Temperature (HAT) countries;
- (f) the required sectoral prioritization, since HFCs are to be phased-down and not phased-out;
- (g) the impact of COVID-19 on the phase-down limits.

IV. Secretariat participation in relevant events and meetings from July to October 2023

A. Upcoming Montreal Protocol meetings

17. The Secretariat will organize the seventy-first meeting of the Implementation Committee under the Non-Compliance Procedure of the Montreal Protocol, to be held in Nairobi, Kenya on 20 October 2023, along with a workshop on energy efficiency on 22 October 2023 and the Thirty-fifth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol from 23 to 27 October 2023, to be held at the same venue.

B. Environmental Effects Assessment Panel meeting

16. The Ozone Secretariat attended part of the 2023 meeting of the Environmental Effects Assessment Panel and a preceding workshop on monitoring, modelling, and assessing the environmental effects of changes in solar ultraviolet radiation and climate, co-organized by the UV-B Monitoring and Research programme of the United States Department of Agriculture and the

Environmental Effects Assessment Panel. The workshop and the Panel meeting were held from 18 to 24 September 2023 in Fort Collins, Colorado, United States of America. The main purpose of the meeting was to finalize the Panel's 2023 update report related to microplastics in the environment in the context of ultraviolet radiation, climate change and the Montreal Protocol. The report is expected to become available to the parties through the Secretariat's website by the end of this year.

C. Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management meeting

18. The Ozone Secretariat participated in the resumed fourth session of the Intersessional Process for Considering the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste Beyond 2020 (SAICM IP4.3) and the subsequent Fifth Session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5), held from 23 to 29 September 2023 in Bonn, Germany. The Beyond 2020 global chemicals and waste framework builds on a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach and aims at preventing or, where not feasible, minimizing harm from chemicals and waste to protect the environment and human health.

19. The key outcomes of the Conference were the adoption of a beyond 2020 framework entitled "Global Framework on Chemicals – For a planet free of harm from chemicals and waste"; a High-Level Declaration on the new Framework, the Bonn Declaration on the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a planet free of harm from chemicals and waste; a Global Framework on Chemicals Fund; and a set of conference resolutions focused on the implementation of the framework. The relevant documentation will become available on the ICCM5 portal³ in due course.

D. World Ozone Day commemorative events

20. The Executive Secretary travelled to the Republic of Armenia to attend World Ozone Day 2023 commemorative events that included a celebration on 14 September with Mr. Hakob Simidyan, Minister of Environment, followed by a tour of the Byurakan ozone measuring station. In her address, she noted how much progress Armenia has made since ratifying both the Montreal Protocol and Kigali Amendment. She was particularly impressed with the robust approach of Armenia to customs and border controls to address the illegal trade of substances controlled under the Montreal Protocol.

21. The Executive Secretary also provided an online address during the 14 September World Ozone Day celebrations hosted by China in the presence of Mr. Zhao Yingmin, Vice Minister of Ecology and Environment. Noting the theme for this year's World Ozone Day is "Montreal Protocol: fixing the ozone layer and reducing climate change", she remarked that this is certainly something China had contributed to for over three decades, starting with the ratification of the Montreal Protocol in 1991.

22. The Deputy Executive Secretary joined the Kenyan national celebrations of World Ozone Day 2023 at the Rift Valley Institute of Science and Technology in Nakuru County. She highlighted how the doubling of the Kigali Amendment's climate benefit through improvements in energy efficiency in cooling would respond to the call of African Heads of State and Government for "climate-positive investments that catalyse a growth trajectory, anchored in the industries poised to transform our planet and enabling African countries to achieve stable middle-income status by 2050", set out in the Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change adopted at the Africa Climate Summit held from 4 to 6 September 2023 in Nairobi.

E. Second Meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Sustainability Management

23. The Secretariat's Environmental Management Focal Point will attend the Second Meeting of the Working Group on Environmental Sustainability Management on 11 and 12 October 2023. The meeting, held in Geneva, Switzerland was a hybrid event with the Secretariat attending online.

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24. Discussions included sustainability management, climate change 2023 and the way forward, climate neutrality and carbon offsets and the travel task team (of which the Secretariat is a member) findings and recommendations.

F. Regional network meetings of national ozone officers

25. In the period between July and October 2023, representatives of the Secretariat either participated or will participate in the following network meetings of ozone officers, organized by the United Nations Environment Programme under its OzonAction Compliance Assistance Programme:

- (a) UNEP Network Meeting of National Ozone Officers of the Pacific Island Countries (4 September 2023) and Twinning National Ozone-Customs Officers Workshop on ODS/HFC Trade Control and Reporting (7–9 September 2023) with online participation.
 - (b) UNEP Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) West Asia and Europe and Central Asia, Twinning Workshop and Network Meetings (25–28 September 2023):
 - (i) Joint West Asia and Europe and Central Asia Twinning Workshop of National Ozone Officers, National Energy Efficiency Policymakers, and Financial Mechanisms Focal Points to Support the Kigali Amendment Objectives (Amman, Jordan, 25 and 26 September 2023).
 - (ii) Joint West Asia and Europe and Central Asia Network Meeting of Ozone Officers (Amman, 27 and 28 September 2023).
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