

INFORMATION NOTE

Experts from 66 countries meet in Zimbabwe to speed up phase-out of Ozone Depleting Substances



Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 18 March 2016 - UNEP OzonAction and the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate of the Republic of Zimbabwe organises the joint meeting of Ozone Officers' Network for Africa and West Asia, in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe from 17-23 March 2016.

The meeting takes place at a critical time in the life of the Montreal Protocol when countries are striving to meet their commitments of phasing out hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) while addressing technological challenges related to different consuming sectors and trying to maximise the climate benefits by leapfrogging to energy efficient, low-GWP alternatives and technologies where feasible.



UNEP is maximising the benefit of the networking by bringing together three networks from Africa and West Asia including 28 from English-speaking countries, 26 from French-speaking countries and 12 countries from West Asia region, the Multilateral Fund Secretariat, the Ozone Secretariat, the Implementing Agencies, bilateral agencies, regional institutions as well as international experts and other technical resource persons.

“UNEP uses the network vehicle to offer a platform for member states and implementing agencies to exchange views and experiences on the best methodologies and approaches in carrying the ODS alternatives surveys as well as a better understanding of the alternatives and the sectors to be surveyed under such projects,” said Dr. Shamila Nair-Bedouelle, Head of UNEP OzonAction.

“The Montreal Protocol’s success in phasing out ozone depleting substances had inspired around 40 parties including India, a broad coalition of island developing States, the European Union and North American States, to submit four proposed amendments to the Protocol to deal also with HFCs,” said UNEP Regional Representative in West Asia, Mr. Iyad Abumoghli. He also conveyed message from UNEP Regional Representative for Africa, Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo.

“As developing countries from Africa and West Asia, we are faced with many challenges that cannot be solved in isolation. This meeting will provide ample time for sharing of information and mapping out strategies for the phase out of the HCFCs and HFCs as well as guidelines for conducting the national surveys on ODS Alternatives” said P. Mupazviriho, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Environment, Water & Climate, Zimbabwe.



In addition, experts will also consider a range of compliance and enforcement issues, including in-depth discussions and working groups related to capacity building of National Ozone Units and policy setting, progress in implementing HPMP, the challenges in addressing the needs of phasing out ODSs in the refrigeration and air-conditioning servicing sector, and finally the need to

raising awareness and outreach activities.

Although most countries in the developing world are experiencing practical challenges to meet the agreed reduction targets in HCFC consumption, efforts of hundreds of individuals and institutions who took creative and courageous measures thirty years ago to address a serious and urgent threat to life on earth, have resulted in saving the lives of millions of people and eliminate the threat of various diseases.

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