



Law Division

Ref: OzonAction/JSC/JNC

30 August 2021

Dear National Ozone Officers,

I sincerely hope that you, your families and colleagues are all well and keeping healthy during this challenging period of the COVID-19 pandemic. As we all know, the past year has been extremely difficult for the entire world, including the tragic loss of life, the economic impacts, and the social disruptions that have affected so many countries. People have struggled on both the professional and personal levels to cope with this difficult and complex situation. However, despite these challenges, the entire Montreal Protocol community has shown remarkable resilience and strength over the past year – the treaty has continued to do its work, countries are meeting their commitments, and the ozone layer and climate system are being protected by your actions. I wish to commend you and your team in the National Ozone Unit for your dedication, hard work and steadfast commitment to continue meeting your country's compliance commitments, reporting data, and implementing project activities during this period. This "continuity in the face of adversity" makes the Montreal Protocol a shining example that governments and dedicated individuals can continue to protect the global environment even during a pandemic.

We have an excellent opportunity to share this positive example very soon: **World Ozone Day (WOD), 16 September**. This year's theme is the **Montreal Protocol - Keeping us, our food and vaccines cool!** The refrigeration cold chain is absolutely essential for all countries and it has a direct relationship on reducing food loss and food waste, protecting public health and supporting the economy. The Montreal Protocol is closely linked to this critical sector and WOD is an excellent time to shine the spotlight on this often overlooked sector.

The OzonAction Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) is pleased to share with you the following information resources that may be useful for your WOD celebrations and beyond:

- **Cold Chain Technology Brief - Vaccines:** This brief was developed by OzonAction and the International Institute of Refrigeration (IIR) to introduce the vaccine cold chain to National Ozone Officers, government policy-makers, and refrigeration and air conditioning stakeholders. It provides an overview of vaccine temperature control, types of different vaccine cold chain applications, good operational practices of vaccine cold chain applications, types of refrigerants being used, and challenges related to this sector. The brief is available in English, French and Spanish. (The brief will be officially posted during the week of 6 September 2021).

The cold chain technology briefs produced earlier by OzonAction and IIR cover all other cold chain sub-sectors and may be suitable for use as part of the WOD celebrations: [Production & Processing, Cold Storage, Transport Refrigeration, Commercial & Domestic, and Fishing Vessels](#). Those briefs are available in English, French and Spanish.

- **[Cold Chain Database Methodology](#):** This database was developed by OzonAction and the Global Food Cold Chain Council (GFCCC) to assist developing countries to thoroughly map the use of refrigerants and related technologies within the many different cold-chain sub-sectors. The Database also offers the unique opportunity to connect Montreal Protocol business with the relevant sustainable

development goals related to food security, sustainable consumption and energy saving. Thanks to the support of the six pilot countries, namely Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Maldives, North Macedonia, Paraguay and Senegal, the database methodology and questionnaires are now validated and ready to be used by any interested countries. Should your country be interested in using the Cold Chain Database, it could include its intention to do so in public announcements related to WOD.

- **[OzonAction Knowledge Maps tool](#)**: This new tool was developed to provide National Ozone Units and others with easy access to data about relevant stakeholders involved in the implementation of programmes and projects under the Montreal Protocol. One of the maps lists professional and industry associations worldwide who are key partners for ensuring the safe and efficient transition to more environmentally-friendly refrigeration and air conditioning technology.

Beyond these resources, OzonAction also has a wide range of other existing information and awareness-raising materials that could also be used for your national celebrations. Please refer to the [WOD webpage](#) on the OzonAction website for examples.

As 16 September fast approaches, please consider what type of activities would be practical in your country given the COVID-19 conditions, and how to engage the general public and key stakeholder groups such as the refrigeration and air conditioning sector, digital online celebrations, webinars, etc. or through acceptable minimal gatherings according to national health guidelines.

We would appreciate receiving your country's WOD activities or reports for posting on our website. Last year we received almost 50 WOD reports from countries with varied activities which were carefully organized while keeping in mind the pandemic restrictions. All the reports are featured on our [website](#). Please send this information to your Network's Montreal Protocol Regional Coordinator or directly to Ms. Jo Chona at jo.chona@un.org.

Once again, we thank you for your ongoing commitment to maintaining compliance with the Montreal Protocol and your excellent work in implementing your national strategies and projects. While marking its 30th Anniversary of providing compliance assistance, OzonAction remains committed and proud to be of service to you. On behalf of the entire OzonAction CAP team, I wish you great success in this year's WOD celebration!

Yours sincerely,



James S. Curlin
Head of OzonAction
UNEP Law Division