

Global Pact – inputs from Ozone Secretariat on cooperation and coordination to date with UNEP and with other MEAs

The Ozone Secretariat appreciates the invitation from the Acting Executive Director of UN Environment to participate in the third substantive session of the ad hoc open-ended working group. This document is submitted in response to that invitation, which noted that “All delegations and members of the United Nations system (including Secretariats of Multilateral Environment Agreements) are invited to send proposals on options to address possible gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments”. The Secretariat respectfully submits the following factual information for consideration, as appropriate, by the open-ended working group.

The Ozone Secretariat, as the Secretariat for the Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer (1985) and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (1987), derives its mandate from Article 7 of the Vienna Convention, Article 12 of the Montreal Protocol and a range of decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

In this respect, the Secretariat notes that, while different conventions and protocols may deal with similar subject matter, such as the control of hazardous chemicals, specific controlled substances, implementation arrangements and reporting requirements as provided for in the relevant treaties may be tailored to the provisions of each of the underlying agreements. For example, under paragraph 3 of Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol, the parties are required to provide relatively detailed data reports on their annual production of each controlled substance listed in the Annexes to the Protocol, as well as amounts used for feedstocks, amounts destroyed by technologies approved by the parties and imports from and exports to parties and non-parties respectively, among other things. Reporting of data is described differently in the different treaties.

The Secretariat recognizes the importance of cooperation and engagement with entities working on related issues. In 2004 the Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol adopted decision XVI/34 which welcomed and encouraged cooperation between the Ozone Secretariat and other convention secretariats and international organizations. In line with its mandate, derived from this and other relevant decisions, the Secretariat has consistently engaged in cooperation and coordination on relevant issues with such entities. Examples of the Secretariat’s cooperation and coordination include the following:

1. Cooperation with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in the context of the discussions leading to the adoption of the recent Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol. That Amendment phases down a group of 18 highly-global-warming refrigerants, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are also controlled under the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol. The parties to the Protocol, in adopting the Amendment, specifically provided that “This Amendment is not intended to have the effect of excepting hydrofluorocarbons from the scope of the commitments contained in Articles 4 and 12 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change or in Articles 2, 5, 7 and 10 of its Kyoto Protocol”. (See Article III of the Kigali Amendment, 2016).
2. Between 1999 and 2005 the Montreal Protocol’s Technology and Economic Assessment Panel cooperated with the UNFCCC’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on a joint workshop and a joint report on hydrofluorocarbons and perfluorocarbons, at the request of the UNFCCC’s Conference of the Parties and Montreal Protocol’s Meeting of the Parties.

3. The Ozone Secretariat collaborates with the Convention on Biological Diversity in the use of a coordinated registration system for meetings, in an effort to facilitate the engagement of the parties in the various meetings of the treaty bodies.
4. The Ozone Secretariat is in the process of aligning the format of its budget documents with those of the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, but also adjusting the format to meet the specific requirements of the parties to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol.
5. The Ozone Secretariat is an active participant in the InforMEA platform's steering committee and working groups. The InforMEA Initiative is facilitated by UN Environment with financial support of the European Union. It "brings together Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) to develop harmonized and interoperable information systems for the benefit of Parties and the environment community at large."
6. The Ozone Secretariat is actively engaged in the Green Customs Initiative, which aims to enhance the capacity of customs and border control officers in monitoring legal trade and preventing illegal trade. This includes participation in capacity building workshops conducted under various MEAs and affiliated organizations for this purpose.
7. The Ozone Secretariat has in the past coordinated with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions on waste issues. The Meeting of the Parties, in its decisions, has encouraged its Technology and Economic Assessment Panel to explore synergies with these conventions.
8. The Ozone Secretariat has actively cooperated with UN Environment towards achieving the aims of UNEA resolution UNEP/EA.2/Res.18 on "Relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides the secretariats" and looks forward to continuing to work with UN Environment on this important initiative and any related resolutions.
9. The Ozone Secretariat has engaged with the Basel Convention, the Stockholm Convention and, more recently, the Minamata Convention to share experiences on matters relating to compliance and the Montreal Protocol's compliance mechanism.
10. The Ozone Secretariat coordinates engagement between relevant Montreal Protocol institutions and the International Plant Protection Convention on matters related to management and phase out of methyl bromide, and also reviews and provides input into documents prepared by the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM).
11. The Ozone Secretariat and other Protocol institutions engage regularly with the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Maritime Organization, World Trade Organization, World Customs Organization and the World Meteorological Organization on matters of mutual concern.