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**Written reports from international organizations - The Ozone Secretariat
for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer**

Agenda item 15.2

**Prepared by the Ozone Secretariat for the Montreal Protocol on Substances
that Deplete the Ozone Layer**

English only

1. Under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, technical advice and assessment on issues related to the use of methyl bromide, a potent ozone-depleting substance, are dealt with by the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee (MBTOC), which is one of the Protocol's Technical Options Committees of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP). The work of the MBTOC has also involved cooperative efforts with the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) since a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Ozone Secretariat¹ of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, on behalf of the Secretariat of the IPPC in 2012.

2. According to the MOU, the purpose of the cooperation agreed between the two treaties is, amongst other things, to:

- Promote and facilitate collaboration between the Montreal Protocol and the IPPC through joint participation of technical experts in the technical panels and committees of both treaties, such as the MBTOC and the TPPT, to enhance communication and advice consistent with the aims of both agreements; and
- Exchange information and documentation with a view to maximizing efficiency and effectiveness in advancing the mutual aims of the treaties, minimizing duplication of effort, and facilitating the national level coordination and consultation among relevant stakeholders.

3. The most recent interaction between the TPPT and the MBTOC was the 2019 TPPT's review and comments on alternatives considered suitable replacements to methyl bromide for quarantine and pre-shipment (QPS) uses. The Ozone Secretariat and the MBTOC wish to express their appreciation to the TPPT for its valuable contribution in this regard.

4. In addition, the Ozone Secretariat supported the participation of one MBTOC co-chair in the 2019 meeting of the Phytosanitary measures research Group (PMRG), held in Cairns, Australia, from 24 to 27 September 2019.

5. In early 2020 the Ozone Secretariat submitted a short report to the IPPC secretariat for the consideration of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures at its Fifteenth Session (CPM-15), originally planned for 2020 but subsequently postponed owing to the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Despite the challenges imposed by the pandemic, the MBTOC managed to conduct its full work virtually in 2020. The present document is an updated version of the Ozone Secretariat's 2020 report.

6. In response to requests by the parties to the Montreal Protocol, the MBTOC has provided advice on issues related to the control of methyl bromide since 1992. Thanks to actions taken by the parties, 85 per cent of the methyl bromide uses have been phased out globally. According to the Committee, 100 tonnes of methyl bromide are currently reported to be used for controlled soil and domestic commodity uses. Uses for QPS, however, are approx. 10,000 tonnes and are not presently controlled under the Montreal Protocol.

7. In order to ensure consistency of information on alternatives to methyl bromide for QPS treatments provided both to the parties to the Montreal Protocol and to the IPPC, it would be important to maintain and strengthen the cooperation between the MBTOC and TPPT, including developing a joint technical document for areas where methyl bromide could be replaced for QPS uses and possibly through the participation of the same expert(s) in both technical bodies.

¹ <https://ozone.unep.org/>.

8. Currently, there are no experts who are both members of the MBTOC² and the TPPT. The MBTOC would therefore like to extend an invitation to TPPT qualified technical experts in methyl bromide use for quarantine and related phytosanitary issues to consider participating in MBTOC through the nomination procedure established under the Montreal Protocol. In this regard, the expertise sought by the MBTOC relates to:

- a. Alternatives to methyl bromide that can be used in quarantine (and pre-shipment) uses globally (in both developed and developing countries); and
- b. Regulations involved in maintaining phytosanitary/biosecurity standards between and within countries during international trade.

9. Additionally it would be beneficial to both IPPC and the Montreal Protocol, if a technical report could be prepared on ways in which methyl bromide use could be reduced for QPS applications. This could include components of a strategy that would help reduce the use of methyl bromide for phytosanitary measures or reduce emissions of methyl bromide. A review of the following areas for action is suggested: replacing methyl bromide use; reducing methyl bromide use; physically reducing methyl bromide emissions; accurately recording methyl bromide use for phytosanitary measures. MBTOC is able to provide strong input into these areas.

10. Further to a request by the parties to the Montreal Protocol to advance the cooperation with IPPC, conveyed by the Ozone Secretariat to the Second Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-2) of the IPPC in 2007, CPM-2 agreed that the IPPC Secretariat should continue to cooperate and coordinate with the Ozone Secretariat on issues of common concern with a view to identifying and promoting activities that would benefit and enhance the coherence of the two international agreements.³ In the areas of issues of common concern, there are several activities that may benefit from collaboration at this time. These are:

- continued data gathering on quantities of methyl bromide used for QPS by country and particular application, together with identification of where there are feasible and approved alternatives, with quantity of methyl bromide replaceable, if these are implemented.
- identification of those quarantine situations for which methyl bromide fumigation is the only phytosanitary measure specified, and encouragement of development and use of alternatives in these situations.
- in situations where methyl bromide and an alternative are both recommended for a particular quarantine treatment, development of guidance for the non-methyl bromide alternative.
- specification and promotion of best fumigation practice in quarantine treatments with methyl bromide, with emphasis on more efficient methyl bromide use and minimised emissions, while maintaining phytosanitary effectiveness.
- encouragement of the use of methyl bromide recovery and recycling technology, where technically and economically feasible, to reduce emissions of methyl bromide from quarantine treatments without alternatives, until such alternatives are available.
- promotion of joint participation by experts in technical advisory bodies of the Montreal Protocol and IPPC to enhance communication and advice consistent with the aims of both agreements.

² <https://ozone.unep.org/science/assessment/teap/methyl-bromide-toc-members>.

³ https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publications/en/1179929463410_CPM_2_report_1.pdf.

- continued exchange of information between the secretariats and between the technical bodies of the two international agreements to progress mutual aims.