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# COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

**Sixteenth Session**

**Virtual Meeting, 5, 7 and 21 April 2022**

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

**Agenda item 16.2**

**Prepared by the Ozone Secretariat**

**English only**

1. Under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, technical advice and assessment on issues related to the production and 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 Secretariat<sup>1</sup> 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. In early 2021 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), held virtually in March and April of 2021 owing to the global coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Despite the challenges imposed by the pandemic, the MBTOC also managed to continue its full work virtually in 2021. The present document is an updated version of the Ozone Secretariat's 2021 report.

4. In response to requests by the parties to the Montreal Protocol, the MBTOC has provided advice on issues related to the production, use and control of methyl bromide since 1992. Thanks to actions taken by the parties, over 95 per cent of the methyl bromide uses have been phased out globally. According to the Committee, less than 100 tonnes of methyl bromide are currently reported to be used for critical uses for which alternatives are not feasible, in controlled soil and domestic commodity uses. Uses for QPS, however, are approx. 10,000 tonnes and are not presently controlled under the Montreal Protocol.

5. In order to ensure consistency of information on alternatives to methyl bromide for QPS treatments provided separately to the parties to the Montreal Protocol and to the IPPC, it is reiterated that it is 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

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ozone.unep.org/>.

replaced for QPS uses and possibly through the participation of the same expert(s) in both technical bodies.

6. Currently, there are no experts who are both members of the MBTOC<sup>2</sup> and the TPPT. The MBTOC would therefore like to extend once again 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.

7. The MBTOC is currently working on its 2022 Quadrennial Assessment Report to be published at the end of the year. This report will consider in which alternatives are proving effective for QPS uses and ways to reduce methyl bromide use for QPS applications. This particularly includes reviewing ways to minimise emissions of methyl bromide, which is beneficial to the IPPC and the Montreal Protocol, both aiming to do so. The following areas for action are being considered: replacing methyl bromide in applications; reducing methyl bromide use; physically reducing methyl bromide emissions; accurately recording methyl bromide use for phytosanitary measures. The MBTOC would be grateful for any input that the IPPC could provide in these areas. For example, in its 2021 Progress Report, MBTOC noted nine draft phytosanitary treatments presented for consultation by the CPM, some with potential to replace methyl bromide plus nine ISPMs that were approved in 2020, which contribute to reducing the need to treat with MB.<sup>3</sup>

8. 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.<sup>4</sup> 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 used, and encouragement of development and use of

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

<sup>3</sup> <https://ozone.unep.org/system/files/documents/TEAP-2021-Progress-report.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> [https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publications/en/1179929463410\\_CPM\\_2\\_report\\_1.pdf](https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publications/en/1179929463410_CPM_2_report_1.pdf)

alternatives in these situations. MBTOC would be very keen to get a summary or small report of these areas from the IPPC for inclusion in the Quadrennial Assessment Report being prepared this year.

- 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 practices in quarantine treatments with methyl bromide, with emphasis on more efficient methyl bromide use, which can reduce emissions while maintaining phytosanitary effectiveness.
- encouragement of the use of methyl bromide recapture, recovery and recycling technology, where technically and economically feasible, to reduce emissions of methyl bromide from quarantine treatments, until suitable 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.
- continued exchange of information between the secretariats and between the technical bodies of the two international agreements to progress mutual aims.