

**Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to
the Montreal Protocol on Substances that
Deplete the Ozone Layer**

Twenty-fourth meeting
Geneva, 13–16 July 2004
Agenda item 12

**Consideration of methyl bromide issues and
proposals submitted by certain Parties**

**Draft decision submitted by Guatemala: Flexibility in the use of
alternatives for the phasing out of methyl bromide**

The Sixteenth Meeting of the Parties decides,

Noting that the adoption of alternatives to methyl bromide in developing countries in particular needs to be re-evaluated based on hard data and on the progress achieved in applying such alternatives,

Noting also the existence of political, social, economic and environmental disparities in the capability of Article 5 Parties to comply with the phase-out mandates fully,

Noting further that developing countries, that is, Parties operating under paragraph 1 of Article 5, rely heavily on agricultural production and that the adoption of alternative technologies to substitute for the use of methyl bromide requires a lead time of three–five years so as to prevent a reduction in crop yields that might adversely affect rural employment and household income and result in economic losses and a reduction in exports, particularly in the melon-growing sector, as well as to prevent certain consequent social or economic problems or political unrest,

Mindful that Parties operating under paragraph 1 of Article 5 should promote innovative incentives to support their methyl bromide reduction plans and country strategies, which incentives may play an important role in enabling Parties to promote the use of transitional replacements for methyl bromide,

1. To keep under review the benchmarks for compliance with phase-out targets as progress is evaluated in the application of specific alternatives to the use of methyl bromide;

2. To request the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee and the Multilateral Fund to make available technical and financial support to Parties operating under paragraph 1 of Article 5 which have demonstrated their commitment to methyl bromide reductions but which, for valid social and economic reasons, require additional time to comply with their phase-out commitments so as not to compromise their agricultural production and their social and economic stability.
