



United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة • 联合国环境规划署

PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE

ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

Your reference:

Our reference: Oz.Sec/IntOzoneDay-2002

Date: 06 June 2002

Sir/Madam,

I have the honour to invite you to celebrate the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer on 16 September 2002. This commemoration around the world offers an opportunity to focus attention and action at the global, regional and national levels on the protection of the ozone layer.

The protection of the Earth's ozone layer has been a major challenge over the last 30 years, spanning the fields of environment, trade, cooperation and sustainable development.

The ozone layer is now expected to recover to pre-1980 levels by the year 2050 thanks to the successful implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and its London Amendment (1990), Copenhagen Amendment (1992), Montreal Amendment (1997), and Beijing Amendment (1999).

Under the protocol, developing countries started the mandatory phase-out of consumption and production of chlorofluorocarbons three years ago. There is a need to maintain this momentum and build on it in order to ensure the full recovery of the ozone layer. This year, developing countries are expected to freeze the consumption of halons and methyl bromide. Also, developed and developing countries alike should phase out bromochloromethane, a relatively new ozone-depleting substance. Industrialized countries too will have to complete their phase-out of hydrochlorofluoro-carbons and methyl bromide in the next three years.

Activities that would raise public and political awareness of these issues would be helpful to all countries in their efforts to protect the ozone layer. International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is an opportunity to promote such awareness and action. The theme is *Save Our Sky: Protect yourself; Protect the Ozone Layer*.

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SECRETARIAT FOR THE VIENNA CONVENTION AND ITS MONTREAL PROTOCOL – THE OZONE SECRETARIAT

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You can celebrate this important annual event in some practical ways such as:

- (a) Work with the industry in your country in order to achieve understanding on the reduction and elimination of the chemicals that destroy the ozone layer; persuade them to pledge to use only ozone-friendly chemicals in future;
- (b) Involve industry, consumers, trade associations and consumer associations in the implementation of the Montreal Protocol; make them publicly pledge not to import or export ozone-depleting substances or equipment whose functioning relies on such substances;
- (c) Continue with campaigns to make every citizen, office and industry “ozone-friendly” by persuading them to use or make only “ozone-friendly” products;
- (d) Encourage awareness among children by holding competitions and awarding prizes;
- (e) Inform users that it is essential to minimize emissions of halons contained in fire-fighting equipment, e.g. during maintenance;
- (f) Recycle instead of emitting ozone-depleting substances in existing equipment at the time of maintenance;
- (g) Start or continue the process of decommissioning existing installations that use ozone-depleting substances, most commonly when the products or equipment have reached the end of their useful life;
- (h) Publicize articles in the print media which highlight the obligation to implement control measures, the availability of ozone-safe products and the prevention of illegal trade in ozone-depleting chemicals.
- (i) Hold scientific and technical conferences and meetings to discuss ways and means of protecting the ozone layer;
- (j) Produce and air radio and television programmes to highlight the issue;
- (k) Issue brochures, pamphlets, stamps, stickers, posters, postcards, calendars, etc.
- (l) Involve non-governmental organizations in these activities and encourage them to take their own initiatives.

You will find useful materials on this issue from the website of the Ozone Secretariat: *<http://www.unep.org/ozone>*.

Also, on your part you may prepare any additional relevant material to be used for the occasion.

The Ozone Secretariat would be grateful to receive a report on the various activities undertaken in your country in connection with the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer and will publicize reports received appropriately.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Michael Graber
Deputy Executive Secretary
& Officer-in-Charge
Ozone Secretariat