



# 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/InOzDay2003/MS/gao

**Date:** 10 July 2003

Sir/Madam,

I have the honour to invite you to celebrate the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer this year on 16 September. The theme this year will be "Save O<sub>3</sub>ur Sky: There is a Hole Lot More to Do for Our Children". Although levels of ozone-depleting substances in the stratosphere now seem to be at or near their peak and the total amount of ozone depleting chemicals in the troposphere is continuing to decline slowly, the ozone layer will remain particularly vulnerable during the next decade or so. Hence, the international community still faces the challenge of ensuring full compliance with the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer as adjusted and amended. Protecting children from the adverse effects of UV radiation is a powerful message that is applicable and important to all nations. In partnership with other organizations such as the World Health Organization and United Nations Children's Fund, we can promote health-related awareness related to children, including the effects of increased ultraviolet radiation reaching the earth's surface as a result of ozone layer depletion.

Parties worldwide have been making great efforts to commemorate the signing of the Montreal Protocol. Innovative events have been organized to focus attention and action, as well as raise awareness of the general public on the protection of the ozone layer. I thank the Parties for all their efforts and encourage the continuation of such activities to save the ozone layer.

Complementing the Parties' actions to raise awareness about the ozone layer protection issue in connection with the International Ozone Day and in general, work is under way to prepare two films and high quality video copies of them. UNEP's OzonAction Programme plans to distribute the videos to national ozone units for diffusion on 16 September 2003. The videos are as follows:

1. An animated film for awareness raising on ozone layer protection

In this animated video, the tiny ozone molecule, Ozzy Ozone, explains to children the effects of ozone depletion, how their individual actions can help protect the ozone layer, and their future role as the managers and stewards of our common environmental resources. The character Ozzy Ozone was developed by Barbados as part of its own national awareness activities.

2. Earth report film on ozone layer protection

The Television Trust for the Environment (TVE) International is planning to prepare a special editorially independent video segment on the global status of the Montreal Protocol that will be diffused through BBC World.

In addition to the videos, the OzonAction Programme will send other materials and provide guidance to the national ozone units to support their organization of the Ozone Day celebrations.

Furthermore, UNEP, through a partnership comprising the OzonAction Programme, the Ozone Secretariat and the Multilateral Fund Secretariat, will organize the presentation of awards to outstanding national ozone units in 2003. This year the awards will be announced on 16 September 2003 and awarded during the Fifteenth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol to be convened in November 2003.

Furthermore, this month we will post a web page on the International Ozone Day on the Ozone Secretariat website (<http://www.unep.org/ozone>), You will be able to access information material to support your activities on the International Ozone Day. During the coming months we also plan to create some new materials, such as new posters, which will also be placed on our website.

It would be much appreciated if you would communicate to us your country's plan of activities for celebrating the International Ozone Day. Such plans would help us in preparing the new information materials. Furthermore, the plans may be made available on our website to stimulate development of further ideas.

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



Marco González  
Executive Secretary  
Ozone Secretariat