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# COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

## Fifteenth Session

**Rome, 30 March - 3 April 2020**

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

## Agenda item 13.2

**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, 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)<sup>1</sup> was signed between the Ozone Secretariat<sup>2</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. 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 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 percent 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. 11,000 tonnes and are not presently controlled under the Montreal Protocol.

6. 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 is important to maintain and strengthen the cooperation between the MBTOC and TPPT, including through the participation of the same expert(s) in both technical bodies.

7. Currently, there are not any experts who are both members of the MBTOC<sup>3</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.ippc.int/static/media/uploads/mou\\_btwn\\_ozone\\_&\\_ippc\\_signed.pdf](https://www.ippc.int/static/media/uploads/mou_btwn_ozone_&_ippc_signed.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://ozone.unep.org/>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://ozone.unep.org/science/assessment/teap/methyl-bromide-toc-members>.

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.