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Written reports from relevant international organizations - Ozone Secretariat for the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer
Agenda item 14.3
Prepared by the Ozone Secretariat
<i>English only</i>

1. Under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, issues related to the use of methyl bromide (MB) 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). Through the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the Ozone Secretariat and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in 2012, MBTOC has been providing the Convention with information and support for over five years. The intent of this MOU is 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 Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee, the Technical Panel on Phytosanitary Treatments and the Expert Working Group on Alternatives to Methyl Bromide, to enhance communication and advice consistent with the aims of both agreements."*

2. MBTOC is the Montreal Protocol's key technical body which responds to Parties' decisions related to the control of methyl bromide (MB), a potent ozone-depleting substance. MBTOC has provided advice on MB to the Parties since 1992. Thanks to actions taken by the Parties, 85 per cent of the MB uses have been phased out globally. Only a small amount of MB (500 tonnes) is reported to be used for controlled soil and domestic commodity uses. Uses for quarantine and pre-shipment

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(approximately 11,000 tonnes) are not presently controlled under the Montreal Protocol but parties are still urged to implement alternatives, where possible.

3. MBTOC's tasks include detailed analyses of methyl bromide for quarantine and pre-shipment (QPS) purposes. In its 2018 Quadrennial Assessment Report, due at the end of 2018, MBTOC will provide in a separate chapter its analysis including the identification of potential areas in which the use of MB could be phased-out. Any updates or papers on the implementation of alternatives to MB from any of the IPPC committees to assist with this report would be welcomed. These can be sent to the MBTOC co-chairs as soon as possible and not later than July this year. Whilst the "quarantine" definition aligns with that of the IPPC, and categories of use reported by Parties to the Montreal Protocol are generally the same as those identified by IPPC1, the "pre-shipment" use is exclusive to the Protocol. This exemption allows for the use of MB on commodities being traded internationally (either with or without a phytosanitary certificate against a quarantine pest or not), provided the treatment is performed 21 days prior to the shipment of such commodities.

4. Maintaining active communication between MBTOC and IPPC has proved to be very important. MBTOC members have recently presented information on MBTOC activities at the meeting of the 2016 Technical Panel for Phytosanitary Treatments (TPPT) of IPPC (Tokyo, Japan, 29 August-2 September 2016) and the 2017 Phytosanitary Measures Research Group meeting (PMRG) (Wageningen, the Netherlands, 10-13 July 2017). These members have also obtained information of interest to MBTOC and communicated it to the committee.

5. Furthermore, MBTOC has provided comments on several draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) - or revisions - in which alternatives to MB are considered. More recently, comments were provided on:

- Requirements for the use of fumigation as a phytosanitary measure (2014-004)
- Requirements for the use of temperature treatments as phytosanitary measures (2014-005)
- Revision of ISPM 15, of particular importance to MBTOC work

6. It is important to note that, on the basis of a thorough analysis requested by the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, MBTOC has estimated that between 30-40 per cent present QPS uses of MB could be replaced with alternatives that are currently available, and this would have a positive impact on the protection of the ozone layer.

7. An invitation is extended to qualified technical experts in MB use for quarantine and related phytosanitary issues to consider participating in MBTOC through a nomination procedure. This will strengthen cooperation between IPPC and the Montreal Protocol and enhance communication and outcomes on phytosanitary issues between the two bodies. In particular, expertise is sought:

- On alternatives to MB that can be used in quarantine (and pre-shipment) uses globally (in both developed and developing countries); and
- On regulations involved in maintaining phytosanitary/biosecurity standards between and within countries during international trade.

¹ IPPC 2008. <https://www.ippc.int/core-activities/governance/cpm-recommendations/replacement-or-reduction-of-the-use-of-methyl-bromide-as-a-phytosanitary-measure>