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Agenda item 6

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE STRATOSPHERIC OZONE LAYER AND EFFORTS TO SAFEGUARD THE GLOBAL CLIMATE SYSTEM: ISSUES RELATING TO HYDROFLUOROCARBONS AND PERFLUOROCARBONS

Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) took note of the submissions by Parties contained in documents FCCC/SBSTA/2002/MISC.6 and Add.1 and the submissions from non-governmental organizations provided on the UNFCCC web site,[1] as well as the information contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2002/INF.1.

2. The SBSTA recalled that the UNFCCC provides flexibility for the Parties to optimize their approaches in minimizing the overall carbon dioxide equivalent emissions of greenhouse gases in their actions to address climate change.

3. The SBSTA recognized the role of the use of HFCs, hydrocarbons, ammonia, CO_2 and other options, in the phase-out of ozone-depleting substances under the Montreal Protocol and encouraged Parties to ensure that their actions to address ozone depletion are undertaken in a manner that also contributes to the objective of the UNFCCC.

4. The SBSTA encouraged governments to engage in or continue dialogues with relevant industries and stakeholders with a view to supporting existing or developing new voluntary agreements to limit emissions of greenhouse gases in the application of substitutes for ozone-depleting substances.

5. The SBSTA considered the wide dissemination of policy-neutral information to be vital in allowing enterprises and governments to make fully informed choices regarding replacement options for ozone-depleting substances. It encouraged Parties and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to make such information available, particularly to developing countries, including through the UNFCCC web site.

6. The SBSTA noted the importance of developing a balanced scientific, technical and policy-relevant information package. The objective of developing such an information package would be to make policy-neutral, user-friendly information available to all Parties and stakeholders to assist them in making informed decisions when evaluating alternatives to ozone-depleting substances while at the same time contributing to the objectives of the Convention and the Montreal Protocol.

[1] http://unfccc.int/program/mis/wam/index.html

7. The above-mentioned information package should be concise and cover three broad areas:

(a) A summary of up-to-date scientific information on the relation of ozone layer depletion and global warming, including concentrations of relevant ozone-depleting and greenhouse gases;

(b) Technical information on practices and technologies for phasing out ozone-depleting substances and at the same time contributing to the objectives of the Convention and the Montreal Protocol. It should cover the relevant sectors, including heating, refrigeration and air-conditioning, foams, aerosols, solvents and fire-fighting applications. It should include the technical options, inter alia, of improved containment, use of fluids, gases or aerosols with negligible or lower global warming potential, use of not-in-kind technology, process improvement and end-of-life-cycle recovery, recycling and disposal. It should present technical information relevant to evaluation, including cost, availability, health, medical, environmental and safety issues, technical performance, energy and resource efficiency and all associated greenhouse gas emissions using life cycle climate performance. Where appropriate, reference should be made to relevant policies and measures;

(c) The future demand and supply of HFCs and the implication for developing countries, drawing upon relevant reports. The SBSTA noted that many developing countries use HFCs in applications and depend on imports of these substances.

8. To facilitate the development of such information, the SBSTA invited the IPCC and the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP), in consultation with other organizations such as UNEP, to consider the modalities, feasibility, resource implications and timing of providing the balanced scientific and technical information described in paragraph 7 above. The SBSTA further invited them to communicate their replies to the SBSTA before the latter's seventeenth session. The SBSTA will consider these replies at its seventeenth session with a view to deciding at the time of COP 8 whether to make a further request on this issue to these bodies.

9. In considering such a draft decision, the SBSTA should ensure that the information package:

(a) Does not duplicate current efforts by those organizations;

(b) Is within the mandate of those organizations;

(c) Builds also upon the information provided, as referred to in paragraph 5 above;

(d) Is cost-efficient;

(e) Does not lead to the creation of any new reporting requirements for Parties.

10. The SBSTA noted the importance of continuing research and development on technologies that safeguard the ozone layer while at the same time contributing to the objectives of the Convention and the Montreal Protocol, and encouraged Parties to work towards that end.

11. The SBSTA noted that the Multilateral Fund (MLF) under the Montreal Protocol is funding the replacement of ozone-depleting substances in developing countries by alternatives, some of which are also greenhouse gases. The SBSTA invited Parties to consider project funding in addition to MLF funding, in particular through the GEF and CDM.

12. The SBSTA requested the UNFCCC secretariat to bring these conclusions to the attention of the Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol through its secretariat.

13. The SBSTA welcomed the input provided by Parties on information aspects of HFCs and PFCs, and agreed to recommend a draft decision at its seventeenth session for consideration at COP 8. It also agreed to consider at its seventeenth session the question of concluding the agenda item, "Relationship between efforts to protect the stratospheric ozone layer and efforts to safeguard the global climate system: issues relating to hydrofluorocarbons and perfluorocarbons".

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