



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/98/61
22 May 2026

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
Ninety-eighth Meeting
Montreal, 22–26 June 2026
Item 14 of the provisional agenda¹

**MATTERS RELATING TO PILOT PROJECTS TO ENHANCE REGIONAL
ATMOSPHERIC MONITORING OF SUBSTANCES CONTROLLED
BY THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL (DECISION 96/56)**

Executive summary

1. In line with decision 96/56, the Secretariat has prepared this document to support the Executive Committee's consideration of establishing a funding window for three pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol.
2. The document proposes a funding window of US \$9,250,000 to prepare, establish, and operate three regional atmospheric monitoring stations in Article 5 countries, covering: project preparation (US \$1,730,440); implementation (US \$4,640,900); and capacity-building activities, including training, data management, calibration support, and an international conference (US \$1,900,000); plus agency support costs. An additional US \$1,800,000 is proposed to support the continued operation of three stations to be established under the General Trust Fund for Financing Activities on Research and Systematic Observations Relevant to the Vienna Convention (VCGTF) upon completion of a possible European Union (EU) grant, bringing the total proposed funding to US \$11,050,000.
3. The Advisory Committee of the VCGTF (Advisory Committee) has already identified 10 potential regions and locations for monitoring stations. Site selection within these regions would be made by the Article 5 government concerned in consultation with the Advisory Committee.
4. Project preparation would involve a three-step process: observing system simulation experiments (OSSEs) to verify site suitability; a site preliminary observations test involving six months' worth of data collection through twice-weekly flask sampling; and a two-year developmental observations test with flask sampling every two days. Whether a monitoring station would be based on high-frequency in situ measurements or daily flask sampling would be based on inter alia the site preliminary observations test, the

¹ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/98/1

developmental observations test, local capacity and other factors including the suitability of the measurement frequency for regional emissions modelling. Priority would be given to sites with existing infrastructure.

5. The implementation phase covers infrastructure development, station operation, including personnel costs, and capacity-building activities. Given that operating costs for atmospheric monitoring stations do not diminish over time, the Secretariat proposes that the Executive Committee provide incremental recurring costs (IRCs) rather than incremental operating costs (IOCs). IRCs would be provided for up to five years on a pilot basis, with options for their duration and continuation to be reviewed at the 107th meeting. Stations established with VCGTF support would be eligible for IRCs upon completion of the initial operation phase financed through the VCGTF.

6. The document presents draft guidelines for both the preparation and implementation phases (annexes I and II, respectively), as well as a draft template Agreement between the Executive Committee and the Article 5 country concerned (annex IV). Further, the document presents the capacity and willingness of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to take on a role as implementing agency for the aforementioned pilot projects (annex V).

7. The recommendation invites the Executive Committee to consider approving the draft guidelines and template Agreement, establishing the proposed funding window, and setting in motion a process for reviewing possible continued provision of IRCs. The Executive Committee is also invited to consider next steps for the potential role of the WMO as implementing agency and to reinforce the role of the Advisory Committee in providing scientific guidance.

Introduction

8. At its 96th meeting, the Executive Committee considered options for a funding modality as referred to in paragraph 4 of decision XXXVI/1 to support a limited number of pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol, described in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/62.

9. Following discussions in plenary² and in a contact group, the Executive Committee decided *inter alia* to request the Secretariat, taking into account discussions on the matter during the 96th meeting, to prepare for the 98th meeting the information specified in decision 96/56(b) (see subparagraphs 10(b), (c), (d) and (e) below) and to consider establishing a funding window at the 98th meeting for three pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol, taking into account the information provided in subparagraph (b) of the same decision (decision 96/56(c)).

10. In line with that decision, the Secretariat prepared the present document, which consists of the following six parts and a recommendation:

- (a) Updated information based on work undertaken by the Advisory Committee and presented to the Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Parties (MOP);
- (b) Draft guidelines and estimated costs for the preparation of pilot projects to establish atmospheric monitoring stations to enhance regional monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol;
- (c) Draft guidelines and estimated costs for the implementation of pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol;

² Paragraphs 285-298 of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/66.

- (d) A draft template Agreement between the Executive Committee and the Article 5 country concerned for pilot projects to establish a regional atmospheric monitoring station;
- (e) Information regarding the potential for the WMO to take on a role as implementing agency for pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol; and
- (f) A summary of expected costs associated with the preparation and implementation of pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol to inform the Executive Committee's consideration of a funding window for such pilot projects.

Updated information based on work undertaken by the Advisory Committee and presented to the Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Parties

11. In line with decision XXXVI/1, the parties considered at the Thirty-Seventh MOP updated information from the Ozone Secretariat and the Advisory Committee related to enhancing the regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol, including progress and outcomes of the evaluation of the suitability of potential sites for monitoring regional emissions of controlled substances; and updates on cost estimates and options for long-term financing associated with atmospheric monitoring, including a strategy outlining the activities under various funding streams and how those activities complemented one another for regional atmospheric monitoring.

12. For the purposes of this document and to enhance clarity and consistency with the terminology used by the Advisory Committee, a region is the geographic area from which emissions occur and can be characterized with measurements at a single site, and is of the order thousands of kilometers across; a location is the geographic area that is potentially suitable for monitoring emissions from the region of interest and is of the order of tens to hundreds of kilometers across; a site is the specific location at which monitoring may occur; and a station is the physical infrastructure existing or to be built that will be used to house any equipment needed on site for atmospheric monitoring of controlled substances.

13. The step-by-step approach to establish regional atmospheric monitoring stations proposed by the Ozone Secretariat and the Advisory Committee exactly mirrors the approach described in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/62 except that the Advisory Committee included an initial survey for the collection of six months of data distributed over the course of a year at the selected site through flask sampling at a frequency of two samples per week³ to verify the operability, site and seasonal representativeness and basic logistics. Subject to satisfactory performance after the initial survey period, the next step would be the two-year sampling survey with flask measurements taken every other day, as described in paragraph 11 of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/62. The Advisory Committee also considered the possibility of a station transitioning to a high-frequency in situ station after the initial survey had been conducted, provided that the site is deemed suitable and the expertise, willingness, key infrastructure and resources are available.

14. The indicative costs to establish three atmospheric monitoring stations presented in the document considered by the Executive Committee at its 96th meeting were based on estimated costs provided by the Ozone Secretariat to the Parties at the 46th meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group.⁴ Subsequently, the Ozone Secretariat presented updated estimates of costs to the Thirty-Seventh MOP, including by providing disaggregation of capital and operational costs at item level and changes to the definition of low and

³ As presented by the Advisory Committee during the Thirty-Seventh MOP and based on work undertaken by Drs. A. Manning and L. Western under an EU-funded project, twice weekly sampling would be required. Slides 11 and 12 of <https://ozone.unep.org/system/files/documents/MOP37-agenda-item6-presentation.pdf>.

⁴ UNEP/OzL.Pro.WG.1/46/2/Add.1

high-cost estimates.⁵ Based on those updated costs, and as further described below, the Secretariat has updated the estimated costs to prepare proposals and to establish and operate three high-frequency in situ atmospheric monitoring stations.⁶

15. At the Thirty-Seventh MOP, the Advisory Committee also provided an update on its evaluation of the suitability of potential locations for monitoring regional emissions of controlled substances. In particular, the Advisory Committee identified 10 potential regions and locations for setting up monitoring stations, including five regions and locations that had been prioritized by the Advisory Committee based on available information on potential current and future emissions strengths, OSSEs, and available infrastructure and expertise: Southern Asia (India/Bangladesh); South-East Asia (Viet Nam); Southern Africa (Botswana/South Africa); the Middle East (Saudi Arabia); and Central and Southern South America (Brazil/Argentina). Other potential regions that had been examined by the Committee but had not yet been prioritized were: North Africa (Algeria); North America (Mexico); Northern South America (Ecuador); Eastern Europe (Russian Federation); and West Africa (Nigeria).⁷

16. In line with paragraph 1 of decision XXXVII/1, the Advisory Committee is continuing its evaluation of the suitability of potential sites for monitoring emissions of controlled substances situated within the identified regions and locations. This information, together with information collected by the Ozone Secretariat on possible next steps towards establishing monitoring activities at those sites, will be presented to the 48th meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and to the Thirty-Eighth MOP.

17. In line with the country-driven approach that has been the practice of the Executive Committee since the inception of the Multilateral Fund, and noting that proposals to establish a regional atmospheric monitoring station would only be submitted by those Article 5 countries in a region identified by the Advisory Committee that would benefit from an atmospheric monitoring station and that wished to establish a station (i.e., there would be no obligation for Article 5 countries to submit such requests), the selection of a specific site in its territory for the proposal would be made by the Article 5 government concerned.

18. In particular, an Article 5 country may wish to select a site proposed by the Advisory Committee or a different site. In case of the latter, consultations with the Advisory Committee may be required to ensure the suitability of the site selected. Relevant scientific advice provided by the Advisory Committee will guide the project from design through implementation, e.g., on the extent of other monitoring activities that may be undertaken in the region and support for atmospheric monitoring provided by other funding organizations to ensure that any support provided by the Multilateral Fund complements existing monitoring efforts; after the implementation of the preparation project, on the most appropriate monitoring method suitable at a site (i.e., flask sampling or in-situ measurements) and other proposed technical characteristics of the site; and to address scientific issues during the operation of a pilot monitoring station. Consultations between the implementing/bilateral agencies and the Secretariat with the Advisory Committee may take place regularly and through a channel of communication identified by the Advisory Committee and the Ozone Secretariat, a process that has been facilitated by the participation of a member of the Secretariat as an observer to the Advisory Committee.

Draft guidelines and estimated costs for the preparation of pilot projects to establish atmospheric monitoring stations to enhance regional monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol

19. The preparation phase of the pilot projects covers site feasibility testing and analysis as well as preparation of the project proposal.

⁵ UNEP/OzL.Pro.37/2/Add.1 and UNEP/OzL.Pro.37/INF/6

⁶ As at the 96th meeting, the Secretariat is presenting the costs associated with the establishment of high-frequency in situ atmospheric monitoring stations. An Article 5 country may, however, wish to establish a monitoring station based on flask sampling; in such case, the costs and measurement frequency would be lower.

⁷ Paragraph 93 of document UNEP/OzL.Pro.37/9.

20. At the 96th meeting, the Secretariat proposed that the first step for the preparation of a pilot project would be a two-year flask sampling survey, hereafter developmental observations test (DOT). Based on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee at the Thirty-Seventh MOP, two steps are considered important prior to the DOT, resulting in a three-step process:⁸

- (a) OSSEs: OSSEs are a key preliminary step in identifying suitable measurement sites and have been carried out for the 10 locations identified by the Advisory Committee. In preparing the document for the 96th meeting, the Secretariat had assumed that no further OSSEs would be required given the OSSEs already undertaken. However, additional OSSEs may be needed if the station proposed by the Article 5 country is too far from the original location for which the OSSE was undertaken, if the orography or seasonal air transport are different, or for other technical reasons;
- (b) SPOT: In line with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, the DOT should be preceded by an initial site preliminary observations test (SPOT), a survey period collecting approximately six months' worth of data over the course of approximately one year where flask sampling is undertaken twice per week (approximately 60 samples, including some duplicate samples to check reproducibility) to verify operability, site representativeness including the absence of local emissions, the reliability and effectiveness of operations, and basic logistics;⁹ and
- (c) DOT: Subject to satisfactory results from the SPOT, the two-year DOT would be undertaken, with flask samples taken once every two days (approximately 200 samples per year).¹⁰

21. Following the three-step process and based on the results of the DOT, and further to consultations with the Advisory Committee as necessary, a detailed proposal to establish an atmospheric monitoring station at a specific site¹¹ would be prepared. The proposal would include a description of the existing infrastructure of the proposed station; the nature of the monitoring that would be undertaken (i.e., flask sampling or in-situ instrumentation); local partners that maintain and operate the station; costs to establish and operate the station; and how the sustainability of the station and the quality of the measurements will be ensured.

22. At the 96th meeting, the Secretariat had suggested that the Executive Committee consider prioritizing the establishment of stations where some infrastructure already exists. Such existing facilities allow reduction in cost due to existing infrastructure and analyses of available information to fully evaluate the suitability of the site. Association of the sites with universities or national laboratories, which would be supported through the implementing agencies, would likely also help jump start the process and ensure capacity-building.

23. The Secretariat at the 96th meeting estimated the project preparation costs for three proposals to establish three atmospheric monitoring stations at US \$1,230,000.¹² Based on the updated costs presented by the Ozone Secretariat to the Thirty-Seventh MOP, the updated preparation costs would be on average

⁸ Paragraph 7 of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/62.

⁹ Paragraph 9(b) of document UNEP/OzL.Pro.37/INF/6.

¹⁰ As noted in paragraph 13 above, the DOT may not be required if, subject to guidance from the Advisory Committee, the SPOT provides sufficient observational support of the suitability of the site.

¹¹ As noted above, the Advisory Committee has, in line with paragraph 1 of decision XXXVI/1, identified a number of potential sites for monitoring emissions of controlled substances situated within the regions and locations of interest. An Article 5 country may wish to establish a monitoring station at a site other than one of the sites identified by the Advisory Committee. In such case, additional consultations with the Advisory Committee would be required to clarify the suitability of the proposed site.

¹² Paragraph 28(a) of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/62.

US \$576,813 per station including the undertaking of OSSEs as described below. The total cost therefore for the preparation of three proposals would be at US \$1,730,440, with the following assumptions:

- (a) OSSEs: One station would be sufficiently close to a location where OSSEs had already been undertaken and, therefore, no additional OSSEs would be required for that station, while the other two stations would require additional OSSEs, with one OSSE at the low-end cost estimated by the Ozone Secretariat and the other at the high-end cost, resulting in costs related to OSSEs of US \$39,000 for the three proposals;
- (b) SPOT and DOT: Noting the proposed prioritization of stations where infrastructure already exists, costs for two of the stations were calculated using the Ozone Secretariat's low-cost scenario and for the third station the high-cost scenario, and assuming that all stations require a 30-meter tower, manual sampling for the flask sampling, and 10 per cent additional contingency, resulting in US \$1,042,140 for the initial six-month SPOT for the three stations, including associated infrastructure improvements, and US \$454,300 for the two-year DOT for the three stations; and
- (c) Proposal: US \$50,000 per station for the analysis of atmospheric abundances collected through flask sampling and preparation of a proposal based on that analysis, and US \$15,000 per station for possible travel of a member of the Advisory Committee to the station and of personnel from the station to the laboratory where the flasks will be analysed.

24. Proposals to establish an atmospheric monitoring station should inter alia include:

- (a) A thorough description of the proposed site where the atmospheric monitoring station will be established, including local topography, surrounding land types (agricultural, forest, urban, etc.) and neighbourhood environs, and existing infrastructure (e.g., access road, building or shed, tower, power supply, internet connection, etc.);
- (b) A description of the scientific and technical capacity of local personnel that may be available to maintain and operate the station, and analyze the resultant data;
- (c) An assessment of the results of the flask sampling undertaken as part of the pilot project preparation demonstrating the suitability of the site and specifying the nature of monitoring (i.e., flask sampling or in-situ measurements) to be undertaken;
- (d) A description of the costs to establish, maintain and operate the monitoring station, including related to the procurement of required equipment and instrumentation; improvements to or establishment of new infrastructure; compressed gases and calibration standards, if relevant; maintenance; and personnel and other related costs; and
- (e) A description of how the sustainability of the station, and the accessibility and quality of the measurements, including in relation to the use of stable, well-characterized calibration scales, and regular technical review will be ensured.

Draft guidelines and estimated costs for the implementation of pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol

25. The implementation phase of the pilot projects covers developing the infrastructure for the monitoring station, as needed; operating the station; and capacity-building activities.

26. The Secretariat at the 96th meeting estimated the costs to establish three high-frequency in situ monitoring stations and operate those stations for five years at a total cost of US \$4,675,000.¹³ Based on the updated costs presented by the Ozone Secretariat to the Thirty-Seventh MOP, the updated costs to establish three high-frequency in situ monitoring stations and operate those stations for five years results in US \$4,640,900 assuming, in line with the proposed prioritization of stations where infrastructure already exists, the Ozone Secretariat's low-cost scenario for two of the stations and the high-cost scenario for the third station, and assuming 10 per cent contingency.

27. At the 96th meeting, the Secretariat had noted that unlike conversion projects, where the provision of IOCs is intended to enable the sustainable conversion to the agreed alternative technology by accounting for the difference in costs between the baseline and alternative technologies, and where in general that difference decreases with time as the baseline technology is phased out and the alternate technology is phased in, the costs to operate an atmospheric monitoring station may not decrease with time. Accordingly, the Secretariat had proposed that rather than providing IOCs, the Executive Committee could consider providing incremental recurring costs (IRCs) when funding the establishment of regional atmospheric monitoring stations. In so doing, the Executive Committee could consider a range of options, e.g., providing IRCs for an indefinite period of time/as long as the atmospheric monitoring station was operating and submitting data to a data centre; providing IRCs for a period of time to be determined by the Executive Committee; or providing IRCs that phase out with time as the local capacity of personnel at the atmospheric monitoring station is built and national funding processes absorb more of the station's operating costs. Irrespective of the option selected, the Executive Committee could review the duration of IRCs after an initial trial period of five years.¹⁴

Additional stations established under the Vienna Convention General Trust Fund

28. At the Thirty-Seventh MOP, the Ozone Secretariat reported the possible provision of an EU grant of €4.5 million to the VCGTF that was expected to inter alia support the establishment and operation of three atmospheric monitoring stations.¹⁵ Upon completion of that possible grant, and if necessary, the Executive Committee could consider approving funding to support the continued operation of the three stations established under the VCGTF. Assuming that atmospheric monitoring stations would be provided with IRCs for five years irrespective of whether their establishment was supported by the Multilateral Fund or the VCGTF, the timeline presented by the Advisory Committee during the Thirty-Seventh MOP¹⁶ and contained in annex III to the present document (i.e., the establishment and operation of one high-frequency in situ station for three and a half years and of two daily-flask sampling stations that are operated for one year), and assuming costs to operate the stations using the Ozone Secretariat's low-cost scenario for the high-frequency in situ and one of the daily flask monitoring stations and the high-cost scenario for the second daily flask monitoring station, and 10 per cent contingency, results in IRCs for the three stations established under the VCGTF of US \$1,336,940.

Capacity-building and calibration

29. The goal of supporting the establishment of a monitoring station in an Article 5 country in a region identified by the Advisory Committee is to provide long-term, high-quality data on the atmospheric abundances of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol in a region where such data are lacking. Long-term measurements are needed to ascertain whether changes in atmospheric abundances are due to changes in emissions rather than, for example, intra-annual atmospheric and transport variability, measurement error or sampling artifacts. To that end, the pilot projects should provide support, where necessary, to ensure that stations and laboratories providing any flask analysis services follow established

¹³ Paragraph 28(b) of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/62.

¹⁴ Paragraph 10 of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/62.

¹⁵ Paragraph 57 and figure 2 of document UNEP/OzL.Pro.37/2/Add.1.

¹⁶ <https://ozone.unep.org/system/files/documents/MOP37-agenda-item6-presentation.pdf>

common measurement practices, that results are linked closely to calibration scales that are well established and stable in time through appropriate standardization, and that appropriate data quality assurance/quality control and appropriate data archiving practices are followed. Accordingly, at the 96th meeting the Secretariat had recommended that the Executive Committee consider providing annual trainings and technical assistance of US \$30,000 per station, per year, resulting in costs over five years of US \$450,000 for the three stations established under the Multilateral Fund. A similar calculation can be done if funding for the three stations under the VCGTF does not account for such capacity-building.

30. In addition, at the 96th meeting, the Secretariat had proposed that the Executive Committee provide US \$150,000 per station to build capacity for data archiving and stewardship protocols, and to assist sites to make their data available according to the Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reusability (FAIR) data principles, resulting in costs of US \$450,000 for three stations for data storage and data management. Such support should be provided in the first years of operation of a monitoring station.

31. At the 96th meeting, the Secretariat had also proposed providing US \$1,000,000 for support for calibration standards, measurement support software and an international conference, which would allow local station personnel and scientists to share operational insights and key science findings, and participate in knowledge exchange. Such support will not only build the capacity of local personnel but also help ensure their engagement and commitment to the implementation of the monitoring, which is critical to ensuring that stations provide long-term, high-quality data.

Draft template Agreement between the Executive Committee and the Article 5 country concerned for pilot projects to establish a regional atmospheric monitoring station

32. The Secretariat prepared a draft template Agreement, contained in annex IV to the present document, using language from the draft template Agreement for stage I of Kigali HFC implementation plans and adapted to the establishment of an atmospheric monitoring station. Consumption targets, the requirement for independent verification, and provisions related to a penalty for non-compliance with the Agreement are not included.

Information regarding the potential for the World Meteorological Organization to take on a role as implementing agency for pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol

33. The Secretariat discussed with the WMO on the potential for the organization to take on a role as implementing agency for pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol should it be invited to do so by the Executive Committee. Further to those discussions, the WMO expressed its willingness to take on such a role as reflected in the letter¹⁷ from Prof. Celeste Saulo, Secretary-General of WMO, sent to the Chief Officer on 5 May 2026, indicating that WMO has the proper legal and financial regulation to establish a trust fund within WMO, and the technical expertise to implement projects on atmospheric monitoring, in cooperation with relevant partners in selected countries.

34. An invitation to become an implementing agency of the Multilateral Fund would require approval by its Secretary-General. The Secretary-General would also approve the Agreement between WMO and the Executive Committee, once agreement is reached on its terms. The same procedure would be followed regarding the Agreement between WMO and the Fund's Treasurer. The Secretariat explained that the Agreements to be signed with WMO would be in line with those approved by the Committee, which were signed with each of the current implementing agencies, and between each of them and the Fund's Treasurer. The texts of these Agreements were transmitted to WMO by the Secretariat, and their provisions were duly explained, jointly examined, and fully understood. There will be a need to consult the legal offices of the

¹⁷ Annex V of the present document

WMO and UNEP to finalize draft Agreements between the Executive Committee and the WMO, and between the Treasurer and the WMO.

35. A formal internal trust fund within the Financial System of WMO, against which allocations and expenditures would be managed and recorded, would be established upon approval by the WMO Assistant Secretary-General. In regard to individual projects, WMO indicated that individual “awards” (trust funds) would be created to receive and disburse funds for each project, which would have their own agreements and internal processes.

Summary of expected costs associated with the preparation and implementation of pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol

36. Table 1 summarizes the costs associated with pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol.

Table 1. Costs for pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol

Activity	Unit cost (US \$)	Quantity	Cost (US \$)
<i>Preparation</i>			
Preparation of a pilot project to establish an atmospheric monitoring station	576,813	3	1,730,440
<i>Implementation</i>			
Establish and operate an atmospheric monitoring station	1,546,967	3	4,640,900
<i>Capacity-building</i>			
Training and technical assistance for five years per station established under the Multilateral Fund	150,000	3	450,000
Technical assistance for data storage and management per station established under the Multilateral Fund	150,000	3	450,000
Support for calibration standards and an international conference in the fourth year to share results and lessons learned	1,000,000	1	1,000,000
Subtotal			8,271,340
Agency support costs (11.8 per cent ¹⁸)			976,018
Total			9,247,358

37. The costs to support the additional three atmospheric monitoring stations established under the VCGTF would be additional to the costs indicated in table 1 above. Additional costs to support three stations established under the VCGTF upon completion of the grant provided by the EU total US \$1,796,559, comprising US \$1,336,940 for implementation (IRCs), US \$270,000 for capacity-building (annual trainings and technical assistance), and US \$189,619 in agency support costs. Including those costs would bring the total funding to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol to US \$11,043,917.

¹⁸ Based on table 1 of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/93/101.

Recommendation

38. The Executive Committee may wish to consider:

- (a) Noting document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/98/61 on matters relating to pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol (decision 96/56);
- (b) Approving:
 - (i) The guidelines for the preparation of pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol contained in annex I to document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/98/61;
 - (ii) The guidelines for the implementation of pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol contained in annex II to document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/98/61;
 - (iii) The template Agreement between the Executive Committee and the Article 5 country concerned for pilot projects to establish a regional atmospheric monitoring station contained in annex IV to document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/98/61;
- (c) Establishing a funding window of US \$9,250,000 for three pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol, including their preparation, implementation and capacity building activities as specified in table 1 of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/98/61;
- (d) Adding to the funding window the amount of US \$1,800,000 for the continuation of operation of the three atmospheric monitoring stations established with the support of the Vienna Convention General Trust Fund;
- (e) Noting the information regarding the potential for the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to take on a role as implementing agency for pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol contained in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/98/61, and requesting the Secretariat, in collaboration with WMO, to develop draft agency agreements with the Executive Committee and with the Treasurer, in line with the Agreements between the Committee and the implementing agencies and the Agreements between the implementing agencies and the Treasurer, for its consideration and endorsement at its 99th meeting;
- (f) Noting:
 - (i) That bilateral and implementing agencies of pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol would follow guidance of the Advisory Committee of the Vienna Convention General Trust Fund on preparing and implementing such pilot projects, and would submit to the 107th meeting a report on the implementation of the respective pilot project;
 - (ii) That the Secretariat would share relevant information from the preparation and implementation of the pilot projects referred to in subparagraph (f)(i) above with the Advisory Committee of the Vienna Convention General Trust Fund;
- (g) Requesting the Secretariat to prepare, for the 107th meeting, a paper outlining options for the duration and provision of incremental recurring costs, taking into account the

information contained in the reports submitted in line with subparagraph (f)(i) above and other relevant information; and

- (h) Requesting bilateral and implementing agencies to include in their relevant business plans requests for funding for the projects specified in subparagraph (c) above for Article 5 countries that wished to undertake such projects.

Annex I

**DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR THE PREPARATION OF PILOT PROJECTS
TO ENHANCE REGIONAL ATMOSPHERIC MONITORING OF SUBSTANCES
CONTROLLED BY THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL**

1. Requests for funding for the preparation of pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol would:
 - (a) Be only considered in regions identified by the Advisory Committee of the Vienna Convention General Trust Fund that would provide a benefit through the establishment of an atmospheric monitoring station; and
 - (b) Include a letter from the Government concerned committing to ensure that the proposed atmospheric monitoring station would follow the principles of availability and accessibility of data described in paragraphs 20 to 22 of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/62.
2. The maximum amount of funding available for the preparation of pilot projects to establish a regional atmospheric monitoring station is US \$576,813 plus agency support costs.
3. Bilateral and implementing agencies are requested, when submitting a request for the preparation of pilot projects to establish an atmospheric monitoring station, to provide an indication of the activities that need to be undertaken for pilot project preparation, with specific costs clearly identified.

Annex II

**DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PILOT PROJECTS
TO ENHANCE REGIONAL ATMOSPHERIC MONITORING OF SUBSTANCES
CONTROLLED BY THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL**

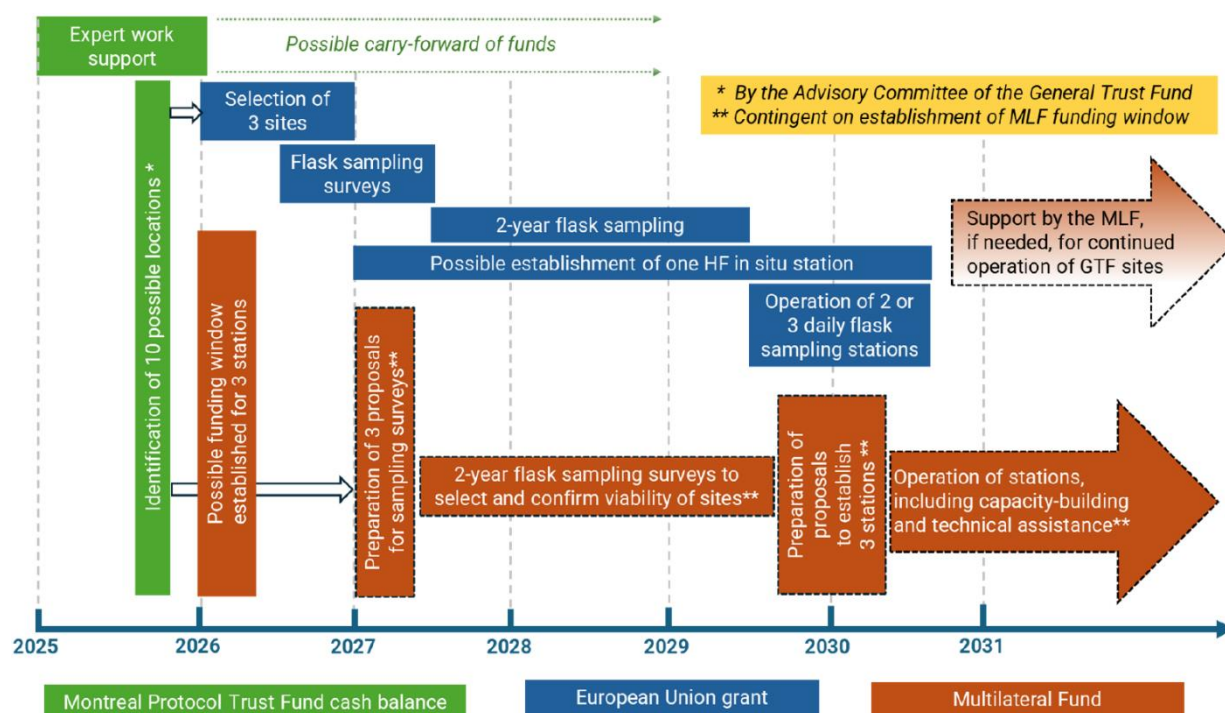
1. Bilateral and implementing agencies are requested to ensure that the following information is included in proposals for pilot projects to establish an atmospheric monitoring station:
 - (a) A thorough description of the proposed site where the atmospheric monitoring station will be established, including local topography, surrounding land types (agricultural, forest, urban, etc.) and neighborhood environs, and existing infrastructure;
 - (b) A detailed description of the scientific and technical capacity of local personnel who will maintain and operate the station, and analyze the resultant data;
 - (c) An assessment of the results of the flask sampling undertaken as part of the pilot project preparation demonstrating the suitability of the site and specifying the nature of monitoring to be undertaken;
 - (d) A description of the costs to establish, maintain and operate the monitoring station, including related to the procurement of required equipment and instrumentation; improvements to or establishment of new infrastructure; compressed gases and calibration scale standards, and if relevant; maintenance; and personnel and other related costs;
 - (e) A description of how the sustainability of the station, and the accessibility and quality of the measurements, including in relation to the use of stable, well-characterized calibration scales, and regular technical review will be ensured; and
 - (f) A commitment from the Government concerned that the station would follow the principles of availability and accessibility of data described in paragraphs 20 to 22 of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/62.
2. The establishment of an atmospheric monitoring station at sites with existing infrastructure and access to appropriate scientific and technical capacity to maintain and operate the station will be prioritized.
3. Pilot projects to establish an atmospheric monitoring station to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol would only be considered that inter alia are:
 - (a) In a region identified by the Advisory Committee of the Vienna Convention General Trust Fund that would provide a benefit through the establishment of an atmospheric monitoring station; and
 - (b) In an Article 5 country that committed to ensuring that the atmospheric monitoring station would follow the principles of availability and accessibility of data described in paragraphs 20 to 22 of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/62.
4. Atmospheric monitoring stations would be provided incremental recurring costs (IRCs) for up to five years on a pilot basis and without prejudice to any subsequent decision the Executive Committee may take on the provision of IRCs, noting that the Executive Committee will review options for the duration and provision of IRCs at the 107th meeting of the Executive Committee. Atmospheric monitoring stations established in Article 5 countries with the support of the Vienna Convention General Trust Fund could be eligible for IRCs on the same basis as monitoring stations established under the Multilateral Fund on the

understanding that the maximum number of years for which support for their operation was provided was irrespective of whether that support was provided by the Vienna Convention General Trust Fund or the Multilateral Fund.

5. The Secretariat will assess the costs to establish an atmospheric monitoring station in light of the financial model prepared by the Ozone Secretariat for the Thirty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties, advice from the Advisory Committee of the Vienna Convention General Trust Fund, and other relevant information.

Annex III

ACTION AREAS AND ESTIMATED TIMELINE OF THE THREE EXISTING AND POTENTIAL FUNDING STREAMS TO SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF STATIONS FOR THE ATMOSPHERIC MONITORING OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, AS PRESENTED BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE DURING THE THIRTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES



Annex IV

DRAFT TEMPLATE

DRAFT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF [COUNTRY] AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MULTILATERAL FUND TO ENHANCE REGIONAL ATMOSPHERIC MONITORING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PILOT PROJECT TO ESTABLISH AND OPERATE A STATION TO MONITOR THE ATMOSPHERIC ABUNDANCES OF SUBSTANCES CONTROLLED BY THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL

Purpose

1. This Agreement represents the understanding of the Government of [country] (“the Country”) and the Executive Committee with respect to the establishment and operation of a station to monitor the atmospheric abundance of substances controlled under the Montreal Protocol. The Country agrees to ensure that the atmospheric monitoring station will follow the principles of availability and accessibility of data described in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/62, including an open data policy and the Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reusability (FAIR) guiding principles for scientific data management and stewardship.
2. Subject to compliance by the Country with its obligations set out in this Agreement, the Executive Committee agrees, in principle, to provide the funding set out in row 2.1 of Appendix 1-A (“Funding”) to the Country. The Executive Committee will, in principle, provide this funding at the Executive Committee meetings specified in Appendix 2-A (“Funding Approval Schedule”). The Country agrees to implement this Agreement in accordance with the pilot project to establish and operate a station to monitor the atmospheric abundance of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol (“the Plan”) as approved.

Conditions for funding release

3. The Executive Committee will provide the Funding, in accordance with the Funding Approval Schedule, when the Country demonstrates, at least 10 weeks in advance of the applicable Executive Committee meeting set out in the Funding Approval Schedule, that the atmospheric monitoring station followed the principles of availability and accessibility of data described in paragraph 1 above for all relevant years; and that the rate of disbursement of funding available from the previously approved tranche was more than 20 per cent.

Implementation, monitoring and reporting

4. The Country agrees to assume overall responsibility for the management and implementation of this Agreement and of all activities undertaken by it or on its behalf to fulfil the obligations under this Agreement. [IA] has agreed to be the implementing agency (the “IA”) in respect of the Country’s activities under this Agreement. The Country agrees to evaluations, which might be carried out under the evaluation work programmes of the Multilateral Fund or under the evaluation programme of the IA. The Country and IA will take into consideration relevant decisions of the Executive Committee that take effect during the implementation of the Plan.
5. The Country will ensure that it conducts accurate monitoring of its activities under this Agreement. The institutions set out in Appendix 3-A (“Monitoring Institutions and Roles”) will monitor and report on the implementation of the activities in the previous Tranche Implementation Plans in accordance with their roles and responsibilities set out in the same appendix.

6. The IA will be responsible for ensuring coordinated planning, implementation and reporting of all activities under this Agreement. The Executive Committee agrees, in principle, to provide the IA with the fees set out in row 1.2 of Appendix 1-A.

7. The submission of each tranche request will consist of three parts: a brief executive summary, a Tranche Implementation Report, and a Tranche Implementation Plan. The Tranche Implementation Report will provide data, separated by tranche, describing the progress achieved since the previous report, including the status of the monitoring station, the availability and accessibility of data, whether scientific articles had been published in the peer-reviewed scientific literature based on data from the station, any capacity-building activities completed by personnel at the station, quantitative information on the activities implemented, successes and challenges, and information on changes, delays, or the use of flexibility for the reallocation of funds described in paragraph 9. The Tranche Implementation Plan will provide a description of the activities to be undertaken during the period covered by the requested tranche, including quantitative information, implementation milestones, the date of completion, and the interdependence of the activities, as well as scientific advice received from the Advisory Committee and how this advice was taken up in project implementation.

8. The Country will comply with any reasonable request of the Executive Committee and the IA to facilitate implementation of this Agreement. In the case of non-compliance, the Executive Committee will discuss each specific case in which the Country did not comply with this Agreement and take related decisions.

Flexibility in the reallocation of funds

9. The Executive Committee agrees that the Country may have the flexibility to reallocate part or all approved funds, according to the evolving circumstances, to achieve the smoothest operation of the atmospheric monitoring station and address specific needs that might arise during project implementation. Reallocations categorized as major changes will be documented at least 10 weeks prior to any meeting of the Executive Committee for its approval. Any remaining funds held by the IA or the Country under the Plan will be returned to the Multilateral Fund upon completion of the last tranche foreseen under this Agreement or upon cancellation of the project. Limited-time no-cost extensions will be considered on a case-by-case basis if a strong justification is provided by the Country (see paragraph 10 below).

Date of completion

10. The completion of the Plan and the associated Agreement will take place at the end of the year following the last year specified in Appendix 1-A. Should at that time there still be activities that are outstanding, and which had been reported in the last tranche request or documented in accordance with paragraph 7 above, the completion of the Plan will be delayed until the end of the year following the implementation of the remaining activities. The reporting requirements of this Agreement will continue until the time of the completion of the Plan unless otherwise specified by the Executive Committee.

Disposition of equipment

11. The Country agrees to return all equipment procured by the Multilateral Fund in case a monitoring station ceases to operate, ceases to make data available, or if so-requested by the Executive Committee.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1-A: FUNDING

Row	Particulars	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total
1.1	IA ([IA]) agreed funding (US \$)						

Row	Particulars	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Total
1.2	Support costs for IA (US \$)						
1.3	Total agreed costs (US \$)						

APPENDIX 2-A: FUNDING APPROVAL SCHEDULE

1. Funding for the future tranches will be considered for approval at the **first/second** meeting of the year specified in Appendix 1-A.

APPENDIX 3-A: MONITORING INSTITUTIONS AND ROLES

1. This section must be completed by the Country and the IA. It must provide a detailed and credible indication of how progress is to be monitored, and which organizations will be responsible for the activities and the sustainability of the operation of the atmospheric monitoring station.

Annex V

LETTER FROM THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION
ON BECOMING AN IMPLEMENTING AGENCY



Our ref.: 6716768/2026/SSCD/SI/ACES

Dr Tina Birmpili
Chief Officer
Multilateral fund Secretariat
Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund 1000
De La Gauchetière Street West Suite 4100
MONTREAL
Quebec H3B 4W5
Canada

Email: tina.birmpili@un.org

5 May 2026

Subject: Willingness of WMO to become implementing partner of Multilateral fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol

Dear Dr Birmpili,

Following Decision XXXVII/1, adopted at the Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, on enhancing regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol, and decision 96/56, adopted during the sixth meeting of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral fund (MLF) for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol, to provide information regarding the potential for WMO to take on a role as implementing agency for pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol, this letter is to confirm WMO's willingness to take on such a role as an implementing agency.

Following exchange of information between the MLF secretariat and WMO, it has been confirmed that WMO has the proper legal and financial regulation to establish a trust fund within WMO, to manage allocations and record expenditures, and has the technical expertise to implement the projects on monitoring substances that deplete the Ozone layer, in cooperation with relevant partners in the selected countries.

I would like to assure you that, if designated as an implementing agency, WMO will fully assume this responsibility and actively support the enhancement of global monitoring of atmospheric composition, recognizing its critical importance for the protection of the ozone layer and the future of the atmosphere.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Prof. Celeste Saulo'.

Prof. Celeste Saulo
Secretary-General