

## 2020 World Ozone Day Activities in Nigeria

Nigeria celebrated her 2020 World Ozone Day with a Ministerial Press Briefing, where the Honorable Minister of Environment (FMEnv), Dr. Mohammad Abubakar, delivered the 2020 Ozone Address (copy attached below). The event which took place at the Conference Hall, Federal Ministry of Environment, Maitama, Abuja on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020, commenced with welcome address by the permanent secretary, FMEnv, Mr Abel Enitan. Due to the covid 19 pandemic, participants were mainly members of the press for awareness dissemination purpose, UNIDO rep, Mr Yomi Banjo and other relevant stakeholders. Goodwill message was delivered by the Representative of UNIDO, who highlighted how the Organization had partnered with the Federal Ministry of Environment in the implementation of the MP's ODS Phase-out programme in Nigeria. He further assured of UNIDO's continuous support to the Government implementing MP's activities in Nigeria.

Other activities for the Day include distribution of awareness materials to key Stakeholders that attended the briefing and others. The event took place in line with the COVID-19 guidelines of the government.





## ATTACHMENT 2

### DRAFT



**OZONE DAY ADDRESS BY THE HONORABLE MINISTER,  
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, DR. MOHAMMAD  
MAHMOOD ABUBAKAR**

**DELIVERED ON THE**

**MINISTERIAL PRESS BRIEFING FOR COMMEMORATION OF THE  
2020 INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR PRESERVATION OF THE  
OZONE LAYER HELD AT FMENV CONFERENCE HALL, GREEN  
BUILDING, MAITAMA, ABUJA, 17th September, 2020.**

## **Protocols,**

**1.0** It is my pleasure to deliver this address as we join the rest of the world to commemorate the 2020 International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.

**2.0** As you are aware, the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer was adopted in 1985 and entered into force in 1988. The binding instrument to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Convention, was also adopted on 16<sup>th</sup> September, 1987, which became the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. Since then, the 16<sup>th</sup> of September has been set aside to commemorate the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer by the global community in line with the UN General Assembly Resolution.

**3.0** The theme for this year's International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is: ***Ozone for life***. The theme has two connotations - that we all need a healthy ozone layer to protect us and our environment, and the need to safeguard this for future generations to come. The theme highlights the Vienna Convention's role in bringing Parties together to promote cooperation by means of systematic observations, research and information exchange on the effects of human activities on the ozone layer and to adopt legislative or administrative measures against activities likely to have adverse effects on the ozone layer.

4.0 Nigeria signed the Montreal Protocol in 1988 and subsequently ratified all its related Amendments, namely the London, Beijing, Copahengan, Montreal and the recent Kigali Amendment.

5.0 Distinguished Gentlemen of the press, for over three decades, my Ministry in collaboration with UNDP, UNIDO, GIZ, World Bank & UNEP as the Implementing Agencies, have been implementing the Protocol's Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) phase out programme in Nigeria. In line with the Protocol's ODS phase-out schedule, we have assisted over 600 Large, Small & Medium Scale enterprises in the Foam, Refrigeration & Air conditioning, Aerosols, Fire protection & Solvent Sectors to convert to Ozone friendly substances & technologies. This resulted in 100 percent phase out of over 4000 Metric Tonnes of Ozone Depleting Substances, with high Ozone Depletion Potentials namely, CFCs, Halons, Carbon Tetrachloide and Methyl Bromide in 2010. In addition, 26 Institutions (Polytechnics and Government Technical Colleges) were identified and equipped to serve as Training Centers on Good Refrigeration Practices. We have also trained the Trainers from the identified centers and developed Training Manuals on Good Refrigeration Practices. These have led to the training of more than 10,000 Refrigeration Technicians in the Refrigeration Servicing sector. Other activities that have taken place include:

- Establishment of a National Halon Bank for the storage of about 9 MT of decommissioned halons from oil companies,
- Destruction of 1.5 Metric Tonnes of waste CFC-12 by an indigenous company.
- Distribution of 100 Refrigerant Gas Identifiers to relevant enforcement agencies including Nigerian Customs Service, NAFDAC, Nigeria Consumer Protection Council and Standard Organization of Nigeria

- Training of 750 Customs Officers and 100 other relevant Chemical Enforcement Officers including 150 Clearing Agents on the control of ODS importation.

These and other ODS phase out activities were achieved with support from the Multilateral Fund (MLF) for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol, which provides assistance to parties operating under Article 5 (developing countries) of the Protocol to meet their compliance obligations.

6.0 Distinguished Gentlemen of the press, in addition, my Ministry is implementing the Protocol's Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) phase out management plan (HPMP) project, targeted at phasing out HCFCs gases R-22 & 141b, mainly used in Nigeria as refrigerants & blowing agents in the Refrigeration & Air conditioning & foam sectors respectively. The modality of implementation of the project is in stages. The stage 1 of the project was successfully implemented between 2011 and 2018, in collaboration with UNDP & UNIDO. The achievements recorded under this stage include completion and commissioning of a Pilot Demonstration Hydrocarbon Plant for the production of High-grade Hydrocarbon Refrigerants to be used as alternatives to HCFC-22 in the Refrigeration & Air conditioning (RAC) in 2015, Provision of 75 nos of Low Pressure Foaming Machines designed to use Ozone Friendly blowing agents to Ice Block Making Machines Manufacturers, for the production of thermal insulation, training of 34 nos other beneficiaries on techniques for safe foaming operations in the manufacture of refrigeration equipment. This enabled the country to phase out 79.5 ODP tonnes and 10 ODP tonnes reductions of HCFC-141b & HCFC-22 consumptions, respectively, thereby meeting our compliance obligations under the Protocol by achieving the 10% reduction of our HCFC

importation from the baseline in 2015. We are now on track to achieve further reduction of 35% HCFCs consumption by the end of this year.

7.0 Also, Nigeria played a leadership role at negotiations during the 28th Meeting of Parties to the Protocol, leading to the adoption of the Kigali Amendment in 2016. Recognizing this & due to our overall contributions to the success of the Montreal Protocol, the country was given a prestigious Political Leadership Award in 2017 in Montreal, Canada during 29th meeting of parties to the protocol.

8.0 Distinguished Gentlemen of the press, Since assumption of office as Minister, I have always given my cooperation and support towards the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements that Nigeria is a Party to. To demonstrate this, Under my leadership, the Upgrade of a System House at Vitapur Nig. Ltd (a subsidiary of Vitafoam Nig Ltd), for the formulation of Ozone-friendly systems in the manufacture of rigid polyurethane foam was completed in 2019. I am glad to inform you that I will be commissioning this particular project on 22nd of this month. The plant which is one of two such in Africa, the other being in South Africa, will supply Ozone-friendly substances to downstream end-users in the rigid Polyurethane foam sector and will among others, provide the following benefits:

- i. Availability of Ozone-friendly and Low Global Warming Potential blowing agent in the production of rigid foam.
- ii. Generation of foreign exchange for the country.
- iii. Building of local capacity in the formulation of Methyl formate-based systems and consequently generating employment.
- iv. The Methyl formate systems will serve as source of raw material to our beneficiary ice making machine manufacturers.

v. The project will lead to increased capacity utilisation in enterprises that will be using the Methyl formate being produced by Vitapur.

In 2019, our effective partnership with relevant government agencies in combatting illegal trade in ODS earned Nigeria a Global Montreal Protocol Award by the United Nations Environment Programme. This has motivated us to intensify our efforts for effective implementation of the protocol.

9.0 At this juncture, it is instructive to highlight the overall benefits of the project to the country. These among others, include:

- i. Saving our SMEs to remain in operation by ensuring the availability of Ozone-friendly alternatives in the country, thereby increasing their capacity utilization.
- ii. Preventing job losses through the conversion from obsolete technologies to Ozone friendly/ cleaner technologies.
- iii. Foreign exchange earnings through trade in locally manufactured Ozone-friendly chemicals, with other countries.
- iv. Improving Nigeria's rating in the committee of nations due to our compliance with the Protocol's provisions.
- v. Increasing our global competitiveness in the manufacture of Ozone-friendly products such as fridges, freezers, air conditioners, cold rooms and foams.
- vi. Building of local capacity in the formulation of Ozone-friendly substances.



vii. Availability of unadulterated Ozone friendly alternatives in the country, since they will be produced locally, as in the case of the system house at Vitapur Nig. Ltd.

10.0 As part of efforts to strengthening our cooperation with the international community in the implementation of the Protocol, I led the Nigeria delegation to the 31st Meeting of Parties to the Montreal Protocol in Rome, where I chaired a Ministerial Roundtable Discussion on accelerating actions on efficient cooling and presented what Nigeria can do to accelerate the world's transition to an ozone and climate-friendly and energy efficient cooling sector to drive ambitious climate action and achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals which led to the Rome Declaration on Food Security.

11.0 Distinguished Gentlemen of the press, 2020 has been a challenging year for all of us, as we are aware of the current global covid-19 pandemic and its impact on health & the economy. Under these circumstances, we are able to continue with our ODS phase out activities, which are even more commendable. Recognizing the importance of the Refrigeration and Air-conditioning servicing sector in guaranteeing food security and availability of medicines through effective and efficient preservation, as well as providing thermal comfort in hospitals and homes. My ministry undertook a study on 'COVID 19 Implications on the Refrigeration and Servicing Sector' in Nigeria, with the specific objects to identify best practices when servicing Refrigeration & Air conditioning equipment amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, describe the key hygiene methods to avoid infection and Create trusting and safe environment for all personnel involved in the servicing as well as describe how the RAC sector can contribute to provide a clean and virus free environment. The study took a brief look at the RAC Servicing sector and highlights Nigeria's response to COVID

19, describing the guidelines and measures for mitigating the transmission of the virus, from a general standpoint. The study also examined the Occupational Safety and Health's (OSHA's) hierarchy for the classification of risk of workers and applying it to the sector. In some weeks to come, we will be presenting the findings of the study to stakeholders to get their inputs in order to develop a COVID 19 Preparedness, Enforcement and Response Plan for the Refrigeration & AC Servicing Sector.

We will also be engaging in Capacity-building activities on maintenance and servicing of space cooling to avoid spread of Covid-19 while minimising negative impacts to energy efficiency and climate and continue to collaborate with industry and expert groups to provide the much needed guidance to governments and other stakeholders on the safe use of space cooling in the midst of the unprecedented Covid-19.

12.0 Distinguished Gentlemen of the press, We are currently preparing to commence the implementation of stage II of our HPMP project which was approved by the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund of the Protocol in 2018 with UNDP & UNIDO as the Lead & Cooperating Agencies for the project, while the government of Italy has also offered to support the project as a Bilateral Partner.

Stage II builds upon the achievements of the previous Stage and aims at achieving the complete phase-out of HCFC-141b in foam-related applications (including pre-blended polyols), and to initiate support to the servicing sector to phase out 167.81 ODP tonnes of HCFC-22. The overall commitment of Stage 2 is to phase out 51.35% of HCFC consumption by 2023.

The project which is expected to commence this year has the following components:

- Conversion of a company production line from HCFC-141b-based to Methyl Formate (MF) & Cyclopentane for Spray & Panel foam operations
- Conversion of production lines in 35 Small & medium End user companies from HCFC-141b based to Methyl Formate-based Poly Urethane foam production.
- Refrigeration & Air conditioning Servicing Sector Activities which include the development of standards and codes of practice, certification of relevant facilities and installations that use Hydrocarbons, establishment of centres of excellence and capacity building of existing institutions and facilities to facilitate training and certification of Refrigeration & Air conditioning Service Engineers and Technicians, policy and regulatory strengthening relating to standards in the Sector as well as support for development of relevant NGOs and industry associations, among others.
- Supply and distribution of 4 high pressure foaming machines designed to use Ozone-friendly blowing agent to beneficiary companies producing ice making machines and other refrigeration equipment. This project has been completed and I will also commission and handover the machines to the beneficiaries on 22nd September, this year

13.0 As we celebrate this year's World Ozone Day, we must also not be distracted to sustain the gains made so far in the implementation of the Protocol. To sustain these gains, the Ministry will intensify its awareness creation activities on the importance of Ozone Layer Protection, including collaboration with relevant stakeholders, as well as training & effective monitoring of technicians in the affected sectors on Ozone-friendly technologies.

14.0 Distinguished Gentlemen of the press, as we deal with the impacts of the global pandemic, it is pertinent to be conscious of climate action as climate change could cause even more misery and disruption than COVID-19; we must therefore be resolute in our efforts to limit it. As studies have shown, replacing HFCs and other climate potent gases creates an opportunity to increase the energy efficiency of cooling equipment by 10-50 per cent, significantly reducing energy costs to consumers and businesses. Recognizing this, my Ministry, through the opportunity provided by the Kigali Amendment and with support from the Kigali Cooling Efficiency Program commenced implementation of the project on improving Energy Efficiency in the cooling sector early this year. The overall aim is to enforce the Minimum Energy Performance Standards and Labelling for cooling appliances, thereby ensuring that Nigeria does not become a dumping ground for inefficient cooling appliances that contribute to loading of our national grid and high energy costs. The project will be consolidated to develop the National Cooling Plan Strategy that will be backed by policies and regulations to be enforced by relevant government agencies. Thus, by combining action to phase-down HFCs with energy efficiency improvements in the cooling sector, we can achieve bigger climate benefits. We are undertaking the necessary activities including updating of our existing Ozone Layer regulations to include provisions and guidelines for the phase down of HFCs in line with the Kigali Amendment.

15.0 At this juncture, let me conclude this address by re-affirming our commitment to the Montreal Protocol and its ODS Phase-out Programme. I use this opportunity to acknowledge with thanks the efforts of our Implementing Agencies namely UNDP, UNIDO, UNEP, GIZ, World Bank and government of Italy, for their support and cooperation. I appreciate our existing collaboration with relevant Government Agencies in the

implementation of the Montreal Protocol's ODS phase out activities, particularly National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) and the Nigerian Customs Service (NCS). I also acknowledge the cooperation of other relevant stakeholders and urge the media to support our efforts in raising awareness of our activities. I assure you that we will continue to carry all stakeholders along as we continue with implementation of our ODS phase out activities.

16.0 I thank you all and wish you a Happy Ozone Day celebration.