



United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة • 联合国环境规划署
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

PRESS RELEASE

December 12, 2005

Afghanistan's Participation in the joint COP 7 and MOP 17 Meetings for the Protection of the Ozone Layer

An delegation from Afghanistan is participating in the 7th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the 17th Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Montreal Protocol, which takes place in Dakar, Senegal from 12 – 16 December 2005. Afghanistan is being represented by the Deputy Director General of the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) and the National Ozone Officer of the National Ozone Unit (NOU).

Afghanistan ratified the Vienna Convention and its Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the Ozone Layer along with all 4 amendments on 17th June 2004. With the support of the United Nations Environment Programme, the National Ozone Unit was established in September 2004 and is working to fulfill the Afghanistan's requirements under the convention and its protocol.

Different groups of chemical substances such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) used for example in refrigerators and (mobile) air conditioning systems are known to damage the ozone layer reducing its shielding capacity. These substances are summarized under the name Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS). The Montreal Protocol lays out measures to phase out ODS, over a period of time. Afghanistan is not producing ODS, but needs to control and phase out the use of ODS-based technologies as well as to prevent illegal dumping of waste on its territory. The NOU in cooperation with the relevant ministries is developing a ODS licensing system and a national Refrigerant Management Plan. Furthermore the NOU is raising awareness on the status of the ozone layer and the resulting threats for human health and the environment.

For further information and interviews, please contact:

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More information on the protection of the ozone layer and the COP/MOP 7 can be found on:
<http://www.unep.ch/ozone>