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UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme under the Multilateral Fund



Ozone Layer Protection and Mitigating Climate Change - UNEP and Finland to Enhance the Bilateral Assistance to Developing Countries and Countries with Economies in Transition (CEITs)

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INFORMATION NOTE

Geneva/Helsinki, 9 April 1999 - The United Nations Environment Programme's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, the Finnish Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Environment, Trade and Industry and Private Sector stakeholders met in Helsinki to explore ways for stepping up the assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition (CEITs) for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol and Climate Change Convention.

A set of innovative proposals were launched at the meeting that are intended to address the needs of the above mentioned countries on issues of crosscutting nature under the two treaties. Financial assistance for implementing the two treaties is normally being provided under the Multilateral Ozone Fund and the Global Environment Facility while the proposed activities will be over and above this assistance.

The proposed activities are the following:

- Networks of Government Officers in charge of Ozone Layer Protection and Climate Change in Baltic countries and in Pacific Island countries. Such networks will be managed on the same basis as other UNEP networks of Ozone Officers;
- Establishment of a Policy Mentor Programme involving Finnish experts in response to requests from developing countries and CEITs;
- Sub-Regional Programme for training of customs officers for Central American countries.

These activities build on positive results from the existing cooperative programme of action, which is being implemented by Finland and UNEP under the Finnish Trust Fund. This Fund was established with UNEP in 1991 under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland specifically to assist nonparty developing countries to take early action for the protection of the Ozone Layer. The countries that benefited from such assistance were able to expedite their ratification to the Montreal Protocol and stay ahead in its implementation.

Also, these new initiatives come at a time when several developing countries have asked for political guidance on protecting the atmosphere while expecting that ozone-friendly technologies help in implementing the Montreal Protocol but also reduce greenhouse gas emissions under the Kyoto Protocol.

"We believe that the proposed activities contribute to a better understanding of these issues among the developing countries and CEITs", said Mr. Aaltola, Director for International Development Corporation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland.

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