

Information Note -

Taking the Montreal Protocol to the next level Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and the Montreal Protocol 2.0

Bangkok 9th November 2010- Can we go beyond and elevate the debates on technology options and rationalize the transition in the frame work of the Corporate Social responsibility (CSR) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)? These were the echoes in the margins of negotiations taking place during world's most successful multilateral treaty i.e. at the 22nd Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol in Bangkok. An industry round table convened over 70 representatives from multinational corporations, government, and international organizations, NGOs and Universities kicked off a series of industry dialogues. The aim will be to create a collaborative platform for public private partnerships and broaden the perspective on opportunities for proactive and responsible business engagement to drive necessary change for sustainable growth trajectories and a green economy.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is increasingly accepted as a necessary and strategic element of business success and business leaders around the world recognize the need to consider performance in relation to impacts on the environment as a critical part of business success. In this context a central topic for the industry round table was leveraging successes under the Montreal Protocol - characterized by proactive business leadership even ahead of mature regulatory mechanisms - to raise the bar on other global sustainability goals in the run up to Rio plus 20 and with the deadline the world has set itself for achieving the Millennium Development Goals coming up in 2015. It bears significant opportunities to drive ambitious climate protection targets as well as the behavioral change needed to achieve the full potential of technological solutions that businesses around the world have demonstrated immense innovative capacities to deliver.

Almost 20 years after the most pressing global sustainability challenges were compiled into an Agenda 21 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the role of business has significantly shifted from being seen solely as a cause of the problem to being increasingly recognized as a key part of the solution. 2012 will mark the 10 year anniversary of an important milestone in bringing business around the table on global deliberations of sustainable development at the Rio plus 10 Summit in Johannesburg. We have already passed the 10 year mark of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's initiative to engage business in a constructive dialogue on sustainability challenges by inviting business leaders to join forces with the UN on 10 principles for sustainability under the Global Compact. The role for CSR in mainstreaming proactive business engagement to meet global environmental challenges will be key to achieving further successes under the Montreal Protocol and integrating its targets with the wider sustainability agenda.

The round table, also participated by research students from the Princeton University –USA, concluded with an Organic Dinner-a symbolic gesture to indicate the messages from the Montreal Protocol go beyond just the protection of the Ozone Layer.

Contact: UNEP DTIE OzonAction, OzonAction@unep.org