



### ***UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme under the Multilateral Fund***



### **MILITARY COOPERATION EMPHASIZED TO TACKLE OZONE AND CLIMATE ISSUES**

UNEP Workshop in Brussels, 6-8 February

Brussels/Nairobi, February 2001 – At a UNEP workshop held in Brussels from 6-8 February to explore the importance of military organizations in stratospheric ozone protection and climate protection, military representatives and civilian participants increased their commitment to phase out ozone-depleting substances (ODS), strengthened "military-to-military" and "military- to-civilian" environmental cooperation and exchanged crucial technical and policy information. Participants learned how to safely halt the use of ODS, reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and seek increased energy efficiency. The workshop stressed the importance of the phase out of ODS and protection of the climate to national and regional environmental security. One hundred and sixty senior military officers, environmental authorities, technical experts and environmental NGOs from 33 countries attended the sessions.

Use of ODS by the military is typically less than 5 per cent of national ODS consumption. However, that small consumption is used for extremely critical applications necessary for national security and peace keeping. Aircraft, tanks and other vehicles, ships, weapon systems and facilities use ODS, many of which are for "mission-critical" uses. As the implementation of the Montreal Protocol proceeds, these chemicals will become increasingly scarce and eventually production will be phased out. Accordingly, the military in developing countries need to be prepared and to adopt alternative technologies. "By adopting ozone-friendly and climate-friendly substitutes, we achieve national security and peace keeping cost-effectively without compromising environmental security" stated Brig. Gen. Mohammed Abdel Hadi Arabyat of the Jordan Armed Forces Military Production Directorate.

Military organizations in developed countries have eliminated almost all use of ODS and have minimized emissions from most remaining applications. Most military organizations in countries with economies in transition (CEITs) and developing countries are just beginning to consider the ODS phase-out. The workshop concluded that it is critical that military organizations continue global cooperation including internal and military-to-military workshops to create awareness and to prepare for the ODS phaseout. The participants also supported increased communication between military organizations, National Ozone Units (NOUs) and ministries dealing with ozone layer protection and climate protection to better integrate national security and environmental security.

The participants noted that alternatives are not yet available to replace ODSs in certain mission-critical military uses currently supplied from existing ODS stockpiles and recycled sources. Participants urged flexibility regarding regulations on the use of stockpiled and recycled ODSs that may be necessary if anticipated new technology is not available in time. Additionally, it was noted that existing halon banks have the potential to minimize halon production for developing country critical uses while encouraging best practices.

Climate protection is important to environmental security because sea level rise, agricultural disruption and displaced populations cause geopolitical instability, military organizations worldwide. Furthermore, military planners are finding numerous war-fighting, financial and logistics benefits of improving energy efficiency. These activities save money, benefit climate protection and complement national defence goals. Participants agreed that military organizations should adhere to the "Responsible Use" principals; selecting HFCs, PFCs and SF6s only where necessary and minimizing emissions.

Participants committed to undertake a number of follow-up activities, including improving the operational effectiveness of weapons systems by making them more fuel-efficient, coordinating research and development efforts with military and private sector partners to speed up the development and implementation of solutions and reduce costs. Participating military officials and NOUs from developing countries also agreed to cooperate in the development of detailed summaries of their countries' military applications using ODSs within the next 6 months. The countries will decide on the next steps.

The workshop was jointly organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the United States Department of Defense (DoD).

The Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol financially supported the ozone component of the workshop.

In addition to the cosponsors, in-kind contributions in the form of expert presenters, organizational support, or financial assistance support for this event was also provided by the Australia Department of Defence; the Center for International Environmental Law; the Climate Institute; the Department of National Defence Canada; Environment Australia; Environment Canada; the Institute for Defense Analyses; the International Cooperative for Environmental Leadership; Natural Resources Canada, the U.K. Ministry of Defence; and the U.K. Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions.

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A Note for Journalists

Under the Montreal Protocol, 175 countries have committed to a stringent schedule for reducing and eventually phasing out their production and use of ODS. The first major milestone for developing countries (called Article 5 countries under the Protocol) was the "freeze" of CFCs that came into effect in July 1999. Now those countries, including their militaries, must reduce CFCs by 50 per cent by 2005, 85 per cent by 2007 and completely phase them out by 2010. Similar control measures exist for other ODS important to the military, including halons. This workshop helped developing countries prepare for this compliance challenge through information exchange, experience-sharing, and networking with military and environmental officials of other countries. The workshop proceedings will be available at [www.uneptie.org/ozone/events/military/home.html](http://www.uneptie.org/ozone/events/military/home.html) or in hardcopy from the contacts listed above.

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