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**Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to
the Montreal Protocol on Substances that
Deplete the Ozone Layer
Thirty-first meeting**
Montreal, 1–5 August 2011
Items 3–11 of the provisional agenda*

Issues for discussion by and information for the attention of the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol at its thirty-first meeting

Note by the Secretariat

Introduction

1. The present note sets out, in chapter I, a summary of substantive issues on the agenda for discussion by the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer at its thirty-first meeting. Several of the items on the agenda for the meeting will be considered in the 2011 progress report of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel, which has not yet been completed. When the progress report has been completed the Secretariat will prepare an addendum to the present note that will summarize the Panel's findings on those issues.
2. The present note also sets out, in chapter II, information on matters that the Secretariat would like to bring to the parties' attention, including matters related to continuing collaboration with other multilateral environmental agreements and institutions, information on preparations for the joint ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Twenty-Third Meeting of the Parties, missions undertaken by Secretariat staff, and information on an evaluation of the financial mechanism of the Montreal Protocol.

I. Summary of issues for discussion by the Open-ended Working Group at its thirty-first meeting

Agenda item 3: Report of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel's task force on the 2012–2014 replenishment of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol

3. The Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol was established under Article 10 of the Protocol. Since its provisional inception in 1990, the Fund has operated on three-year funding cycles; accordingly, the parties took replenishment decisions in 1993, 1996, 1999, 2002, 2005 and 2008. The most recent replenishment decision covered the period 2009–2011. In November 2011,

* UNEP/OzL.Pro.WG.1/31/1/Rev.1.

the Twenty-Third Meeting of the Parties is expected to take a decision on the amount of the 2012–2014 replenishment.

4. To inform the parties in their decision, the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel has been given responsibility for conducting a study on the 2012–2014 replenishment in accordance with the specific terms agreed upon by the Twenty-Second Meeting of the Parties in decision XXII/3. According to that decision, the report is to be distributed to all parties two months before the thirty-first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group. As that meeting has been scheduled for 1–5 August 2011, the target date for the distribution of the report is 1 June 2011. The Secretariat will post the report on its website and inform the parties of its completion as soon as it is ready. The Secretariat will also prepare a summary of the report for inclusion in the addendum to the present note.

Agenda item 4: Proposed adjustments to the Montreal Protocol

5. The Working Group is expected to consider any proposals for adjustments to the Montreal Protocol submitted pursuant to paragraph 9 of Article 2 of the Protocol. Given the date of the Meeting of the Parties, all proposals should be submitted to the Secretariat by 14 May 2011, which is six months before the Twenty-Third Meeting of the Parties. As at 1 May 2011, no proposals for adjustments had been received by the Secretariat.

Agenda item 5: Proposed amendments to the Montreal Protocol

6. The Working Group is expected to consider any proposals for amendments to the Montreal Protocol submitted pursuant to Article 9 of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and paragraph 10 of Article 2 of the Protocol. Given the date of the Meeting of the Parties, all proposals should be submitted to the Secretariat by 14 May 2011, which is six months before the Twenty-Third Meeting of the Parties. As at 1 May 2011, no proposals for amendments had been received by the Secretariat.

Agenda item 6: 2011 progress report of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel

7. The Technology and Economic Assessment Panel will present its 2011 progress report, including its reports on requests for essential-use and critical-use exemptions, alternatives to ozone-depleting substances for exempted feedstock and process-agent uses, and laboratory and analytical uses of ozone-depleting substances. Following its report, the Working Group will be given an opportunity to put questions to the Panel.

Agenda item 7: Issues related to exemptions from Article 2 of the Montreal Protocol

Item 7 (a): Nominations for essential-use exemptions for 2012 and 2013

8. In accordance with decision IV/25, Bangladesh, China, Pakistan and the Russian Federation submitted requests for essential-use exemptions for chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) for metered-dose inhalers applicable to 2012 and, in some cases, 2012 and 2013. The Russian Federation also requested an exemption for the use of 120 metric tonnes of CFC-113 for 2012 for certain aerospace applications.

9. The Panel's Medical Technical Options Committee met in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March 2011 to review the exemption requests for metered-dose inhalers and to prepare its recommendations on those requests. The Panel's Chemicals Technical Options Committee met in Bangkok from 1 to 3 March 2011 and considered, among other things, the exemption requested by the Russian Federation for aerospace uses. The Secretariat's addendum to the present note will include a summary of the Panel's recommendations on the requests. In the meantime, the sums nominated by each party are presented for the information of the parties in table 1.

Table 1

Essential-use nominations in metric tonnes submitted in 2011 for 2012 and 2013

<i>Party</i>	<i>Nominated for 2012</i>	<i>Nominated for 2013</i>	<i>Recommendation of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel</i>
Parties not operating under paragraph 1 of Article 5			
Russian Federation (metered-dose inhalers)	250	125	Pending
Russian Federation (aerospace)	100	-	Pending
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>350</i>	<i>125</i>	-
Parties operating under paragraph 1 of Article 5			
Bangladesh (metered-dose inhalers)	40.35	-	Pending
China (metered-dose inhalers)	562.89	-	Pending
Pakistan (metered-dose inhalers)	24.1	-	Pending
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>627.34</i>	-	-
<i>Total</i>	<i>977.34</i>	<i>125</i>	-

Item 7 (b): Nominations for critical-use exemptions for 2012 and 2013

10. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of decisions IX/6 and XIII/11, the subcommittees of the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee met in Antalya, Turkey, from 14 to 18 March 2011 to evaluate new nominations for 2012 and 2013 critical-use exemptions for methyl bromide.

11. The Panel's first-round recommendations will be summarized in the Secretariat's addendum to the present note. In the meantime, the parties and the quantities that they have nominated for critical-use exemptions are listed in table 2.

Table 2

Critical-use nominations in metric tonnes submitted in 2011 for 2012 and 2013

<i>Party</i>	<i>Nominated for 2012</i>	<i>Nominated for 2013</i>	<i>Interim recommendation</i>	
			<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>
Australia	-	32.134	-	Pending
Canada	-	13.444	-	Pending
Japan	-	3.317	-	Pending
United States of America	7.445	657.541	Pending	Pending
<i>Total</i>	<i>7.445</i>	<i>706.436</i>		

Item 7 (c): Quarantine and pre-shipment issues (decision XXI/10)

12. During the deliberations at its thirtieth meeting, the Open-ended Working Group agreed to forward to the Twenty-Second Meeting of the Parties a proposal by the European Union on quarantine and pre-shipment uses of methyl bromide. The Twenty-Second Meeting of the Parties formed a contact group to discuss the proposal further, but time ran out before consensus could be reached on a way forward. The Open-ended Working Group may wish to reconsider issues related to quarantine and pre-shipment uses, and to forward any recommendations, as appropriate, to the Twenty-Third Meeting of the Parties.

Item 7 (d): Laboratory and analytical uses of ozone-depleting substances (decisions XXI/6 and XXII/7)

13. In 1995, the Seventh Meeting of the Parties established a global exemption to enable the continuing use of ozone-depleting substances in laboratory and analytical uses under specified

conditions until such time as ozone-friendly alternatives to such uses could be adopted. Over the years, the parties have worked with relevant groups to find and commercialize alternatives and, as alternatives have been developed for specific uses, the parties have eliminated the exemption for those uses. In its 2010 report, the Panel suggested that alternatives were now available for almost all uses. It therefore recommended that the global exemption should no longer be allowed for 15 specific uses; and that the global exemption should be retained solely for carbon tetrachloride in biomedical uses, as a solvent for reactions involving N-bromosuccinimide and as a chain transfer agent in free radical polymerization reactions. The consequence of the elimination of the exemption for the 15 uses noted by the Panel would mean that any production or import of virgin ozone-depleting substances for such uses would have to be approved by the parties through a specific essential-use exemption.

14. In 2010, the Open-ended Working Group and the Twenty-Second Meeting of the Parties discussed the Panel's report, noting the difficulties that had been faced in achieving the phase-out of ozone-depleting substances used in many laboratory and analytical-use applications, and the possibility that many as yet unspecified uses of ozone-depleting substances in laboratory and analytical-use applications might remain. They also noted the Panel's intention to continue its work on a response to decision XXI/6, which requested the Panel to consider the laboratory and analytical exemption needs and phase-out ability of parties operating under paragraph 1 of Article 5.

15. In the light of those considerations, by decision XXII/7 the Twenty-Second Meeting of the Parties allowed parties operating under paragraph 1 of Article 5 until 31 December 2011 to deviate from the existing laboratory and analytical use bans in individual cases where parties considered that that was justified, and asked parties to revisit the issue at the Twenty-Third Meeting of the Parties. It also requested parties to continue to investigate domestically the possibility of replacing ozone-depleting substances in those laboratory and analytical uses listed in the reports of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel and to report progress to the Ozone Secretariat by 30 April 2011.

16. The Panel is expected to report on the matters noted above in its 2011 progress report, and the Secretariat's addendum to the present note will include a summary of any findings by the Panel.

Item 7 (e): Joint report of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel and the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund on progress in phasing out ozone-depleting substances used as process agents (decision XXI/3)

17. In accordance with decision XVII/6, the parties in 2010 updated tables A and B of decision X/14 on process agents on the basis of a review and recommendations by the Panel. In addition, by decision XXI/3, the parties clarified their reporting obligations on process agents, agreeing that all parties had a one-time obligation to report to the Secretariat on whether they used ozone-depleting substances as process agents and that parties reporting that they did not have such a use would have no further obligation to report on this matter until such time as they might start using them for that purpose. In the meantime, the Secretariat was instructed to write to all parties to request them to report on their process-agent uses of ozone-depleting substances and to bring cases of non-reporting to the attention of the Implementation Committee. Lastly, the parties requested the Panel and the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund to prepare a joint report for future meetings detailing progress in phasing out process-agent applications.

18. In accordance with that decision, the Working Group is expected to consider a joint report from the Panel and the Executive Committee and to forward recommendations, as appropriate, to the Twenty-Third Meeting of the Parties. Upon submission of that joint report, the Secretariat will summarize the findings for inclusion in the addendum to the present note.

Item 7 (f): Investigation by the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel into alternatives to ozone-depleting substances in exempted feedstock and process-agent uses and assessment of the feasibility of reducing or eliminating such uses and emissions (decision XXI/8)

19. Decision XXI/8 encouraged parties having any carbon tetrachloride or other chloromethane production or consumption of carbon tetrachloride in pharmaceutical manufacturing processes to review their national data on carbon tetrachloride production, consumption and where possible estimated emissions and to provide any new data to the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel via the Ozone Secretariat by September 2010. The Panel was also requested to investigate chemical alternatives to ozone-depleting substances in exempted feedstock uses and to investigate alternatives, including not-in-kind alternatives, to products made with such process agents and feedstocks and provide in its 2011 report an assessment of the technical and economic feasibility of reducing or eliminating such uses and emissions.

20. By the same decision, the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel and the Scientific Assessment Panel were requested to review the ozone-depletion potential and atmospheric lifetime of carbon tetrachloride with a view to possibly reconciling the large discrepancy between emissions reported and those inferred from atmospheric measurements and to report their findings in the next quadrennial review. They were also requested to coordinate their findings, taking into account the information received in relation to the provisions noted above, and to report in time for the thirty-first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group for the consideration of the Twenty-Third Meeting of the Parties in 2011.

21. The Working Group is expected to consider the assessment panels' report on the above matters and to recommend any actions deemed appropriate for consideration by the Twenty-Third Meeting of the Parties. When the Secretariat receives the report on the above matters, it will prepare a summary for inclusion in the addendum to the present note.

Agenda item 8: Environmentally sound management of banks of ozone-depleting substances (decision XXI/2, paragraph 7, and decision XXII/10)

22. The Working Group is expected to consider outstanding issues related to the destruction of ozone-depleting substances and a report of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel on related issues. The Panel's report is expected to include a response to the parties' requests set forth in decision XXII/10, including a review of issues associated with the list of approved destruction technologies and related destruction and removal efficiencies and criteria that should be used to verify the destruction of ozone-depleting substances at facilities that use approved destruction technologies. It is also expected to include a response to decision XXI/2 on national or regional approaches to the destruction of ozone-depleting substances. When the Secretariat receives the Panel's report it will prepare a summary for inclusion in the addendum to the present note.

Agenda item 9: Synthesis report of the 2010 assessments of the Montreal Protocol assessment panels

23. Article 6 of the Montreal Protocol calls for a review, at least once every four years, of the control measures provided for in Article 2 and Articles 2A–2I of the Protocol on the basis of available scientific, environmental, technical and economic information. In accordance with Article 6, the Scientific Assessment Panel, the Environmental Effects Assessment Panel and the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel have completed their quadrennial reports, and, as in the past, prepared a synthesis report that covers and synthesizes the main components of their individual reports.

24. The reports of the Scientific Assessment Panel and the Environmental Effects Assessment Panel were posted on the Ozone Secretariat website in January 2011, and the reports of the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel and its technical option committees in March and April 2011, respectively. The Panel's synthesis report is expected to be completed and posted on the website by the end of May. The panels will present their findings to the Open-ended Working Group.

Agenda item 10: Potential areas of focus for the assessment panels' 2014 quadrennial reports

25. The Working Group may wish to initiate a discussion on any guidance that the parties may wish to provide for the 2014 quadrennial reports and forward the conclusions from any such discussion to the Twenty-Third Meeting of the Parties for consideration and possible action.

Agenda item 11: Status of Nepal relative to the Copenhagen Amendment to the Montreal Protocol

26. In January 2011, the Ozone Secretariat received a letter from the Government of Nepal dated 4 January 2011. In that letter, the Government of Nepal noted that it had initiated the process for ratifying the Copenhagen, Montreal and Beijing amendments to the Montreal Protocol as early as 2001. In the light of the frequent changes in the Government, the situation in the country and more pressing and urgent issues, however, the ratification process had not yet been accomplished. The Government said that, those issues notwithstanding, it intended to ratify all the amendments at the earliest point possible, and that it had taken many steps to control hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs). The Government went on to outline how those steps conformed to or exceeded the requirements of the Copenhagen Amendment, including through a capping of its HCFC consumption.

27. In the light of the facts outlined in the letter, the Government requested the Secretariat to include its situation on the agendas for the current meeting and the Twenty-Third Meeting of the Parties for consideration in the light of paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article 4 of the Protocol. Those

paragraphs allow a country to avoid the application of trade sanctions under the Protocol and its amendments by demonstrating that it is in full compliance with their provisions.

28. In this case, the submission of Nepal concerns the HCFC provisions of the Copenhagen Amendment. As regards the Copenhagen Amendment and HCFCs, it should be pointed out that, by decision XX/9, the application of trade sanctions against parties operating under paragraph 1 of Article 5 who are not parties to the Copenhagen Amendment was deferred until 2013. Nepal's request, decision XX/9 notwithstanding, may be related to a decision by the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund.

29. At its sixty-second meeting the Executive Committee considered an HCFC phase-out management plan proposal from Nepal. Some members noted that, under the HCFC guidelines, the ratification of the Copenhagen Amendment was a prerequisite to Multilateral Fund funding for HCFC activities. The Executive Committee decided, in decision 62/53, to approve in principle stage I of Nepal's proposed HCFC phase-out management plan for the period 2010–2020, on the understanding that by the time of the Twenty-Third Meeting of the Parties Nepal would have officially deposited its instrument of ratification, or submitted an official request to the Twenty-Third Meeting of the Parties to be considered in full compliance with the HCFC control provisions pursuant to paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article 4 of the Montreal Protocol.

30. The Implementation Committee is scheduled to consider the matter at its forty-sixth meeting, on 28 and 29 July 2011. The Working Group may wish to discuss the matter in the light of the information available.

II. Other issues that the Secretariat would like to bring to the parties' attention

A. Cooperation with other multilateral environmental agreements and institutions

31. Since the Twenty-Second Meeting of the Parties the Secretariat has taken steps to cooperate with other institutions whose activities might have a bearing on the Protocol's work. In December 2010, the Executive Secretary attended the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Copenhagen, and gave a presentation at a side event about activities under the Protocol. In addition, representatives of the Secretariat attended the thirty-ninth meeting of the Council of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), where they made a short presentation on the outcomes of the Twenty-Second Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, and expressed the thanks of the parties for the continuing assistance of GEF. In that regard, it is worthy of both note and thanks to GEF that, at its thirty-ninth meeting, the Council approved a project concept designed to assist the Russian Federation in phasing out its remaining use of CFCs for metered-dose inhalers.

32. Since 2010 the Secretariat has been participating in a UNEP initiative on information and knowledge management involving multilateral environmental agreements, whose objective is sharing information on data, decisions by parties, meetings, contacts, country profiles and reports.

33. In February 2011, the Executive Secretary attended the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). In addition, representatives of the Secretariat participated in the annual meeting of the Green Customs Initiative, which was held in Lyon, France. Participants reviewed the Initiative's activities in 2010, which included Customs training workshops held around the world. They also agreed on the work programme for 2011, which included workshops and training activities, outreach and sustainability and resource mobilization.

34. Consistent with paragraph 9 of decision XX/6, the Ozone Secretariat continues to liaise with the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention on issues related to quarantine and pre-shipment applications of methyl bromide. The Convention Secretariat is preparing a new draft standard on terminology of the Montreal Protocol, which is intended to be an appendix to International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures No. 5 (glossary of phytosanitary terms). The draft was prepared by the Convention Secretariat, while the Ozone Secretariat, with input from two experts of the Methyl Bromide Technical Options Committee, reviewed the draft and provided comments.

35. The Standards Committee of the Convention will consider the draft for approval in May 2011 and a member consultation is expected to begin in June 2011. During that consultation, the parties to the Montreal Protocol will be able to provide comments at the national level through their Convention contact points. The Ozone Secretariat will keep the parties informed of the process.

B. Missions

36. In addition to the above-mentioned missions, the Ozone Secretariat has been active in promoting the Protocol, the ratification of all amendments by parties that have not done so and the measures that will be necessary to ensure full compliance with the upcoming HCFC phase-out requirements. Representatives of the Secretariat participated in and made presentations at Ozone Network meetings for the English-speaking Caribbean in Antigua and Barbuda, for Eastern and Central Europe in Serbia and for South Asia and West Asia (a joint meeting) in Maldives. The Secretariat also participated in the sixty-third meeting of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund, which took place in Montreal, Canada, from 4 to 8 April 2011.

37. The Secretariat, together with the Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund and representatives of the United Nations Development Programme and the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, participated in a high-level mission to Nepal to meet government officials to ensure high-level political commitment to expediting the ratification of the Copenhagen, Montreal and Beijing amendments to the Montreal Protocol.

C. New Ozone Secretariat website

38. The Ozone Secretariat is pleased to announce that its new website will be launched as a test site during May 2011 and will run in parallel with the current website. The Secretariat hopes that it will provide both the parties and the interested public with increased user-friendly access to treaty-related information. As the shift to a virtually paperless system makes for increased reliance on the website, the Secretariat is extremely interested in receiving feedback on the new site, in addition to suggestions regarding any changes or additions that could make it more useful.

D. Universal ratification of the London, Copenhagen, Montreal and Beijing amendments

39. In 2009 the parties to the Vienna Convention and the Protocol celebrated the fact that the two instruments had become the first treaties ever to be ratified by all countries. While the parties continue to be proud of this achievement, the Secretariat would like to highlight that not all countries have yet ratified all the amendments to the Protocol. A list of parties that have yet to ratify all the amendments is set out in document UNEP/OzL.Pro.WG.1/31/INF/3. The Secretariat stands ready to assist those parties in their efforts to ratify the amendments and it is hoped that other parties will do the same. The Secretariat will continue to update the list for successive meetings in the hope that it will soon be possible to celebrate the global ratification of all amendments to the Protocol. With the parties' support, the Secretariat is working towards achieving the universal ratification of both the London and Copenhagen amendments in 2011.

E. Attainment of the 2010 phase-out milestone

40. On 1 January 2010, the parties marked one of the most important milestones in the Protocol's history: the date on which non-exempted production and consumption of CFCs, carbon tetrachloride and halons ceased in all parties. The Secretariat would like to congratulate all parties on their outstanding efforts to meet that phase-out deadline.

41. As the parties are aware, while 2010 data do not have to be submitted until September, the parties have taken decisions urging all parties to submit their data by the end of June each year. If all parties were to submit their 2010 data by June 2011, the Secretariat would be able to report at the thirty-first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the Twenty-Third Meeting of the Parties on the success of the Protocol in its achievement of the 2010 phase-out milestone. The Secretariat therefore urges all parties to strive to submit their data by the end of June.

F. Evolution of the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements that it administers

42. The twenty-sixth session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum took place in Nairobi from 21 to 24 February 2011. Under the agenda item on the budget, an information note on the evolution of the relationship between UNEP and the multilateral environmental agreements that it administers (UNEP/GC.26/INF/21) was considered. That information note described the diverse administrative arrangements of UNEP with the multilateral environmental agreements that it administers. It also reviewed some of the recent findings of the Office of Legal Affairs and the United Nations Board of Auditors relative to the authority of the multilateral environmental agreement bodies and their secretariats, and UNEP oversight and treatment

of the secretariats and their trust funds. Lastly, the document suggested that UNEP could benefit from further clarification of the roles and authority of UNEP, the multilateral environmental agreement bodies and the secretariats, especially with regard to issues of the management of the secretariats and the budgets and the use of the multilateral environmental agreements' trust funds.

43. Paragraph 18 of decision 26/9, on the proposed biennial programme of work and budget for 2012–2013, states:

Takes note of the information document on the relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements that it administers and requests the Executive Director, in consultation with the relevant multilateral environmental agreement secretariats, the United Nations Board of Auditors, the Office of Legal Affairs and all relevant bodies, to address in a progress report, which includes input and commentary from the multilateral environmental agreements, the issues of accountability and the financial and administrative arrangements, including their legal bases, between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements that it administers, to be presented to the Governing Council at its twelfth special session;

44. The Secretariat will convey to the parties any further communication from UNEP on this issue.

G. Evaluation of the financial mechanism of the Montreal Protocol

45. As called for in decision XXII/2, the first meeting of the steering panel for the evaluation of the financial mechanism of the Protocol was convened on 1 April 2011 at the offices of the Multilateral Fund Secretariat in Montreal. In attendance at the meeting were steering panel members representing Austria, Canada, Colombia, India, Japan and the United States of America. Panel members from Nigeria and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia were unable to attend.

46. After selecting its co-chairs and approving the draft agenda prepared by the Ozone Secretariat, the panel heard a presentation by a representative of the Secretariat that reviewed the history and terms of decision XXII/2, the process used to obtain bids for the evaluation and the selection matrix that the panel was required to use to select the winning bidder.

47. The Secretariat noted that it had received only two responses to the 29 requests for proposals. After the panel members had given their individual views on the two proposals, they discussed the numerical values that they would give each component included in the evaluation matrix. After agreeing on the values for each component, and tallying the results, the panel agreed that the contract should be awarded to ICF International.

48. Following that agreement, the panel agreed to request ICF International to submit an inception report by 15 June 2011, and that a meeting between the panel and ICF International should be scheduled back-to-back with the sixty-fourth meeting of the Executive Committee, on the morning of Sunday, 10 July 2011. The panel suggested that ICF might wish to explore attending the Executive Committee meeting and agreed that, while using e-mail exchanges as much as possible, one possible date for the midterm review meeting called for in the terms of reference was 19 November 2011. A final date would be agreed upon when more information became available. The contract was awarded to ICF International on 21 April 2011 in accordance with the schedule set in decision XXII/2.

H. Information on the preparations for the joint ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and the Twenty-Third Meeting of the Parties

49. The Secretariat met a delegation from the Government of Indonesia during the twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council of UNEP and then undertook an official visit to Bali to ensure that the meeting venues being considered by the Government could meet the full requirements of a paperless meeting. Preparations for the meetings on the host Government side are under way. The chosen conference facility in Nusa Dua will be confirmed by the Government before the current meeting.