



## Some ideas for stories on Montreal Protocol related matters

- Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are chemicals being used as alternatives to the ozone depleting hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs). They are ozone friendly but are currently subject to the Kyoto Protocol owing to their high-global warming potential. Some parties are proposing

that HFCs be controlled under the Montreal Protocol in parallel with their treatment under the Kyoto Protocol.

- With 197 parties as signatories, the Montreal Protocol is the only universally ratified treaty in history and the first multilateral environmental agreement to be ratified by the new nation of South Sudan.
- Over 98 per cent of the consumption of ozone depleting substances controlled by the global treaty known as the Montreal Protocol has been phased out. What remains, however, will be challenging to eliminate.
- The global regime to protect the ozone layer is estimated to have prevented tens of millions of cancer deaths and hundreds of millions of cancer and cataract cases globally.
- Climate change and ozone depletion – The Kyoto Protocol and the Montreal Protocol – separate treaties, interlinked issues.
- The Montreal Protocol has already averted greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to more than 135 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide.
- Did the Montreal Protocol lead countries to convert to gasses that promote climate change, thereby harming efforts to address climate change?
- Methyl bromide was a widely used agricultural fumigant that many said was essential:
  - What is the status of its phase-out?
  - Are exemptions to the methyl bromide phase-out really important?
- The problem of illegal trade in ozone depleting chemicals was once noted in one country as being second in magnitude only to cocaine. Does it continue to be a big problem and, if so, what is being done to address it?
- The ozone regime builds capacity: national ozone offices have been established in 143 developing countries to help them comply with their treaty obligations, and compliance is high.
- If the Montreal Protocol is working, why is the ozone “hole” over the Antarctic still large and why has a “hole” appeared over the Arctic?
- Why have some said that the Montreal Protocol is working better than the Kyoto Protocol?
- Are Kyoto Protocol decisions to fund certain developing country reductions negatively affecting Montreal Protocol implementation?
- Approximately US\$2.8 billion has been spent to help 145 developing countries protect the ozone layer.
- While over a million and a half tonnes of ozone depleting substances have been phased out, the Protocol’s assessment panels point out that there is much more than that in stocks that will eventually be released, causing further ozone depletion. What will the Protocol do about that?
- Are developed countries dumping their obsolete CFC dependent equipment on developing countries, making their phase-out harder? What will happen to existing CFC dependent equipment now that there are virtually no more CFCs available?
- The Montreal Protocol has been acclaimed as the most effective environmental treaty ever negotiated and is the first and only treaty to have achieved universal ratification (twice!).

