

Paramaribo, Suriname

Report of the Regional Meeting of the English-speaking Caribbean countries and Haiti National Ozone Officers Network

1 -4 April 2014

Prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme,
Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean



Meeting Report

Day 1: 7 April 2014 – Paramaribo, Suriname

1. Opening ceremony

For this ceremony presided, Mr. James Curlin, Network and Policy Manager from UNEP DTIE Ozonaction Unit; Mr. Gilbert Bankobeza, Chief Legal Affairs and Compliance Officer from the Ozone Secretariat; Mr. Armstrong Alexis, Deputy Resident Representative from UNDP Suriname Country Office; Mr. Cedric Nelom, Acting General Director from National Institute for Environment and Development of Suriname. The ceremony was continued by the press conference, in which there were questions about the status of efforts related to the Montreal Protocol in the Caribbean region.

2. Adoption of the agenda

Before the agenda was adopted, UNEP congratulated National Ozone Officers (NOUs) for their 100% attendance to this meeting. The chair of the meeting is represented by Mr. Cedric Nelom from Suriname as host country. The co-chair and rapporteur were nominated and selected. National Ozone Officer (NOO) from Barbados, Ms. Shontelle Wellington, and from The Bahamas, Mr. Ryan Perpall, became co-chair and rapporteur respectively for this meeting. The draft agenda was adopted with only a few changes to readjust times.

Day 2: 8 April 2014 – Paramaribo, Suriname

3. Compliance Status of Montreal Protocol in the Caribbean Network

The objective of this presentation was to summarize the current status of compliance of the Montreal Protocol in the Sub-region of the Caribbean, which includes Haiti, as well as analyze the major topics related to licensing systems, ratification, HCFC trends and challenges.

During this presentation it was highlighted that all countries in this sub-region reported the 2012 A7 data, where all reported zero consumption of controlled CFCs, halons, carbon tetrachloride (CCl₄), methyl chloroform (MCF), HBFCs, and Bromochloromethane (BCM) for 2010-2012. Only, Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago, reported Methyl Bromide consumption, and all parties reported consumption of HCFCs. It was strongly remarked that all countries must report the amount of methyl bromide for QPS applications annually as required by the Montreal Protocol, and therefore, any outstanding QPS data for previous years should also be reported, as established by Decision XXI/15 of the ExCom. The report of QPS also applies to those countries whose consumption is zero, in those cases; each country should include the number zero “0” in their report.

In regards to the Licensing Systems, the Ozone Secretariat was happy to report that all countries in this region have in place a licensing system to report their ODSs import and export. Nevertheless, the Secretariat was curious about the efficiency of the licensing in this region, and if it was not so, how would each country intend to improve it, particularly in terms of the HCFCs.

Last it was also emphasized that all countries that have ratified the Beijing Amendment are not allowed to trade in HCFCs with non-parties to the Amendment. This decision (XX/9) started on 1 January 2013, therefore, only trade with parties to the Beijing Amendment is allowed.

3.1 Comments and Questions

UNEP began this section by asking if countries would double check their reported data since for example, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, have reported similar data for both consumption (importation) and quarantine (QPS). The request to double check comes from the suspicion, not yet confirmed, that in other regions data was reported for quarantine, when in fact, it was used for consumption. Perhaps this occurred as a result of a leakage, since the license systems did not include a more sophisticated control that would track the rounds made by the MeBr cylinders, and therefore, the MeBr has been used for fumigation or other applications when it was originally reported for quarantine uses only.

In response, Jamaica NOO mentioned that they have both importation and QPS uses for MeBr. The importation is by the Jamaica's Flour Mills Company and they are aware that no further importation is allowed after 1 January 2015. The QPS is by the Ministry of Agriculture, which has to treat shipments from the United States and other countries. This means that Jamaica is reporting two separate uses. To the same extent, Trinidad and Tobago NOO confirmed that they too are reporting two different quantities for different uses of MeBr, although the amounts are similar. Similarly, St. Kitts and Nevis NOO added that there is a small QPS use in this country which is not yearly, but every 2-3 years, and there is potential of leakages since the one importer who declared use of MeBr for agriculture, if not supervised, would use it also to fumigate buildings.

UNEP concluded by indicating that the MeBr Technical Options Committee Report showed a reduction in the consumption, close to zero, and a growing curve for quarantine. Why? Is it because much more commodities are being exported? QPS is legal, but is MeBr really used for that purpose? The suspicion is basically anecdotal. Furthermore, the Ozone Secretariat added that a party, who report data in a wrong sector or omits the report of the data deliberately, will fall in non-compliance.

4. Major decisions of the Montreal Protocol 25th Meeting of Parties

The objective of this presentation is to show a review of relevant MOP decisions and implications for the Caribbean region (Decision XXV/9 on SIDS), and a preview of issues to be discussed on July 2014 in Paris for the 34th OEWG meeting. The presenter continued to mention that based on last year decisions, countries of the Caribbean sub-region are represented in the Montreal Protocol bodies this 2014; they are Cuba and Dominican Republic who are participating in the Implementation Committee and Grenada who is participating of in the Executive Committee. As a result, the Caribbean sub-region was congratulated for this accomplishment because in previous years there was no representation at all.

Carried on with the presentation, the Decision XXV/5 was introduced where the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP) requested Parties to provide updated information by region on ODS to alternatives, whether they are commercially available, technically proven, environmentally sound, energy efficient, economically viable, cost effective, etc. The purpose of this request is to ensure that the HFCF alternatives truly minimize the effect on climate change and avoid high global warming potential. After the analysis of the information provided by the Parties, as well as the suggested topics for HFC management workshop; these outcomes will be submitted to the OEWG, which may derive in the proposal of an amendment to the Montreal Protocol that will include HFC management in its mechanisms.

Another important decision adopted was XXV/6 where the TEAP, because of its broader mandate, was asked by Parties to streamlining its operations, as we move to phase-out ODS, particularly MeBr, therefore, the need to re-configure the technical committees by updating its processes for the nomination of members, which shall be achieved by 1 January 2015.

That said, Decision XXV/8 followed and involved the replenishment of the Montreal Protocol fund for the biennium 2015-2017, this time majorly impacted by the TEAP report which will indicate the level of funding required for Article 5 Parties to avoid high GWP ODS alternative and phase-out ODS in the years to come, therefore, the need for the TEAP report to factor all of the information necessary from the Article 5 Parties for the replenishment to be capable to support the expectations of Article 5 Parties.

Another decision, closer to the Caribbean sub-region, was the Decision XXV/9 that made reference to the explicit implementation of the Montreal Protocol in the SIDS. This decision derived from Barbados outcome document which highlights that SIDS support the gradual phase down in the consumption and production of HFCs, and therefore, the use of the Montreal Protocol in this issue. The OS emphasized that despite its efforts to reach Parties in the Caribbean sub-region to learn about their stand regarding this decision, and to work together toward this decision, none of the Parties contacted were informed or interested in what this decision entailed. Therefore, the OS encouraged Parties to get involved and makes sure that this decision is known among SIDS officials to meet its benefits.

Regarding the HFC proposals, it can be said that there were informally discussed in the last MOP, and they focused on the how the HCF management be considered under the MP, as well as, and specifically whether there would be funding for the phase-down under the MLF. The proposals would also enable the MLF to fund phase-out HFC-23 produced as by-product of HCFC-22 production.

4.1 Comments and Questions

This session began with UNEP encouraging all to follow the TEAP report on alternatives as well as the outcomes of the HFC workshop to ensure that LVC countries are under the radar and their needs are not ignored. Additionally, the OS reminded countries of the Caribbean sub-region that the Decision XXV/9 was an argument pushed by them, the SIDS, therefore, it is vital to study and capture all the outcomes from the report and the workshop to achieve the amendment to the Montreal Protocol to guarantee the funds required to satisfy the needs of LVC and VLVC. In addition to these comments, the delegation of Grenada joined UNEP and OS in encouraging fellow countries to reinforce the issues of the decisions mentioned with each government representative at the meetings, and also encouraged all to participate in the various issues that affect everyone in order to communicate their needs better.

Delegation from St. Lucia added that St. Lucia NOO was currently participating at a HFC workshop in London and representing as well general concerns from the Caribbean sub-region in the workshop. Also, the delegation from St. Vincent and the Grenadines mentioned that during participation in the last meeting of the Ministers of Environment of the LAC region, the implementation of the Montreal Protocol in the Caribbean sub-region was discussed and that progress has been done. Last, Suriname pointed out that its representation at the upcoming Intersectional Meeting will include this subject in the discussion that will take place at that time.

5. Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol Governance

This presentation is about the Montreal Protocol governance. In this regard, the meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Vienna Convention) and the Meeting of the Parties (Montreal Protocol) are the highest policy making bodies with the two protocols, the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol. They are meant to work as forums for deciding key political, technical and financial issues. All Parties to the Convention and Protocol participate in the meetings of the Parties. Then there is the Ozone Secretariat who organizes meetings of the Parties and bringing to their attention emerging scientific, technical, and administrative challenges and opportunities. There are also the Bureaus of the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol, these bureaus are composed of the President, three Vice-

Presidents and Rapporteur and are elected by each meeting of the Parties. Their purpose is to review the work of any working groups established by Parties during their meetings, to consider topics on the Agenda of the next meeting and the documents prepared by the Secretariat for the meetings. Thereupon, the Open-ended Working Group conformation was explained and mainly emphasized that over the years this body's mandate has expanded to include every issue referred to it by the MOP for technical advice and guidance. Right after was the Implementation Committee which oversees the compliance of the Montreal Protocol, and the Assessment Panels, both the Scientific and the Environmental Effects, which publish reports about the status of the stratospheric ozone depletion, climate change, and ecological damage from decompositions of ODSs and their replacements. Consequently, there is the TEAP, already mentioned in the previous presentations, whose role is to determine which technologies can technically and economically replace ODS, including product safety and environmental impacts. Then the composition of the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the Multilateral Fund was explained and mentioned that one of the early decisions of the ExCom was to support institutional strengthening in A5 countries, allowing the establishment and maintenance of National Ozone Units (NOUs), and associated regional networks, helping to provide a continuous effort and momentum in phasing out ODS and ensure the compliance of the Montreal Protocol.

To conclude, it was mentioned that the Fund Secretariat provides support to the work of ExCom, that UNEP serves as Treasurer of the Multilateral Fund, and that 4 Agencies (UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO and the World Bank) implemented the financial assistance to phase out ODS from MLF to developing countries. To conclude the OS encouraged once again the active participation of representatives from the Caribbean sub-region, in these bodies, special the Assessment Panel to guarantee that its Montreal Protocol urgencies are attended and that there is balance to reflect that the Montreal Protocol is a global treaty and not one of a particular region.

5.1 Comments and Questions

The delegation of Jamaica commented that they are represented in the Refrigeration Technical Options Committee by Horace Nelson who was a former consultant to the NOU and also one of their scientists from the University of West Indies nominated and accepted to be part of the Certificate Assessment Panel, however he withdrew. Additionally, UNEP suggested to prepare a list that will circulate among NOOs for them to indicate their countries representation in these different panels and committees, including nominations, for the sake of providing information to that committee or panel member to increase the chances that the Caribbean sub-regional needs are taken into account at the right time for decisions to be made. In turn, the delegation of Suriname suggested for Jamaica to collaborate in the preparation of a matrix to gather this information from each Network member and to circulate its results in the e-forum, and the suggestion was accepted.

6. Recent Decisions of the Executive Committee and implications for the Caribbean Region

The purpose of this presentation is to provide an overview of the main decisions made at the 71st Executive Committee, and issues to be addressed at the 72nd and 73rd meetings with emphasis on those with implications for the Caribbean sub-region. Decision 70/15 was specially highlighted from the beginning, since it involved the verification for stage I of HPMPs for selected funded Article 5 countries. It was noted that The Bahamas and Saint Lucia were included in the verification list at this occasion. In practical terms this means that the next time The Bahamas and Saint Lucia request their following tranches, these requests will need to be accompanied by the required verification. In this regard the lead agency working with The Bahamas and Saint Lucia has received US\$30,000 for each country to conduct this verification. Next issue discussed was the status reports and compliance [Decisions 70/7 (ii) (a) (b) an 71/11 (b)], under this item the ExCom decided that the relevant bilateral and implementing agencies

should not incur any new commitments for projects after the date of final completion; therefore any unused balance should be returned no later than the end of 2013 (for projects approved from 2009) and project completion reports must be submitted by the last meeting of 2014. From the Caribbean sub-region the following countries were included in this decision: Dominica (TPMP II and III tranche), St. Kitts and Nevis (TPMP II and III tranche), and Suriname (TPMP I), Grenada (TPMP III), and Haiti (TPMP I). Now, Decision 71/29 has two important conditions related to the fund disbursement threshold for tranches of HCFC phase-out management plans. First, each country shall have achieved 20 per cent disbursement of the funds approved in the first tranche. The main reason for transmission delays has been that countries have not been able to accomplish 20% disbursement of the previous tranche. Second, each country shall have achieved a significant level of development of the activities approved in the previous tranche. These conditions shall be met 60 days in advance of the submission to the ExCom of the next tranche proposal request. Next, the most relevant points of the draft guidelines for funding the preparation of stage II of HPMPs (Decision 71/42) were emphasized as follow:

- a. Defined the timing by when funding for the preparation of stage II HPMP may be submitted (i.e. no earlier than 2 years before the end date of stage I of the HPMP, unless otherwise indicated in the approval decision), for example is the stage 1 of a country HPMP goes on January 2017, that means that it cannot submit a request for preparatory funds for stage II before 1 January 2015, that also means that if a country wants to reduce 10% in 2015, today that country can request preparatory funding for stage II;
- b. Provided information requirements for the submission of requests for project preparation (PRP), both for the overarching strategy (i.e. indication of the activities that need to be taken for project operation with specific costs clearly identified, for example survey, stakeholder consultations, and an explanation why these activities were not included in the stage I) and for the investment components;
- c. Defined funding levels for PRP for stage II, based on remaining eligible HCFC consumption;
- d. Reiterated decision 56/16 (d) and (f) regarding funding levels for preparation for the investment components, and
- e. Identified required information to be included in the final stage II of the HPMP proposal, guided by Decision XIX/6 of the MOP (such as a description of how the HPMP strategy has considered the range of known ODS technically proven and commercially available alternatives, including climate friendly, project disbursement modality).

Finally, this decision included the return of all funds not disbursed from stage I before stage II preparatory funds are requested.

On Decision 70/21, in the absent of an agreement on guidelines and provisions of funding for preparation of stage II and prior to a decision by the ExCom on criteria for funding HCFC phase-out in the consumption sector for stage II, that means that if a country wants to submit its stage II HPMP, it could do so even without any agreement on preparatory and implementation funding. Already one country has used this decision to submit its request for stage II HPMP approval, it is Mexico, who is waiting for a response in the next meeting.

In reference to Decision XXV/5 of the MOP, the Secretariat was requested by the ExCom to prepare an overview of approved HCFC demonstration projects to validate their climate friendly and energy efficient alternatives technologies, including non in kind technologies. Basically the overviews is showing that most of the projects approved have been in the foam manufacturing sector and to a lesser extent in the refrigeration and air conditioning sector, therefore, there are options for additional projects to

demonstrate alternative technologies to HCFCs. The overview will be presented in the 72nd ExCom Meeting.

6.1 Comments and Questions

The delegation of Barbados inquired about the returns of funds [decision 70/7 (b)], basically, to learn who must take the lead in the return of the funds. The MLF informed that the implementing agencies are responsible for this process and if a country has additional questions they can contact the implementing agencies. Additionally, the delegation of Barbados asked the MLF to make arrangements so that the data consumption reporting web-based application allows printing the completed information before it is submitted on line, in order to be able to verify the data of what is being submitted to the MLF. The MLF will give the instructions on how to print shortly.

In addition, the delegation of St. Kitts and Nevis inquired about the possibility to make previous years' data input of countries in the web-based application available to make consultations. The MLF mentioned that in 2012 version of the web-based application there was a change, therefore, if a country reported in that year using the web-based application, then there is a different web address to see that information which was provided to the delegates. The address for reports before 2012 is www.multilateralfund.org/cp and the address for reports after 2012 it was changed to www.multilateralfund.org/cpnew.

Both delegations from Suriname and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines mentioned that they have problems when trying to submit their data online, therefore they download the data submission to PDF format to present to the MLF. The MLF conducted a live demonstration of the data consumption reporting web-based application and also suggested to contact laura@unmfs.org and copy Marco Pinzon at UNEP, if additional problems with the online reporting were encountered by the delegates. UNEP mentioned that the verification reports project for Bahamas and Saint Lucia *were* needed to understand. Additionally, in the case of Antigua and Barbuda and Guyana, *where the HPMPs continue* until 2015, they both need to submit PRP this year. In conclusion, MLF recommended to all delegates to read the Minimizing Adverse Climate Impact of HCFC phase out in RSS (circulate paper of the Decision 71/56) and to also consider that as part of the Decision 71/51 there is still chance for LVC projects on climate friendly and energy efficient alternative technology projects to be included in the MLS overview for the next ExCom meeting.

7. Strengthening Refrigeration Associations - Recommendations from AREA

In this session of the agenda, Mr. Marco Buoni, joined the discussion via videoconference and introduced the topic of Refrigeration Associations by giving a presentation about the recent developments in the European F-gas regulations and implications for the refrigeration servicing sector. Mr. Buoni is the Vice President of the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration European contractors' Association (AREA). In his presentation he pointed out that AREA is engaged in the harmonization of education and training (i.e. certification) to promote professional technicians and high-level standards, as well as; promotion of technical evolutions, environmental protection, energy efficiency and tackling climate change. Particularly to the training with low GWP refrigerants, on the grounds of the revision released by the European Commission about F-Gas Regulation that will include measures in favor of a decreased use of HFCs in RACHP equipment and mindful of the key role played by contractors in the safe, efficient and reliable functioning of equipment working with natural refrigerants, AREA sought an overview of the availability and level of training in the EU and concluded that the solution could be starting from the F-Gas certification of personnel by adding modules for natural refrigerants. Furthermore, the presentation included the AREA position on training and certification of low GWP refrigerants, it says that AREA

would like to recommend to worldwide and European decision-makers minimum requirements for training and certification of contractors handling low GWP refrigerants, this is not to create a new certification scheme, but only to add specific modules to the existing HFCs certification scheme, where each added module will focus on the specificities of the respective low GWP refrigerant (i.e. Hydrocarbons – Flammability). Mr. Bouni concluded the presentation by adding that in the international context, developed and emerging countries will need to come up with steps of a similar level of ambition as the new EU Regulation, and developing countries will have to focus on maximizing climate benefits of the HCFC phase-out.

7.1 Comments and Questions

Delegates from the Caribbean sub-region inquired about the AREA experience in topics related to the sustainability of the association membership, the different types of memberships, the legal framework for the association to exit, the role of the NOU, the financing of certification and training.

In response, Mr. Bouni added that in the case of AREA the membership is voluntary in all Europe. Nevertheless, the association does not need to be legalized in Europe to exist. There are different types of membership in Europe from an association of only two people to a large company size association, and they all pay different membership fees and receive different discounts for memberships too. In regards to the role of the NOU in the associations, Mr. Bouni commented that related activities are rarely supported by the authorities, that their support is more in kind (i.e. assist in dissemination of the information). In contrast, the private companies give financial support, and in turn; companies promote their brands (i.e. printed advertising). Also, funding comes from the members of the association. Likewise, in small countries of Europe (i.e. Hungary and Slovakia) the issuance of certification is an option for financial sustainability of the associations. AREA has two kinds of training- a technical and a practical.

7.2 Strengthening Refrigeration Associations (ARVAS – Case Study in Suriname)

In this session, Mr. Stanley Sovan, representative of ARVAS, the Air-Conditioning Refrigeration and Ventilation Association of Suriname, presented its experience as an Association. Mr. Sovan mentioned that ARVAS started in November 2009, and since March 2012 it is a legal association by approved Decree. Mr. Sovan focused his presentation on the experience ARVAS has had with the implementation of hydrocarbon technologies. Mr. Sovan mentioned that after attending a US presentation about using HCs, they were dissuaded of using HCs; but then ARVAS received training from two Cuban trainers about the use of HCs and they became promoters of this technology. Mr. Sovan added that no second conversion is necessary when using HCs. There is energy saving up to 10% with an optimized refrigerant system over HCFC (R-22) and HFC (R-134A). The systems are quiet and they possess an adaptation that is technically simple, which will be probably more available in most Article 5 countries. Mr. Sovan also indicated that the advantage of hydrocarbon technology includes no ozone depletion and no global warming. Moreover, Mr. Sovan pointed out that in October 2013, ARVAS successfully conducted the conversion of a slip unit at NIMOS building from R-22 to R-290.

7.3 Comments and Questions

As well as before, delegates from the Caribbean sub-region inquired about the ARVAS experience as an association from this region, to which Mr. Sovan on behalf of ARVAS responded that this association has record of the existence of 200 technicians, 52 of them are members, and 4 out of 10 local companies have joined the association. They meet weekly which helps to build trust among the membership. Also to involve the informal sector, ARVAS publishes a monthly magazine, places newspaper ads about available training, and holds mini-expos, as well as, discussion sessions and short trainings. They have a website where information is constantly posted and they have a strong link with the consumers association which

keeps them informed about the need for proper servicing practices. The membership fee at ARVAS is US\$6.00 monthly and mostly informal technicians join.

The delegates continued mentioning that mainly the issue with their local RAC associations was an attitude issue to hold a solid and active membership through time, since most of the technicians, who are informal; do not see themselves as professionals. It was commented that the HPMP could include some funding for strengthening of associations. Also, delegates recalled that once there were discussions about using south-south funding to assist with the strengthening of association and maybe that discussion can be retaken. Similarly, UNEP finalized the discussion by emphasizing about the importance of creating a list of focal points of national refrigeration associations and of exchanging information between associations.

8. Pending HCFC actions in the US and potential impacts on trade with the Caribbean

This presentation was delivered by Liz Whiteley from USEPA. Ms. Whiteley indicated that the U.S. is ahead of schedule on the phaseout of HCFCs. They are already below 90% of capacity. Moreover, some HCFC uses are already phased out and the use of HCFC-22 is continuously decreasing. The deadline for complete phaseout of HCFC-22 in the U.S. is the year 2020. In regards to licensing system, Ms. Whiteley noted that in the U.S. the production and import of HCFC may only occur if a company holds allowances which are the same as saying licenses. Companies with baselines receive allowances at the start of the year and baselines are established based on historical data. Ms. Whiteley also explained that USEPA maintains a strong relationship with the U.S. customs with the purpose of verifying importers allowances, educate about HCFCs to customs officers, target illegal shipments, and modernize the verification of HCFC imports to be electronic. Ms. Whiteley also spoke about the recently updated ODS trainings hosted by the NAFTA - Commission for Environmental Cooperation, which has made module 1 available to the public at http://www.cec.org/ods/main/cec_ods_intro_e.asp. Furthermore, Ms. Whiteley mentioned the present concerns about the R-22A (unapproved HCFC-22 alternatives) which has been sold as direct drop in replacement for R-22 to the point that some explosions and injuries have occurred. In conclusion, Ms. Whiteley manifested that exports between the U.S. and the Caribbean region will continue, particularly considering the need for export to non-producing countries.

8.1 Comments and Questions

Delegates from the Caribbean sub-region exchanged comments and questions with Ms. Whiteley. They spoke about the use of refrigeration identifiers, testing refrigerants, trading of allowances, CFC importers from Texas to Jamaica, etc. As a result of this debate, it was pointed out that in the US customs the use of the refrigeration identifiers was recent, it began in 2013. Because the identifiers are in USEPA regional offices, and not at each port, this may cause delay and this delay may be the result of a conflict with the logistics. Regarding the testing of refrigerants, they are done by USEPA staff in that country not by the customs officers and there are challenges associated with storage and payment of cylinders. In reference to trading of allowances, there are 20-25 companies that have historic baseline allowances and that does not change. The procedure is that the companies apply for the trade and it has to be approved within 3 days. About the importers from Texas, Ms. Whiteley said that USEPA has quarterly reports of all ODS exports, therefore, if any delegate has any suspicious about imports, she suggest that they please contact her and she will verify the data. To this last part of the debate, the delegation of Grenada asked if parties are allowed to trade ODS that is already phased-out. The OS responded that strictly speaking trade in CFCs can only be traded where there is a MOP decision. UNEP added that CFCs is still used in the U.S. for servicing and encouraged the use of iPIC to be on the alert about importation data from all around the world, to which Ms. Whiteley from USEPA said that iPIC has been considered by the U.S. in the past and she will convey the message of interest about iPIC to USEPA once back at her post.

9. Implementation of Licensing and Quota Systems.

In this session, the delegation of Grenada and St. Lucia presented their country's experiences regarding the development and installation of a licensing system.

The delegation of St. Lucia started by explaining the registration process of the different types of ODS importers and retrofitters, also mentioned that the NOU assigns quota to ODS importers, approves and issues annual retrofitter certificates. The registration of the importers and retrofitters is shared with the Ministry of Commerce and Comptroller of Customs, as well as published in the Gazette each year. St. Lucia delegate explained that to be an approved ODS importer, it is necessary to obtain an invoice or price quote from the ODS supplier, complete the application form at the Import Monitoring Unit (Ministry of Commerce), the application is checked against the quota balance, and then the license is cleared by the Custom and Excise Department and a copy is sent to the NOU. The St. Lucia delegate added that ODS based equipment importation is prohibited since 2002, therefore, if imported; Customs will detain and issue an order to retrofit. In a case as such, only a registered retrofitter can be contacted and it should be coordinated with the NOU. Similarly, a person shall not sell a refrigerant to a person who is not a certified technician and to be a certified technician, that person needs to complete a training programme with the NOU, which also includes elements of the licensing system. Currently, the licensing system in St. Lucia has some gaps that are important, such as the lack of penalties for importing above quota, selling of refrigerants to uncertified technicians, waiver of fees for incorrect invoices, misclassification of ODS and its identification, among other gaps. It was also pointed out that awareness to exporters or ODS suppliers about the labeling and quota limits is necessary. In the case of St. Lucia, who borders with Martinique and whose phase-out schedule follows the French, it will be helpful.

The delegate of Grenada highlighted the key points of the Licensing and Quota System in the country. Mainly mentioned that the licensing system for CFCs was established in 2006, and then in 2010 the HCFCs were included in the system. This system became electronic in 2012. The system is managed by the NOU, all importers must be registered with the NOU and licenses are applied before importation. Also, all shipments are verified; therefore, importers and brokers must ensure correct classification and report to the NOU. In reference to the quota system, it was explained that quotas are managed by the NOU, they are allocated based on historical data on imports, and 10% of the National Quota is retained by the NOU. These quotas cannot be traded or rolled over into next year and they are reduced every year to comply with MP targets.

Grenada delegate concluded by saying that training of importers is critical for success of the system, also since the license is approved ahead, the physical examination and verification of the imports can be compromised, and in turn the system creates awareness and eases the documentation and records keeping of data.

9.1 Comments and Questions

After the presentations, delegates exchanged experiences about their local licensing and quotas system. Particular attention was placed on possible sanctions for misclassification (i.e. being lock from ASYCUDA); moreover, there was the issue about reporting based on the actual date the license was issued or the date the importation was placed in the country. Some countries mentioned that they carry a cross-reference process of different sources, like customs, NOU and other government entities data, to annually report based on the date the license was issued, others take into account when the import is physically in the country to do the annual report. Antigua and Barbuda delegate added that in her country licenses are issued for a specific period (e.g. 1-3 months).

10. Panel: Trade control and prevention of Illegal Trade

In the segment of the meeting, the panel was led by Grenada, St. Lucia and USEPA. First topic of discussion was whether countries of this region distinguish between used and virgin substances. Some countries, such as St. Kitts and Nevis, indicated that they do not import used substances yet. On the other hand, the delegation of Grenada noted that its legislation does not include used substances only virgin substances, and that, even though, it could be difficult to prove if the substances are used or virgin, it is a burden that the importer must carry to avoid being sanctioned. Another related topic of discussion was the illegal trade in the sub-region. In this regard, Grenada reported that no illegal trade has been found at the moment, but it could happen because of HCFC phase-out, therefore, it was suggested by Grenada suggested the establishment of a Caribbean iPIC, as well as a Customs network of focal points to enforce the sub-region in this aspect. Delegate from Jamaica pointed that most customs officers trained are in a silo and do not pass on information to the other units, consequently, the need to ensure that customs officers remain current. Furthermore, delegates mentioned that in many of their cases the licenses were not issued by the NOU, but by other entities. Ideally, iPIC should be fed in real time to be always updated. Notwithstanding, several countries of the sub-region are part of the current iPIC database, but not 100%. The inclusion of the Ministry of Commerce in iPIC, or similar entities which are in charge of issuing licenses, was suggested.

Day 3: 9 April 2014 – Paramaribo, Suriname

11. Update on alternative technologies in the RAC sector

This presentation was given by Daniel Colbourne, UNEP Expert Consultant. Mr. Colbourne highlighted the current HCFC banks and consumption in A5 countries, pointing out that stationary a/c and commercial refrigeration were of the most crucial. Likewise, Mr. Colbourne informed that the average leak rate for HCFCs in A5 countries is ~30% per year, an important part of the A5 countries contributions to total global warming emissions, therefore, the need to consider both direct and indirect effects of CO₂ emissions from electricity use and High-GWP emissions from equipment and to review factors such as equipment type, energy efficiency, refrigerant used, etc. Mr. Colbourne continued to mention the different types of refrigerants available in the market, synthetic and natural, pure and mixed, HC blends, and recently new mixtures with medium and low GWP. He emphasized on the aspects that affect the refrigerant choice, which is basically divided into the primary stage consideration related to the refrigerant properties (e.g. environmental, safety, chemical and thermodynamic) and the secondary stage consideration related to the refrigerant market characteristics (e.g. availability, costs, know-how, verbal).

Mr. Colbourne presented an overview of the global warming potential of different refrigerants from saturated HFCs to unsaturated HFCs (and HCFCs), to HC and natural refrigerants of GWP, as well as, HFC mixtures (e.g. R134a, R22, R404A, R407C, R410A alternatives). He also introduced their current, feasible and limited usage in different types of refrigeration and air conditioning equipment.

Mr. Colbourne followed by explaining the major implications of near-term warming where the rapid warming effect immediately following release equals short term warming effect up to to 3,5 times 100 years global warming potential. The last part of this presentation was about alternatives applicability of the refrigerants, in other words, their viabilities, which according to Mr. Colbourne were factored by their efficiency, safety and cost, bared in terms of the system and the characteristics of their particular application. Mr. Colbourne explained how different refrigerants used in different equipments affect global warming. Therefore, in terms of low global warming potential refrigerants, it can be said that some types of refrigerants are quickly and easily applied into the small split a/c systems but not so much

in larger equipments. Companies will keep trying to develop the best alternatives for each type of equipment and the tendency is that there will be many more mixtures considered, probably a handful of preferred options to choose from. Generally, these mixtures are a combination of 2 sometimes 3 different hydrocarbons, and more significantly, today there are a huge number of alternatives, mixtures which are primarily lower GWP, HFC mixtures, these are typically comprised of some of these low GWP, unsaturated HFCs, R1234 set EE, R124 Set F, R1234YF, and these are generally mixed with some R1428 often R32 and in some occasions some CO₂ and some hydrocarbons as well.

Mr. Colbourne concluded that eventually, these mixtures will be narrowed down in terms of suitability and eventually, probably, hopefully, over the next few years we will see a sort of narrowed down list of them.

11.1 Comments and Questions

Delegates brought up issues regarding the market availability of energy efficient AC equipments and the records on performance and safety when retrofits to HCs, mindful that Grenada, Jamaica and St. Kitts and Nevis are moving ahead on retrofits to HCs. Mr. Colbourne contributed by saying that there are not too many options at present, small systems can be converted to HCs but technicians need to be trained in strict procedures. Many refrigerants are being developed, therefore, waiting a few years more for energy efficient AC equipment of a LGWP refrigerant is an option. Moreover, Mr. Colbourne commented that HC drop in as car MAC is extensive in China and Southeast Asia Pacific, and AC is in Central Africa, but many are performed without following safety standards. He concluded saying that he is involved in a risk analysis of split AC being converted to HC under different scenarios.

12. Standards to facilitate the HCFC phase-out

This presentation was the introduction and context setting for delegates of Grenada and Saint Kitts and Nevis to present their country experiences about developing safety standards. The main presentation was delivered by Mr. Colbourne, who started by emphasizing the usefulness of safety standards to implement best practice for technology application and as a safety net for new options since most alternatives refrigerants have significantly properties. He also highlighted main topics within safety standards such as classification of refrigerants, occupancy, systems, refrigerant charge size and limits according to room size, safety design, material selection and evaluation of components and pipes, as well as the entire assembly of the systems, also cover electrical safety and flammability, installations areas such as where to position the compressor, etc.

Additionally standards should include manuals, data-plates and refrigerant handling, like where to store the refrigerants and so forth. In terms of the principle approaches of the safety standards based on the application of different kind of refrigerants, emphasize should be made to the refrigerant characteristics such as flammability and toxicity from less to more severe requirements, then the refrigerant pressure against a particular temperature condition, and type of occupancy of the refrigerant.

Mr. Colbourne also enhanced that there are some problems regarding safety standards. For example, some standards are conflicting among each other even though there is communication between the different committees, stakeholders, etc.. Nevertheless, it is not always clear which requirements should be followed when preparing the standards, particularly HCs based has strict requirements and some are ignored when preparing standards due to the lack of experience with them. It is recommended to use simple language and descriptions that can be followed a lot more easily by technicians and engineers who are not constantly writing standards. There should also have different approaches to handle refrigerants,

and should also include the standards of to handle different equipment. In particular, standards should cover specific topics, for example, issues of ventilation, flammable refrigerants, and so on.

12.1 Safety Standards Case Studies by Grenada and Saint Kitts and Nevis

In summary Grenada indicated that they do not have their own standards, however, they have use the Eastern Caribbean Energy Labeling Project because it is very complete since it covers labeling standards for fridges, ACs, and other small appliances. Grenada emphasized the importance of having safety standards or codes of practice. So, in principle, it's important to have safety standards, or in the codes of practice or regulations, that allows products that use alternative refrigerants to be placed on the market, and without obstructive. The Grenada promoted installation standards to guide installation practices. It also looks at equipment and installations closely because of the safety requirements of the HC installation.

In case of St. Kitts and Nevis, they do have a RAC safety standards code that has been drafted with the help of UNEP expert Consultant, Mr. Colbourne, and well as a local technical consultant, based on the EU and UK standards adapted to St. Kitts and Nevis context. The draft standards are not yet officially accepted. Furthermore, because St. Kitts and Nevis also have HC installations, there have been 70-90 RAC technicians trained in this country and 15 have completed a one week HC training course. Also, they have prepared a manual of 61 pages for desk use and a short field guide is being prepared.

12.2 Comments and Questions

Upon conclusion of the presentations in 12.1, delegates debated mainly on the possibility of developing safety standards when the country official developers for standards are not the NOUs since that is not part of their delegation of authority. Some delegates pleaded for each country Bureau of Standards to be the leading partner in the preparation of the standards and for NOUs to be the promoters of the safety standards preparation and later awareness.

In turn, the delegate of St. Kitts and Nevis mentioned that in her case it is not productive to depend on the Bureau to develop the standards and conduct all the activities that this process entails because they are not interested as much as the NOU to get the standards up and running quickly and efficiently. Nevertheless, this delegate noted that she is going back to the Bureau to insist in getting them engaged in this project and provide their inputs.

Other delegates contributed to this discussion by saying that they provided guidelines for the development of standards and labeling and those were submitted to the Bureau. Furthermore, for the Bureau office to lead the rest of the process, the NOU remains as a coordinator of this process, but not a standards developer (this is the case of Jamaica and Antigua and Barbuda).

In particular the concern is that if the Bureau is not part of the development process of the standards, this could affect the legislative framework of the safety standards, causing a legal weakness that will prevent the issuing of sanctions to those that ignore the safety standards.

UNEP emphasized on the message for the NOUs to be involved in the process, but not to be involved in the standard setting itself. Consequently, delegates were also concerned about the label printing, whether it was done by the Bureau of Standards or by the technicians. The NOOs concurred that basically the equipment would come with the labels and standards verified at the port of entry to ensure that the correct standards are being imported.

13. Recent developments in the European F-gas regulations and their implications for the refrigeration servicing sector

This session presented by Mr. Marco Buoni, Vice President of the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration European Contractors' Association (AREA). He began by saying that the current European Union target is to reduce by 20% its greenhouse gas levels, reduce by 20% its energy consumption, and increase by 20%, the renewable in energy mix. In this regard by 2050 Europe aims to reduce by 80-95% the overall emission generated from HFC consumptions and electrical energy combined; therefore, Europe wants to stabilize the gas emissions to the base level to pursue its gradual further decrease. Furthermore, to prevent HFCs emissions in Europe, F-gas regulations and certification have been established and only certified craftsmen can perform installations, repairs, servicing, check for leakage, recovery, etc. These certified craftsmen are obliged to keep a logbook for each unit above the threshold (5 ton eq. CO₂) and conduct periodical inspections (every three months).

Mr. Buoni continued saying that starting the 1st January 2015, Europe will have 100% freeze of HFC consumption and so from there on the quotas of imports in Europe can only decrease. This is a revolution because Europe will use less and less HFCs refrigerants and increase the use of low-GWP refrigerants because we will see that the freezing will be done considering the CO₂ equivalence of these refrigerants. Therefore, some products will be banned from the market of the domestic and commercial use of A/C equipment, A/C systems, refrigerators and freezers. These bans will be placed across the phase-down reduction calendar from 2015 to 2030.

Regarding the consideration of everything based on tone equivalent of CO₂, Mr. Bouni mentioned that Europe is no longer looking at the weight of the refrigerant, but what is the impact of this refrigerant in the environment and climate change. For Europe the equivalence of CO₂ is useful to reduce the pollution of the refrigerants in the atmosphere and it is better to control the emissions of refrigerants when comparing with the emissions of CO₂. Following the same premise, in Europe only F-gases can be sold to and purchased by certified companies. This ensures that the responsibility for delivering the refrigerant to certified person/entity undertaking is shared by distributors and installers. Nevertheless, since the use of HFCs is legislatively decreasing, consequently, the use of natural refrigerants will increase, and there will be a gap between the supply and demand for training. The EC has issued a revision of the F-Gas regulations that will include measures in favor of a decreased use of HFCs in equipment, which derives in an increased use of alternatives, the so-called natural refrigerants; AREA is promoting the beginning of F-Gas certification among technicians adding modules about natural refrigerants focusing on the specificities of the respective low GWP refrigerants, for example, the flammability of hydrocarbons. Mr. Bouni concluded by recommending developing countries to focus on maximizing climate benefits of the HCFC phase-out.

14. Pending Actions on HCFC alternatives by the US and others that might impact The Caribbean

In this point of the agenda, the delegate from USEPA lectured about the US Climate Action Plan, the North American Proposal, SNAP (Significant New Alternatives Policy), and the US Voluntary programs. USEPA delegate mentioned the continue international diplomacy on HFCs effort that the US Climate Action Plan is carried on leading negotiations under the MP to phase down HFCs, mainly working with partners in the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to reduce short-lived climate pollutants and promote climate-friendly alternatives to high-GWP HFCs, addressing standards and reducing emissions from HFC use. Domestically, US address HFCs by using the existing Clean Air Act authority for SNAP to approve climate-friendly chemicals, prohibit uses of most harmful and provide federal leadership by purchasing cleaner alternatives to HFCs and safer, more sustainable equipments when feasible. Currently, this is the case of the White House. In regards to the North American Proposal, the delegated noted that this will

be the 5th year the proposal is submitted to the MP, the proposal is the same as before, but it is interested in the MP due to its 20+ years of experience in the sector and the existing support structure (MF, TEAP, SAP, etc.).

About the SNAP program, the delegate continued by emphasizing that the program is considering 400+ substitutes that will reduce the overall risk to human health and the environment in the industrial sectors. Also, USEPA is developing a proposed rule that would change the status of high-GWP HFCs (flammable refrigerants) where alternatives are available or potentially available. Furthermore, The GrenChill Partnership (an advanced refrigeration partnership by USEPA with food retailers to reduce refrigerant emissions, lessen impacts on ozone layer and climate) has approximately 8,000 stores engaged focused on leak reduction and transition to refrigerants with better environmental profiles.

14.1 Comments and Questions

A couple of comments were made principally about the need to push the issue about HFCs among SIDS particularly to their UNFCCC representatives to gain relevance in the sub-region. Special attention should be placed to the destruction considering that the North American Proposal would add more gases to be controlled.

Also, some were intrigued if SNAP includes the use of HC in AC and MAC sector. The OS asked if the 2014 proposal be the same or different from the past 5 years, and as mentioned, yes, structurally it will be similar.

15. ODS Destruction, experience of Implementing Agencies (UNDP)

Representative from UNDP, Mr. Anderson Alves, delivered the ODS destruction projects in the region. Per Decision 58/19 by the ExCom, ODS destruction projects should list the following steps: collection (e.g. source, extraction process), transportation (e.g. proper handle training, containers, insurance cost), storage (e.g. quantities, material, equipment, training, legislation, cost, centralized storage center), destruction (e.g. incinerators location, logistics, local or imported facility, cost) and sustainability (e.g. carbon credits).

Mainly the destruction step is the most relevant of all; it tests and verifies, makes adaptations of the process, has to comply with standards of efficiency, conducts trials and finally issues the certification, including monitoring procedures. Then they have to analyze if the destruction facility somehow initiated in the country or if it material has to be exported. Cost is important as they have to look at means of funding either through government incentives, or creating other funds.

In regards to the closest destruction sites to the Caribbean sub-region, USA, Canada, and Mexico were mentioned. There are other UNDP destruction sites projects in the region, sponsored by the MFS, which are Cuba (cement kiln, oven being finalized), Colombia (rotary kiln, incineration facilities selected, oven adaptation in progress, trail in process), and Brazil (Cement Kiln, rotary kiln, cracking reactor, argon plasma arc, and chemical reaction with H₂ and CO₂). The following remarks were particularly highlighted: a) the tracking of recovered CFCs (very important when applying to carbon credits or dealing with the USA), b) limitation on transportation boundary movements as per Basel Convention consideration on hazardous waste (some ODSs are not suitable for importation under the BC), and c) the operational costs related to storage and transportation (capacities in the Caribbean may have to be created, proper authorization and insurance ready to cope).

15.1 Comments and Questions

The delegates commented that the main issue of this presentation to them is how to dispose ODS material since some national laws, despite the Basel Convention and its adopted complementary decisions to acknowledge ODS transportation for disposal and recycling not as hazardous waste, treat the disposals as costly and dangerous; therefore, no support is available. In addition, the MLF does not provide funding for the component related to the destruction. Delegates from Grenada and Suriname joined in the request for funding to solve the issue of ODS destruction since it could reverse all the work done by the NOUs, if no greater attention is placed into this matter. The OS mentioned that in order to make this debate forward, the Parties could request the Secretariat to discuss the issue for ODS destruction through Replenishment discussions. In terms of the USA position on ODS destruction, the delegate mentioned that USEPA is regularly petitioned by destruction facilities in the US and regularly approve petitions that allow those companies to import for destruction. Import of virgin CFCs will still be allowed for destruction, making this legally possible. The second point, and this also applies to destruction facility in any sort of minimum quantities, is that USEPA approves destruction facility based on their technology. USEPA ensures that the facility is using one of the technologies approved by the parties before the destruction.

15.2 ODS Destruction, experience of Implementing Agencies (UNEP)

Representative from UNEP, Mr. James Curlin, presented the outcomes of a pilot project by UNEP in Nepal for ODS destruction. The project was implemented by Nepal Ozone unit and 2 private companies -Emerging Ventures India (EVI), and EOS Climate.

Back in 2004 customs officers in Nepal confiscated 74 ODP tons of CFCs, 11 tons were left unreleased in the market, therefore, NEPAL asked the MOP for guidance on leftover stock of CFCs post 2010. In response, the MLF approved a NEPAL ODS destruction project with the view that it will demonstrate the viability of economically destruction ODS stockpile in LVCs, disseminate good practices about destruction facilities to other LVCs, and integrate co-funding through carbon market mechanisms. Also the idea of the project is to test the waters with mobilizing the co-financing with the voluntary carbon market mechanism.

As a result from the Nepal project, material has been destroyed in destruction facility in USA on February 2013, carbon credits were issued in May 2013, the selling process of the carbon credits is underway, and the sale will be split between the cost of destruction and the stakeholders including the Nepal government. UNEP will be on the alert on how the carbon credits are sold and if they generate any positive results that could be applicable to similar countries.

16. HPMP Implementations

Mr. Marco Pinzon from UNEP, introduced the point of the agenda about HPMP implementation by presenting current status of the HPMP implemented in the Caribbean sub-region where HPMP Stage II requests will be submitted by Antigua and Barbuda, Guyana and Haiti in 2014. Additionally, Suriname's tranche request will be done in the same year. As for St. Lucia, tranche request plus submission of verification report is programmed for 2015. Moreover in 2015, UNEP will assist in the request of 9 tranches and 2 second stage requests.

All delegates from the Caribbean sub-region made presentations about the progress of their HPMP projects. They highlighted points such as the achievements made in training technicians, in certification level with the collaboration of the RAC Associations and Academic Entities. Much training includes HCs. Bahamas, Dominica, Antigua & Bermuda, Belize, Granada, and most of the other islands emphasized training courses for technicians, for good refrigeration practices and alternatives for HCFCs, and refresher

training courses for Customs officers, among other issues. Granada spoke about developing training centers for non ODS energy efficient appliances.

Furthermore, delegates spoke about their licensing systems and mentioned that in many cases it is not the NOU who issues the license but other government entity, which collaborate with them in the collection of the data post issuing of license to measure and keep track of the quotas. For example, Haiti had to make the licenses system applicable while St. Kitts requires a license for all refrigerant gases. In Belize, they needed to phase out the HCFCs to introduce the code of system and importation and HCFC based equipment licensing system. And for this legislation or amendment to be done it has to go through and abide with the solicitors generals guideline. Also to introduce in 2012, Granada introduced the e licenses in module of our access program and currently administers electronic licenses for ODSs.

Delegates added that in some cases, the record keeping of quotas and licenses could be difficult since they are not a licensing system issuing process, which may result in data reporting inconsistencies. Moreover, delegates spoke about their experiences with the establishment of Standards. Some countries are working on their Standards and others have their Standards already in place, however, they all concluded that it is very important to involve the National Bureau of Standards since they are the experts in the preparation of standards and are familiar with all the international conditions and regulations for Standards.

Additionally, delegates indicated that they have worked together with the local Customs Authorities, and as a result, good progress has been made in training a large number of customs officers, but there is still the need to ensure that the liaison with the customs is constantly updated since its personnel rotates highly. In turn, training of customs has derived into training brokers, shipping agents, marine police, and others that at some point face the illegal trade of ODS substances and equipment. Some countries are extending their retrofit programme, which started with TPMP, now with their HPMP funds, adding energy efficient approaches. Regarding legislations, delegates mentioned that in many cases they are working on amendments that will take into consideration the ban of HCFC containing equipment. Public awareness programs were also implemented by most of the countries. Some of the activities done for public awareness are working with students in primary schools, website and facebook pages which will have links to the Montreal Protocol page.

16.1 Comments and Questions

Delegates commented on how many of them are trying to join efforts to incorporate Montreal Protocol topics into energy efficiency projects. Also, all meeting participants agreed that Haiti need more support to reach a similar label as its fellow countries of the sub-region, and therefore, it was agreed for a small committee by Barbados, Grenada, Suriname, UNDP and UNEP to meet with Haiti delegate after today's meeting to go over the issues and find possible solutions to speed up the process of projects implementation in Haiti. It was also noted by UNEP that this is a very innovative region since customs brokers training is taking place here and not in other regions, as well, the region is foreseen training in HCs which is to its greater advance in comparison to other regions.

17. South-south cooperation, public awareness and capacity building activities

In this part of the agenda, delegate from Grenada, Mr. Leslie Smith, presented the results of the south-south cooperation activity that took place in 2013. A regional training workshop entitled Protection Caribbean Boards from Illegal Trade in Ozone Depleting Substances was delivered in St. George's, Grenada, 25-27 November 2013. A total of 28 participants attended from Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Dominica, Guyana, Grenada, Suriname, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines; and they included customs officers, customs brokers, national ozone officers and bureau of standards representative. The workshop included topics such as illegal trade of ODS, the role of the customs officers and other stakeholders, the import/export licensing system, and ODS classification, among others.

As results of the workshop, there was an increased awareness, familiarization of revised HS codes, practices on illegal trade detection techniques, lessons about ASYCUDA and risk management, the role of the customs officers, and demonstrations of ODS identification equipment. To finalize, workshop recommendations were made to include the coast guards in the future, to provide refresher workshop regularly, the inclusion of a module within the e-SeaClear system (pre-notification of customs clearance available in every country of the sub-region), to invite brokers within regional broker associations.

Following, St. Lucia was asked to do a brief presentation about its Training Module on Certification Programme, as an example of a possible regional idea that could be used for 2014 south-south cooperation, nevertheless, delegate from St. Lucia defaulted the request to suggest their mentioned training as a south-south activity for 2014, and instead supported the idea of doing a 2015 south-south cooperation activity that will consist of a Regional Meeting of RAC Technician Associations to establish a Regional RAC Technicians Association.

17.1 Comments and Questions

Delegates commented on the proposals for 2014 south-south cooperation activities. They analyzed the proposal of training for technicians following the St. Lucia's scheme, also the training of iPIC focal points, which will not demand of funds from south-south cooperation since it will be done remotely as explained by UNEP. Training was also suggested in know-how of Standards and Certification since all countries are working of these issues. It was also suggested to have the workshop, if agreed, in Haiti in order to spread the benefits in that country. Delegates agreed that there were two proposals that can be funded with these funds; either a workshop for Standard and Certification or for the RAC Technicians associations. Delegates decided to prioritize-the activity to be first and decided that the Standards and Certification will be the first option. Delegates mentioned that upon cost analysis provided by UNEP, a site for the activity will be decided among Trinidad and Tobago, Haiti, and Panama.

18. European experience with certification schemes for servicing technicians

The agenda continued with the presentation by Mr. Marco Buoni, where he explained the scheme employed in Europe to certify refrigeration technicians. Mainly, it is mandatory for technicians in Europe to be certified to handle HFCs, therefore all refrigeration and air conditioning equipments can only be repaired, installed or maintained by a certified technician. To the same extend, the mentioned scheme consists of one day training, a theoretical exam (90 minutes) and requires 60% correct to pass, and a practical exam (2.5 hours). Additionally, not only are the technicians certified in Europe but also the companies because they need to meet performance and safety standards (e.g. enough number of technicians to meet the demand, enough installation tools and equipments, safety equipments, etc.) Furthermore, Mr. Bouni added that AREA is strongly pushing for certified technicians to have access to

information on relevant technologies to replace or reduce the use of f-gases and their safe handling, and working with equipment containing alternative refrigerants.

18.1 Comments and Questions

Delegate from Barbados questioned about the general feeling of technicians in relation of taking exams. Mr. Bouni explained that some technicians feel that the training is valuable and important, but others do not feel the same, but in percentile, 30% feel that is just another cost and are reluctant, the other 70% value the certification and prefer not to be illegal. A few tips suggested by Mr. Bouni to gain momentum with the technicians training were to only sell refrigerants to already certified technicians or companies and to involve the customers in the awareness so that they demand a certified technician to work on their equipment. Delegate from Suriname asked if this mechanism was enforced. To that Mr. Bouni mentioned that it is mandatory to be certified, the training is free and optional, but if the technician does not come to the training it would be less likely for him or her to pass the certification test.

19. Caribbean Representation in the Subsidiary Bodies of the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol

Delegate from Grenada facilitated this point of the agenda. It was explained that to a certain extent, the sub-region left disadvantage because of its little participation among these bodies. Every year there are a good number of positions available. The OS explained the different purposes of the bodies and the vacancies on each of them and also suggested which vacancies were more relevant to the benefits of this sub-region. It was also mentioned that a proposal has been submitted twice to the ExCom to have a constant representation of every region to allow a more equitable and greater participation of all members. The proposed representation will work so that for each new term, each Sub-region of GRULAC should not have more than one elected member, as well, it is proposed that the rotating seat be a one year term based on the already existing policy of two consecutive terms for the permanent seats and that the rotating seat be rotated among the sub-regions every four years. The Caribbean sub-region has accepted the proposal. Unfortunately, every time this proposal has been presented to the rest of the global membership, there has been either no time left to discuss it or the venue is too technical to deal with this proposal. Therefore, it was proposed to rally the support within the GRULAC region by sending this proposal to each country mission or table this proposal in one of the joint meetings that will be having to advice countries in advance of it and their representation should come with their position in terms of this proposal.

19.1 Comments and Questions

Delegates commented that many of their missions are not informed of how the representations are selected and the important role they play. Therefore, it is important for them to be part of the coordination commissions where many of these types of decisions are taken. If a country is not interested in participating, it is important to provide support to fellow sub-region country members who are. In advance and before the ExCom, a party who is interested can let the others know about it. Also, more discussion about this topic of the agenda can continue through the e-forum.

20. Other matters

Regarding the UNEP ROLAC staffing, delegates seek an update of the vacancy post left by Mr. Marco Pinzon upon officially accepting his current post. To this request, UNEP informed that just the week before this meeting started, the vacancy post was announced and its term of reference are currently posted in UN career.org website for those interested in applying.

Regarding the programme time to send out invitations to the meetings, delegates requested if the letters can be issued sooner than the current timing to allow all countries to process the invitations and do not miss out the opportunity to participate. To this request, OS informed that invitations are sent two months in advance and only if a draft agenda is completed and drafting an agenda is a matter that takes time to put together to meet the deadline of two months in advance. Further, UNEP added that it is always useful to try to nominate participants who are already registered as a UNEP meeting participant or at least send the nomination with the complete contact information of the nominee to be able to start to register him or her in the system.

In reference to the meeting evaluation, UNEP presented a new method to do the meeting evaluation and explained that this time the evaluation will be done about network itself and its impact to the National Ozone Units to learn if it is being effective, since previous meeting evaluation were only related to the actual meeting as an event and very vaguely.

Consequently, delegates were divided in two groups, the Senior NOOs and the Junior NOOs, and each group responded to the evaluation conducted as follows:

(Senior NOOs Group)

- 1) What is the objective of the Caribbean Network of Ozone Officers?
To address the issues of commonalities with an view to finding the appropriate solutions to meet and sustain compliance to the Montreal Protocol
- 2) What are the three main functions the network must have to fulfill its objective?
 - Collaboration and sharing of issues on best practices, challenges and lessons learned.
 - Fostering good relationships among network members to achieve the objectives of the Montreal Protocol
 - Strategic Planning
- 3) Identify responsible(s) (role) to undertake the main functions
 - Collaboration = UNEP CAP (Ozone Secretary, NOUs and Implementation Agencies) & NOUs
 - To foster good relationship = NOUs, UNEP CAP, OzonAction (UNEP DTIE)
 - Strategic Planning = UNEP CAP, NOUs, implementing agencies, TEAP and other scientific assessment panels, regional technical personnel, and other related stakeholders

(Junior NOOs Group)

What is the objective of the Caribbean Network of Ozone Officers?	What are the three main functions the network must have to fulfill its objective?	Identify Individuals/ Agencies Responsible to undertake main functions
To Provide a Forum for Exchange of Information within the Caribbean Sub-Region, with Regards to the Implementation of and Compliance to the Montreal Protocol on Ozone Depleting Substances	To provide multiple forms of regular and timely communication and dissemination of information (example e-forum, Facebook, Youtube, Clearing House Mechanism) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To identify issues of concern and propose solutions through experiences and lessons learnt ▪ Regularly updated Database of NOU Contacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All NOOs and NOO Assistants • Experts (including technicians) • UNEP (Based on information received from NOU)
	To build capacity amongst Parties of the Caribbean Sub-region	NOUs Implementing Agency(cies) Experts Institutions TEAP
	To ensure Parties of the Caribbean Sub-region has Adequate Funding to support implementation and compliance	Implementing Agencies Government Agencies

21. Reviewing and adoption of meeting conclusions and recommendations

The main conclusions and recommendations of the Meeting of the English-speaking Caribbean countries and Haiti National Ozone Officers Network were reviewed and adopted. The following are the conclusions and recommendations of this meeting:

Day 1

1. Parties agreed that the position of Co-chair will be rotated in accordance with the annual Caribbean Ozone Officers Meeting rotation schedule, whereby the next country scheduled to host the meeting will function as the Co Chair. This shall take effect from the 2015 Caribbean Ozone Officers Meeting.

Day 2

2. Parties were reminded that they should have reduced their consumption of HCFC by 10% by January 1, 2015 in accordance with their obligations under the Montreal Protocol.
3. It was recognised that 100% of Caribbean countries reported 2012 Consumption data on time. However, countries were reminded to also submit QPS data as mandated in decision 24/14 of the MOP even if their consumption was recorded as zero.
4. Parties in the Caribbean Sub-Region were encourage to submit any proposed amendments and/or adjustments to the Montreal Protocol which they wish to be included for discussion at the 26th Meeting of the Parties to the Ozone Secretariat by the 17th May 2014
5. Parties in the Caribbean Sub-region were encouraged to closely examine the importation and end use of Methyl Bromide for Quarantine and Pre-shipment purposes in an effort to avoid any instances of MeBr imports recorded for QPS being subsequently diverted towards non-QPS uses.
6. National Ozone Officers were encouraged to nominate additional experts from the region to represent the Caribbean on the various Subsidiary bodies of the Montreal Protocol and the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer including participation in the Assessment Panels.
7. National Ozone Officers were encouraged to sensitise country representatives who will be attending the Third International Small Island Developing States Conference which is due to be held in Samoa in September 2014 of the importance to highlight Decision 25/9 of the 25th MOP, in terms of the challenges and successes with the implementation of the Montreal Protocol by SIDS.
8. Parties in the Caribbean Sub-region were encouraged to consider issues that they may wish to raise for discussion during the upcoming HFC Workshop which is scheduled to be held from July 11-12, 2014. The outcome of the workshop is expected to feed into the discussions of the 34th Open ended Working Group which is scheduled to be held in Paris from July 14 -18, 2014.
9. Parties in the Caribbean Sub-region were encouraged to study the forthcoming TEAP report on the replenishment of the Multilateral Fund for the next three years (2015-2017) and to actively participate in the discussions to be held at the 34th OEWG to ensure that the needs of VLVC are articulated and be given due consideration in the decisions to determine the final level of funding for replenishment of the Multilateral Fund.
10. Parties in the Caribbean Sub-region were advised that based on the new schedule of meetings for the ExCom (two meetings per year) requests for IS renewals be submitted within six months of its date for renewal. In addition, tranche requests for stage I of HPMPs can be submitted to either the first or the last meeting of the year.
11. Parties in the Caribbean Sub-region were informed that based upon a random selection process they would be required to submit verification reports along with tranche requests. The

verification report will be produced by the Implementing Agencies in consultation with the countries and US\$30,000.00 has been allocated for the completion of the verification process.

12. Some Parties in the Caribbean Sub-region raised issues related to Country Programme Implementation Reporting online and the Multilateral Fund Secretariat encouraged them to direct their concerns to specific staff in the Multilateral Fund Secretariat and the contact information was provided.
13. It was recommended that Parties in the Caribbean Sub-region should consider implementing activities were informed that activities such as training, diversification of membership, hosting of conferences, certification etc. as mechanisms that could be employed to promote sustainability of RAC Associations. Accordingly, Parties were encouraged to continue to be creative in their approach to sourcing funding to assist RAC Associations e.g. through the Capacity Building components of HPMPs, submitting proposals for funding to various Funding Agencies and/or the private sector.
14. Parties in the Caribbean Sub-region agreed to discuss the convening of a meeting of representatives of national RAC Associations during the South-South cooperation activities for 2014.
15. Parties in the Caribbean Sub-region were reminded that:
 - a. if equipment is imported already pre-charged then the ODS should not be counted as part of imports because it was already accounted for and should not be included in the calculations of the national consumption of the importing country
 - b. Article 4 of the Montreal Protocol which restricts trade in ODS is consistent with World Trade Organisation rules since the subject of ODS trade that is restricted against non-Parties to the Montreal Protocol is intended to protect human health and is consequently exempted under WTO free trade rules. Accordingly, trade in HCFC-equipment is also permissible under the same WTO exemption criteria.
16. Parties in the Caribbean Sub-Region were reminded that they should update their focal points for licensing systems information under decision IX/8 (2) by reporting information to the Ozone Secretariat.

Day 3

17. Parties in the Caribbean Sub-region expressed concern about the non-availability of suitable energy efficient and climate friendly alternatives for some RAC applications in the region.
18. Parties were encouraged to examine the Eastern Caribbean Energy Labelling Project and/or any other similar projects being undertaken nationally and regionally in order to identify synergies and gaps during the creation of standards in the RAC Sector.
19. Parties were encouraged to revisit the list of ozone focal points within their Customs and Excise Departments to strengthen communication channels.

20. Countries not participating in the iPIC were encouraged to join, and actively participate in order to address ODS trade issues (and provides feedback in the e-forum of the Caribbean Sub-region).
21. UNEP was requested to provide support for remote training in iPIC for relevant focal points as a mechanism to improve the use of iPIC within the region.
22. Parties were informed that the MP and Basel Convention agreed on complimentary decisions that acknowledge that the transportation of waste for recycling or disposal should not be treated as hazardous waste and therefore should have free movement under Basel Convention. This was agreed between the Parties of the two conventions in 1995.
23. It was recognized that the disposal of unwanted ODS remains a major challenge for the Sub-region and requires thorough examination towards identifying environmentally sound solutions.

Day4

24. It was emphasised that invitations for Haitian delegates to attend Workshops and Meetings should be disseminated in advance at least 6 weeks before any meeting or workshop. Additional assistance with facilitating the participation of Haitian technicians selected to attend workshops in the Caribbean is needed.
25. Two activities were identified to be implemented under South-South Cooperation for the Sub-region in 2014, namely:
 - c. A Standards and Certification Workshop
 - d. A Regional meeting/training of representatives from national RAC AssociationsThe Standards and Certification Workshop was identified as the priority activity for 2014

Follow Up Actions

1. St. Vincent and the Grenadines requested that the Ozone Secretariat confirm receipt of their 2013 ODS Consumption report which was submitted in January 2014.
2. Jamaica was asked and agreed to work with UNEP and the Ozone Secretariat in the compilation of a list of individuals who currently represent the region on various Assessment Panels and Subsidiary bodies as well as a list of vacant positions on those Panels and bodies. It was agreed that this would be completed and discussed by Thursday April 10, 2014.
3. It was recommended that UNEP include the paper on minimizing adverse climate impact in the list of documents to be circulated at the Caribbean ozone Officers Meeting in Suriname April 7 – 11, 2014.
4. USEPA agreed to follow up on Belize's request for information on Envirosafe's R134a replacement refrigerant

5. USEPA agreed to follow up on Jamaica's request for information on an intended export of CFC from Texas to Jamaica.
6. USEPA has agreed to raise the issue of iPIC participation again with her office but in the mean time Parties are free to contact the USEPA with any queries regarding ODS trade.
7. UNEP to check with the UNCTAD, the UN entity that manages ASYCUDA to see whether they can be linkages between iPIC and ASYCUDA.
8. St. Kitts and Nevis was asked to circulate the draft RAC standards to Ozone Officers to possibly use as a reference to be used in the development of standards within their own countries.
9. Grenada will pursue the ODS destruction issue with a view to making representation at an ExCom Meeting.
10. UNEP agreed to follow up and report to Belize on the issue concerning the co-funding arrangement between Belize and Switzerland.
11. A subgroup comprising of delegates from Haiti, Barbados, Grenada and Suriname along with UNEP and UNDP agreed to meet and discuss what assistance can be given to Haiti concerning issues related to their HPMP implementation.
12. UNEP/ROLAC agreed to conduct a cost analysis of hosting the South-South Cooperation activity in the following countries:
 - a. Panama
 - b. Trinidad & Tobago
 - c. HaitiThe analysis will be circulated in the Caribbean sub-region e-forum for comments towards reaching consensus on each activity's venue.
13. The proposal regarding LAC members' representation at the ExCom will be circulated in the Caribbean Sub-region e-forum to determine the most appropriate mechanism to communicate it with the other Sub-regions of LAC.