



Department of Public Information
Non-Governmental Organizations

Briefings

All Briefings
Begin Promptly
at 10:15 a.m.

Moderator:
Laura Trevelyan
BBC UN Correspondant

Panel Speakers

Paul Newman,
Programme Coordinator,
National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
(NASA)

Lisa Manley,
Director of Sustainability
Communications,
The Coca-Cola Company

Jose Pons Pons,
Managing Director, Spray
Química Urbana Industrial
Socco (via Video Conference)

Durwood Zaelke,
President
International Network for
Environmental Compliance
& Enforcement (INECE)

Rajendra M. Shende
Head, OzonAction
Branch, Division of
Technology, Industry and
Economics, United Nations
Environment Programme
(UNEP)

DPI/NGO Relations invites you to a
Briefing

“The Ozone Layer and Climate Change”

International Day for the preservation of the Ozone Layer
16 September 2009

Thursday, 18 June 2009

10:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.*
in

Conference Room 4

Context: The ozone layer refers to the stratospheric layer where over 90% of the earth's ozone, a naturally occurring gas, resides. The depletion of the ozone layer is a continuing environmental threat. According to the NASA Advanced Supercomputing Division (NAS), the ozone layer absorbs as much as 97-99% of the sun's high frequency ultraviolet light, which is potentially damaging to life on earth. Additionally, NAS predicts that every 1% decrease in the earth's ozone shield is projected to increase the amount of UV light exposure to the lower atmosphere by 2%. Ozone depletion also seriously impacts biodiversity. Increased ultraviolet light exposure reduces levels of plankton in the oceans, subsequently diminishing marine life. It can also have adverse effects on plant growth, potentially reducing agricultural productivity.

Status: The international agreement known as the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was established in 1987 in response to the discovery of a 'hole' in the ozone layer over Antarctica, and the scientific evidence that ozone in the stratosphere was being destroyed by chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and other man-made chemicals. By 2007, the Protocol had phased out approximately 97% of the consumption and

production about 100 chemicals known as “ozone depleting substances” (ODS). Since many ODS are significant greenhouse gases, and greatly contribute to heating of the earth's atmosphere, the Montreal Protocol has historically played an important role in mitigating climate change by stopping production and consumption of ODS. The Protocol contains provisions for regular review of the adequacy of control measures to prevent ozone depletion. These reviews are based on assessments of evolving scientific, environmental, technical, and economic information. The protocol set binding, time-targeted and measurable commitments for developed and developing countries, and provided developing countries with financial assistance to meet their targets. A 2008 OzonAction publication highlighted the success of the Montreal Protocol in the phasing out of over 96% of all ODS -especially hydro-chlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), the most widely used ODS - thus preventing their potentially harmful effects to the climate.

Highlights of briefings: This week's briefing will highlight important achievements made to protect the ozone layer and prevent climate change, as well as what obstacles remain to be addressed by the global community, particularly at the United Nations Climate Change Conference being held in Copenhagen, Denmark later this year.

The Panel discussion will be followed by a Question and Answer period.

Briefings are held in the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. unless otherwise indicated. United Nations-produced videos relevant to the Briefing theme are sometimes screened during the Briefing. For Briefing information please call the DPI/NGO Information Line at +1-212-963-7709 or +1-917-367-9380, or e-mail section1d@un.org. For information pertaining to UN passes, please call +1-212-963-7233 or e-mail hu2@un.org. To receive the Briefing information electronically and to be added to our e-mailing list, please e-mail dpingo@un.org. You can also visit the DPI/NGO Section website at www.un.org/dpi/ngosection, where an archived web cast of the briefings may also be available.

Requests for guest passes should be faxed on organization letterhead to the NGO Resource Centre at 212-963-2819 at least two days prior to the briefing. The guest passes should be picked up from the Lobby of the General Assembly Building between 9:30 a.m. -10 a.m. Those who arrive after 10:00 a.m. will have to pick up their passes from the NGO Resource Centre. NGOs are reminded that Briefings start promptly at 10:15 a.m.