BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
Executive Summary, *Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion: 2006*
18 August 2006

The Executive Summary contains key summaries from the *Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion: 2006,* prepared during 2005-2006 by the Scientific Assessment Panel of the U.N. Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

The 2006 Assessment has been prepared during 2005/2006 to be available to the Parties to the Montreal Protocol in advance of their meeting in 2007, at which they will consider the need to amend or adjust the Protocol. The genesis of the 2006 Assessment occurred at the 15th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol held on 10-14 November 2003 in Nairobi, Kenya, at which the scope of the scientific needs of the Parties was defined. As a result, the 2006 Assessment contains eight scientific chapters that focus on:

- atmospheric observations and future projections of substances (such as the chlorofluorocarbons) that are controlled by the Montreal Protocol, as well as other ozone-depleting source gases;
- evaluation of the ozone-layer impacts of very short-lived substances that containing chlorine and/or bromine;
- observations and future expectations with regard to the ozone layer in Antartica and the Arctic;
- observations and future expectations with regard to the global ozone layer;
- observations and expected future behavior of surface ultraviolet radiation;
- updated values for Ozone Depletion Potentials and Global Warming Potentials, as well as presentation of future halocarbon scenarios;
- description of the known relations between ozone depletion and climate change, including feedbacks between the two.

The formal planning of the present report was started in January 2005. Input was sought from international ozone layer researchers, who commented on a draft outline of the report and who provided suggestions as to potential participants in the assessment process. Further, the Parties nominated scientific experts who were also potential participants.

The first drafts of the chapters were examined at a meeting in December 2005 in Herndon, Virginia, USA, at which the Lead Authors and a small number of international experts focused on the content of the draft chapters and coordination among the chapters. The second drafts of the chapters were reviewed by 160 scientists worldwide in a mail peer review during February/March of 2006. These comments were considered by the authors during their preparation of a third draft in April/May 2006. At a Panel Review Meeting held in Les Diablerets, Switzerland, on 19-23 June 2006, the third drafts were reviewed by 77 scientists from the international community. Final changes to the chapters were decided upon there, and the Executive Summary contained herein was prepared by the participants.

The full report is being prepared for publication. Printed copies will be available in March 2007.

The Scientific Assessment Panel's work on the 2006 Ozone Assessment was led by three international Cochairs and five international scientists who serve on a Scientific Steering Committee. Over 300 scientists from 34 countries of the developed and developing world participated in the 2006 Assessment as lead authors, coauthors, contributors, and reviewers. What follows is a summary of their current understanding of the stratospheric ozone layer and its relation to humankind.

The Executive Summary and other information related to the 2006 Ozone Assessment are posted at these locations:
WMO: http://www.wmo.int/web/arep/reports/ozone_2006/ozone_asst_report.html
UNEP: http://ozone.unep.org/index.asp
NOAA: http://esrl.noaa.gov/csd/assessments/2006/