

***Bujumbura, Burundi, September 17 (Infosplusgabon) - Burundi is preparing to sign the amendment to the Montreal (Canada) Protocol on the Protection of the Ozone Layer and Climate, the Burundian Minister of the Environment, Déo Guide Rurema, said Sunday on the Public Broadcasters (RTNB), on the eve of the celebration of the World Day Against Ultraviolet Radiation of the Sun, Harmful to Human Beings.***

The Kigali (Rwanda) Amendment to the Montreal Protocol came into effect on January 1.

The Montreal Protocol, meanwhile, came into effect on January 1, 1989, and now has 191 stakeholders, according to the United Nations.

In Burundi, the 2019 edition of the Day will be an opportunity to communicate on the Kigali Amendment, which aims at the elimination of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) in the atmosphere, he said, among other activities.

Equipment will also be distributed to potential emitters of greenhouse gases from industrial and agricultural areas, according to Minister Rurema.

The United Nations has placed the 2019 edition of the International Day for the Protection of the Ozone Layer under the optimistic theme of "32 years and healing" since the entry into force of the Montreal Protocol.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, in his communication of circumstance, based his optimism on the elimination of "99 percent of the ozone-depleting chemicals" formerly found in refrigerators, air-conditioners, and many others products.

The latest scientific assessment of ozone depletion, conducted in 2018, demonstrates that parts of the ozone layer have recovered at a rate of 1 to 3% per decade since 2000.

At predicted rates, northern hemisphere ozone and mid-latitudes will completely heal by the 2030s. The southern hemisphere will follow in the 2050s and the polar regions by 2060.

The efforts to protect the ozone layer have also contributed to the fight against climate change, avoiding emissions of about 135 billion tons of carbon dioxide equivalent between 1990 and 2010.

"On this International Day for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, we can celebrate our success," he says.

But, "we must do everything in our power to preserve these gains, in particular to remain vigilant and fight against all illicit sources of substances that deplete the ozone layer as they arise".

In addition, "we must also fully support the Kigali amendment to the Montreal Protocol, which came into effect on January 1, 2019".

There are indications that by phasing out hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are powerful gases that warm the climate, this amendment can prevent up to 0.4 ° C increase in global temperature by the end of the century, while contributing to the protection of the ozone layer".

And by combining measures to reduce HFCs and energy efficiency improvements in the cooling industry, "we can achieve even more beneficial effects for the climate", concludes Guterres.

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