

BACK TO OFFICE REPORT

Date: September 16, 2025

Venue: FMEnv Conference Hall, 14 Aguiyi Ironsi Str, Maitama, Abuja.

NIGERIA - COMMEMORATION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION AND 2025 WORLD OZONE DAY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The 16th of September was designated as World Ozone Day (WOD) by Resolution 49/114 of the United Nations General Assembly. The day is dedicated to raising awareness on issues related to the protection of the ozone layer and promoting activities that support the implementation of ozone treaties. The theme for the 2025 World Ozone Day, "From Science to Global Action," highlights the vital role of science in addressing emerging environmental challenges. The year also marks the 40th Anniversary of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (VC). With the Montreal Protocol adopted two years later, the world committed to global action to phase out ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons. Consequently, the Federal Ministry of Environment, in collaboration with UNDP, commemorated the 40th Anniversary of the VC and the 2025 WOD on 16th September 2025 by recognizing and presenting awards to pioneers and key stakeholders who have contributed to the successful implementation of ozone layer protection treaties in Nigeria.

2.0 OBJECTIVES:

- To commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Vienna Convention and reaffirm Nigeria's commitment to the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment;
- To recognize and honour pioneers, stakeholders, and partners for their contributions to Ozone Layer protection in Nigeria;
- To showcase Nigeria's ongoing programmes and achievements in the MP Implementation through documentary presentations.

3.0 SUMMARY OF OUTCOME:

- Nigeria commemorated the 40th Anniversary of the Vienna Convention and the 2025 World Ozone Day on 16th September, alongside other Parties. It was a glamorous event attended by diverse stakeholders from Government institutions including paramilitary agencies, ministries, departments and agencies, the private sector, RAC associations, NGOs, civil society, other individuals, and the press. The presence of the Emir of Nasarawa (former Minister of Environment), accompanied by his cabinet, added great prestige and colour to the occasion.
- Highlights included goodwill messages from UNDP, UNIDO, UNEP, and the Emir of Nasarawa, a keynote address by the Honourable Minister of Environment and the major highlight of the event, "the recognition of pioneers and stakeholders through an Awards Ceremony for their invaluable roles in the implementation of Ozone Layer Protection Treaties in Nigeria".
- The Special Guest of Honour, the Emir of Nasarawa, was specially recognized for his pivotal role in the adoption of the historic Kigali Amendment during the 28th Meeting of the Parties in Kigali. The commemoration served as a great reunion platform for pioneers and stakeholders who have been instrumental in the implementation of Ozone Layer Protection Treaties in Nigeria, and the National Ozone Officer was highly commended for organizing such a remarkable event that brought together the great minds behind the country's ozone layer protection efforts.

- Interactive session on the challenges and strategies for ozone layer protection, as well as Nigeria's commitment to public awareness, effective policies, and the adoption of ozone- and climate-friendly technologies, was conducted with the Director and National Ozone Officer on Radio and the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA).

4.0 DETAILED ACTIVITIES:

The occasion commenced at 10:00 a.m. with opening remarks by the Director of Pollution Control and Environmental Health, Engr. Dr. (Mrs.) Bahijjahtu H. Abubakar, FNSE. Afterwards, the 2025 World Ozone Day message from the UNEP Executive Director, Inger Andersen, was displayed. This was followed by goodwill messages from the UNDP Resident Representative, Mrs. Elsie Attafuah; the UNIDO Regional Director, represented by Dr. Osu Otu and the Special Guest of Honour, the Emir of Nasarawa, HRH Ibrahim Usman Jibril, who also delivered his goodwill message.

Subsequently, the Ozone Day Address was delivered by the Honourable Minister of Environment, Mallam Balarabe Abbas Lawal. In his address, the Minister highlighted Nigeria's achievements since ratifying both treaties in 1988, including the complete phase-out of major ozone-depleting substances and ongoing efforts to phase down HFCs under the Kigali Amendment. He also noted initiatives such as the gender mainstreaming scholarship programme for female refrigeration and air-conditioning technicians, as well as the continuous training and certification of technicians handling refrigerants. The Minister acknowledged the Implementing Agencies—UNDP, UNIDO, UNEP, and GIZ—and other stakeholders for their sustained collaboration in implementing Nigeria's ozone protection treaties. He concluded by appreciating the awardees and reaffirming Nigeria's dedication to ozone protection and climate action.

Afterwards, the awards ceremony commenced, during which the Honourable Minister recognised and honoured key Implementing Agencies such as UNDP, UNIDO, and UNEP, as well as pioneers, stakeholders, and individuals for their invaluable contributions to ozone protection. The Emir of Nasarawa, the UNDP Resident Representative, the Director II of the host department, and the Director/National Ozone Officer also participated in presenting awards to the recipients.

5.0 CLOSING:

The commemoration concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by the Director and National Ozone Officer, Engr. Idris Abdullahi at 12noon. His vote of thanks expressed deep appreciation to all guests, the Implementing agencies and other stakeholders for contributing to the success of the 40th Anniversary of the Vienna Convention and the 2025 World Ozone Day celebration. He recognized the event as both a reflection on four decades of progress in ozone layer protection and a reunion of key contributors to Ozone layer protection treaties' achievements. Special gratitude was extended to the Emir of Nasarawa, Mallam Ibrahim Usman Jibril, for his enduring support and patience in staying till the end and to the Organising Committee led by his supportive staff in the National Ozone office. Thus, the landmark commemoration of the Vienna Convention at 40 and the 2025 World Ozone Day offered Nigeria a platform to demonstrate its leadership, celebrate achievements, and strengthen partnerships in the implementation of Ozone Layer protection Treaties.

As part of the post event, the Director and National Ozone Officer, Engr. Idris Abdullahi, also featured on a special interview session at the NTA and Radio, where he discussed the challenges facing Ozone Layer protection as well as the strategies and way forward for ensuring its effective preservation. His remarks further reinforced Nigeria's commitment to sustained public awareness, policy implementation, and the adoption of Ozone- and Climate-friendly technologies.

PHOTOS



