**27th MEETING OF THE PARTIES**

**TO**

**THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL**

**ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEPLETE THE OZONE LAYER**

**4-5 NOVEMBER 2015**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**india**



**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**Madam President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Madam President,** please accept greetings of the Indian delegation on your election as the President of the 27th Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. I take this opportunity to compliment the Government of United Arab Republic for hosting the meeting and for the warm hospitality and the Secretariat, especially the Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat and her team, for making all the arrangements for the meeting.

The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer has been recognized as one of the most successful International Environment Treaty in history. All countries of the world have ratified this landmark treaty with an endeavour to protect the planet from ill effects of depletion of the Ozone layer. The Montreal Protocol has not only focused objectives and well defined targets for phase-out of production and consumption of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODSs) but also has a dynamic process for evolving policy instruments based on scientific and technical advancements.

I think a very significant and effective features of the Montreal Protocol is a robust and transparent mechanism was created for providing technical and financial assistance to the developing countries to meet their obligations as per the Montreal Protocol schedule. In the twenty eight years of its operation, extraordinary international cooperation under this treaty has lead to phase-out of production and consumption of several ODSs especially with high Ozone Depleting Potential (ODP) substances.

One of the key factors of this accomplishment was that the industrialized countries acknowledged their historic responsibility for production, consumption and emissions of ODSs that had caused the stratospheric ozone hole. The developing countries took on commitments for phasing out production and consumption of ODSs with 10 years grace period. Such common but differentiated responsibilities led to the success of the Montreal Protocol, which can now serve as a model for other international cooperation for addressing other environmental challenges.

This successful implementation and achievements would have not been possible without the close cooperation of all the Parties, and stakeholders especially the industry in developed and developing countries, academic and scientific institutions and NGOs. The Scientific community of the Environmental Effects Assessment Panel (EEAP), Scientific Assessment Panel (SAP) and Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP), the Ozone Secretariat, the Multilateral Fund (MLF) Secretariat, the implementing agencies viz UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, the World Bank and the bilateral agencies have played a key role in making the Protocol a success. On the occasion of 30th Anniversary of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, India would like to congratulate all of them for their contributions to the protection of the Ozone layer.

India became a Party to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer in 1991 and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in 1992 and has ratified all the amendments to the Protocol. India was one of the earliest developing countries to join the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol and pledged its commitments towards protection of the Ozone layer.

**Madam President,** India's contribution and achievements toward the protection of the stratospheric ozone and implementation of the Montreal Protocol are manifold. The ODS producing and consuming industries in the country were motivated by creating extensive awareness about the ill-effects of the Ozone layer depletion in the early stage of the Montreal Protocol. Simultaneously, activities related to the Montreal Protocol were initiated in the early stage of the Montreal Protocol.

India not only developed and put in place policies/regulations for phase-out of ODSs as per the Montreal Protocol schedule within the country but also played a visionary role since the inception of the Montreal Protocol including key policy negotiations. India played a key role in setting up the financial mechanism as early as in 1990 to provide the technical and financial assistance to the developing countries for implementation of the Montreal Protocol obligations. Today, the financial mechanism has proved to be a key element in making the Montreal Protocol a successful environmental treaty and could well be a model for other international arrangements.

The Government of India has further encouraged the industry for adoption of non-ODS technologies through policy and regulatory measures. The fiscal incentives in terms of customs and excise duty exemption have been provided to the investments made by industries on capital goods for converting to non-ODS technology with and without support from the MLF since 1995.

India developed and put in place the comprehensive Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 under the Environment (Protection) Act 1986. These Rules have been amended from time to time to facilitate execution of national phase-out plans so as to meet the reduction targets as per the Montreal Protocol phase-out schedule. These Rules have also been amended to align with the accelerated phase-out of production and consumption of Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation and Control) Amendment Rules, 2014 have been published in the Gazette of India in April, 2014.

I am happy to mention that since 1993 with the continued efforts made by stakeholders responsible for implementation of the Montreal Protocol activities, India has successfully phased-out completely the production and consumption of Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), Carbontetrachloride (CTC), Halons, Methyl Chloroform and Methyl Bromide as per the Montreal Protocol Schedule.

**Madam President,** the job of phase-out of production and consumption of ODSs is not yet over. There are challenges in phase-out of production and consumption of HCFCs as per the accelerated phase-out schedule of HCFCs as it is proposed to be achieved through adoption of alternatives with minimum impact on environment particularly on climate. The industry in developing countries is facing growing challenges due to non-availability of safe, environment-friendly, technically-proven, commercially-viable and cost-effective technologies for most of the applications especially for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Recognizing the challenges involved in phase-out of HCFCs, India designed the HPMP Stage-I by incorporating sectors where there was an availability of low-Global Warming Potential (GWP). The HPMP Stage-I in India has focused first on phase-out of HCFCs in foam manufacturing enterprises with large consumption of HCFCs. However, it may not be possible to follow a similar approach for HPMP Stage-II where a large number of MSMEs will be involved. In the light of the challenges faced by the industry, the Executive Committee (Ex-Com) of the MLF need to be directed for implementation of decision XIX/6, paragraph 9 in its spirit as agreed rather than a stringent condition in terms of choice of technology for industry in developing countries while approving projects and Multi Year Plans.

**Madam President**, HFCs have emerged as the main alternatives to ODSs like CFCs, HCFCs and Halons. HFCs do not deplete the Ozone layer. However, HFCs being high-GWP chemicals, the emissions of HFCs are controlled under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol.

Recognizing the growing use of HFCs and its impact on climate, some Parties to the Montreal Protocol have been submitting proposals for amendment to the Montreal Protocol for phase-down of HFCs, since 2009. India has been making efforts to understand the issues relating to this subject since the beginning of the discussion on phase-down of HFCs under the ambit of the Montreal Protocol.

India has submitted an amendment proposal in April, 2015 for phase-down of production and consumption of HFCs using expertise and institutions of the Montreal Protocol while continuing to include HFCs within the scope of UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol for accounting and reporting of emissions.

Indian amendment proposal for phase-down of HFCs is a visionary pathway to address HFCs under the Montreal Protocol taking into account challenges of ongoing phase-out of HCFCs in Article 5 Parties by incorporating flexibilities in terms of choice of alternative technologies and timeframe for transitioning from HFCs to low-GWP/zero-GWP technologies.

A flexible step-down function has been proposed for the Article 5 Parties, the steps for reduction of production and consumption to be decided by the countries depending on their national circumstances every five years for a period of next five years. This would not only enable the developing countries to meet the challenging compliance with HCFC phase-out obligations of the Montreal Protocol but would also provide flexibility to industry in these countries to move at a doable pace.

Although, the issue of phase-down of HFCs is deliberated under the Montreal Protocol but emissions of HFCs are controlled along with other GHGs under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. This is an important aspect which needs to be considered and addressed carefully. A holistic and visionary approach that addresses the concern of the developing countries needs to be evolved if we have to achieve the objective of both reducing the GHG emissions as well as continue our efforts to phase out ODSs. We are confident that the Contact Group will be addressing the concerns of all Parties and find a practical way forward.

Thank you.

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