

**Statement by Mr. Abdullahi Majeed**  
**State Minister of Environment and Energy**  
**Republic of Maldives**

**27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol**  
**November 2015**  
**Dubai, UAE**

Bismillaahirrahumaanirraheem

[Mr/Madam] President of the 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol

Ministers

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalaam Alaikum, and a very good [morning/afternoon] to you all

Let me first take this opportunity to congratulate you [Mr/Madam] president on your election to guide our work. Let me assure you of my delegation's full co-operation and support in the deliberations ahead.

It is indeed a privilege to participate in this 27<sup>th</sup> MOP of the Montreal Protocol. I would like to express my gratitude to the Government and peoples of the United Arab Emirates and the Ozone Secretariat for the excellent organization and arrangements for this meeting.

[Mr/Madam] President

As with all environmental challenges facing the globe today, our success or even failure transcends national borders. Montreal Protocol is no exception. The success of the Montreal Protocol is determined by action at the national level as well as corresponding regional and global cooperation. The Montreal Protocol has been instrumental in limiting the use of ODS and protecting our ozone layer. It is a testament to the results that can be achieved through collective and coordinated action.

The Maldives remains committed to meeting our provisions and obligations under the Protocol. We have phased out CFCs, and are on course to phase out HCFCs. We are determined to complete the phase out by 2020, ten years ahead of the Protocol schedule. To this end, we are in the process of implementing our HPMP. We are working towards an early equipment ban, to not

only accelerate our phase out schedule, but also provide an early signal to the market to switch to HCFC free alternatives.

Despite our small economy, refrigeration and cooling needs constitute an important sector. As such, the business community and the private sector are instrumental in achieving these targets. The government has been working towards building partnerships, both public and private, and providing a concrete and holistic regulatory framework. Through establishing a conducive environment for various actors, we are confident that we can meet our targets by 2020.

There is no quick fix to the environmental challenges we face. We must take on a broader, more holistic and long term approach. An approach that requires us to consider the solutions we adopt and ensure that they do not cause additional problems. With this in mind, we are looking towards measures that will allow us to leap frog to alternatives that are not only HCFC free but also low GWP. We also see the HPMP as an opportunity to adopt technologies that are energy efficient, thus providing for additional environmental co-benefits.

I take the opportunity to draw your attention towards the difficulties in the fisheries sectors in switching to HCFC free low GWP alternatives. We reiterate our calls for more focused attention towards the identification and the subsequent adoption of HCFC free and low GWP alternatives in the fisheries sector. This is highly important for countries such as the Maldives, where the fisheries sector not only forms a significant contributor to our GDP, but is also a significant constituent of refrigeration and cooling needs.

[Mr/Madam] President

Minister Royal in her opening statement at the last MOP noted that the Montreal Protocol is the success of a method. Indeed it is. It is a method predicated on sound scientific backing and continuous work in a spirit of collaboration and partnership. It is a method that that does not shy away from challenges – a method that sees constraints as an opportunity to innovate.



The phase out of HCFC presents us with such an opportunity. Concomitant to the phasing out of HCFC, we have seen an increase in the use of HFC. As an island nation, this worries us. For Maldives, as a small island developing state, environment is key to our economy, our long-term survival and indeed our entire way of life. Climate change presents an ever-looming threat to this balance. This Protocol is well placed to make substantive contribution to managing HFCs. We must then use this opportunity. Our work to protect the ozone layer should not jeopardize our efforts to address climate change.

[Mr/Madam] President

It is with this in mind that the Maldives fully lends its support to the Islands Proposal to amend the Montreal Protocol to take into account the use of HFC. I am happy to note that we have several proposals along the same line. I appreciate the hard work that has been put into these proposals. Each brings in unique perspectives and insight and can enrich our discussions. My delegation looks forward to engaging in constructive dialogue with all the proposals and ideas and concerns from Parties.

I also take the opportunity to note the progress we have made regarding the issue in the recent OEWDs. I would like to extend my delegation's sincere appreciation to the hard work and the flexibility that Parties have shown towards establishing a formal contact group to discuss the proposed amendment. I am confident that the contact group will provide a platform for us to share our ideas, our concerns and find common ground in the process.

[Mr/Madam] President

I do not intend to take much of your time. Before I conclude let me once again assure you of my delegations full co-operation and support in the work ahead.

I thank you.