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Madam President, Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentleman.

The Federated States of Micronesia thanks the government of the United Arab Emirates and the people of Dubai for their kind hospitality. We also commend the Ozone Secretariat for successfully organizing this Meeting of the Parties, which still has the potential to be a historic one that will definitively begin the next phase of the Montreal Protocol.

After six years of increasingly productive and inclusive discussions on HFC management, the Parties have the requisite knowledge and experience to begin negotiating the terms of the amendment to the Montreal Protocol to phase down HFCs.

In addition to preparing us for this pivotal moment, the last six years of discussion have yielded other positive effects along the way. Micronesia has often said that adopting the HFC amendment would send a signal to the market that would spark innovation and unlock large-scale investments. Even in the absence of an amendment, such innovation and investment has occurred on a smaller scale. We, the Parties to the Protocol, inspired this activity by bringing global attention to the problem of HFCs and demonstrating our interest and willingness to solve it. One growing area of research focuses on energy efficiency gains that could be captured in the HFC phase down. Past phase outs have catalyzed energy efficiency improvements, and we can amplify this effect by maximizing energy efficiency in the HFC phase down.

The successful formation of a formal contact group during the resumed 36th Open-Ended Working Group last week has the potential to reinforce and strengthen the signal. However, this achievement will be diminished if it is does not lead to a successful outcome at the MOP such as an agreement to adopt a basic version of the amendment or a decision to freeze or to control HFCs.

Above all, it is essential that the Parties agree on a schedule for negotiating the text and details of an HFC amendment next year, with a view to adopting an amendment at MOP28. Therefore Micronesia would endorse a Dubai Roadmap that sets forth an intensive schedule for a comprehensive and inclusive negotiation process in 2016. If parties engage in this process with clear heads and open minds, then we will find solutions to our collective technical challenges and legal challenges as well as underlying national challenges. In this regard, we note that Small Island Developing States have raised some specific concerns related to ODS disposal and climate-friendly alternatives for the marine fisheries sector, concerns which Micronesia shares and which we believe should be considered in the context of the HFC amendment negotiations or through other existing channels.

Our task in the remaining hours of MOP27 is to ensure that we set forth the principles that will lay the foundation for a plan that is fair – fair to low consuming and importing countries, fair to high ambient temperature countries, fair to high density, fair to A5 and fair to non-A5. However, fairness will ultimately reside in the details, and we cannot move to that level of discussion if parties prolong the process of resolving the eight broad challenges listed in the mandate of the contact group. Only fear of moving forward would prevent the Parties from agreeing in principal on the solutions to these broad challenges today.

A range of A5 countries have said that they want to take action related to phasing down HFCs or leapfrogging HFCs immediately. A simple amendment or decision to control HFCs could unlock the finance necessary for fast start activities and leapfrogging.

HFCs are a small but growing problem, which has been projected to add up to 0.5 degrees Celsius of warming this century, putting Small Island Developing States and other vulnerable countries at even greater risk of severe adverse impacts of climate change. Fortunately, the Montreal Protocol has the experience and expertise to phase down HFC production and consumption. Furthermore, the amendment to phase down HFCs would also complement and bolster efforts of the Parties under the UNFCCC.

Micronesia calls on all parties to be brave and take the leap forward. If some parties obstinately refuse to move forward, all of us will suffer, but the obstinate ones will fare the worst, because sooner or later the majority of the parties will be forced to move forward without them.

Thank you.