



REPÚBLICA DEMOCRÁTICA DE TIMOR-LESTE (RDTL)

27th Meeting of Parties (MOP27) to the Montreal Protocol

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Country Statement at the High Level segment

By

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Mr. President, Your Excellency

Honourable Heads of State and Government, distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honour to be here representing the Government of Timor-Leste in this 27th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Government and the people of United Arab Emirates for the hospitality in hosting this important event that addresses the issues that matter every life under the Ozone Layer. We commend the Executive Secretary of the Convention for her leadership and the team from the Ozone Secretariat for the magnificent arrangements for the realization of this event.

Timor-Leste is a small half island country and has its commitment to the Montreal Protocol and acknowledges the importance of the protection of the Ozone Layer.

Though Timor-Leste is one of the last few countries to accede to the Montreal Protocol, we have put our diligent efforts to support the international discourse and chronology of events that has been contributing tirelessly for the past three decades. This year, the year that marks the 30th Anniversary of Montreal Protocol, is special for us in Timor-Leste as well since we are in the process of developing a cohort of capable technicians leading the realization of HFC Phase-out Management Plan.

Considering that discussions on exploring the alternative more environment and ozone friendly refrigerants are going on at all fronts and have been considerations during the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol held prior to the 27th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, we are hopeful that there will be better options very soon. We trust that this 27th Meeting of Parties will provide more guidance and meaningful pathways in terms of technical researches, financing mechanisms and cooperation during the high level segment.

Mr. President,

From our end, we would like to underscore our continued commitment towards the global action to protect Ozone layer and will do our best to support the implementation of the Montreal Protocol through the nationally appropriate measures and options. Though the responsibility rests upon the nation states party to the Montreal Protocol, we would like to reiterate that the small developing countries like Timor-Leste face multiple challenges - namely technical, organizational and financial in undertaking the obligations under the Protocol. Despite limited capacities, we are proud to announce that we are moving steadily on the path to achieving one milestone after another. Our efforts remain in exploring ways of meeting as many milestones as possible.

Timor-Leste is not producing any Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) but imports them from other countries in the region. As Timor-Leste sets out to advance its economic growth and improve social conditions it needs to import ODS to service equipment that depends on these substances to function for some years or more. As all parties of Article

5 committed to phase-freeze the HCFCs consumption at the average consumption level of 2009-2010 starting from 2013, our government is happy to report that with all efforts made for controlling these Substances, Timor-Leste has achieved this first target successfully. We would like to take this opportunity to thank UNEP, the leading implementing agency for its kind support and assistance. We also thank the governments of Indonesia and Malaysia for providing us the technical expertise through their National Ozone Unit (NOU) to train our technicians and customs officers. I am also pleased to inform this forum that with the support from the multilateral funds, Timor-Leste has recently enacted an important legislation, Decree Law 36/2012 on prohibition of importation and exportation of Ozone Depleting Substances.

Mr. President

Since the enactment of this law, Timor-Leste has taken important steps to implement its HCFC Phase-out Management Plan. The importation and exportation of several ODSs are immediately prohibited. Additionally, licensing and quota system for import/export of equipment's containing ODSs have been put in place, with a dedicated National Ozone Unit to oversee their implementation.

Our attempt to accelerate the phase-out process in a steadfast manner, we are also exploring the ways of embarking on the air conditioning retrofitting and refrigerant replacement exercise in the government owned buildings. We believe this way we would be walking the talk and would be able to demonstrate at the national as well as regional and global level, what can be achieved through small but crucial interventions.

Mr. President,

This year marks 30th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol and 6th anniversary for Timor-Leste of acceding to the Protocol. Timor Leste is a small half-island state vulnerable to the different climate induced disasters and climate change impacts. Through our domestic and nationally appropriate phase-out path and climate change mitigation options, we are moving towards meeting the dual objective of Montreal

Protocol (by controlling the emissions of ozone depleting substances) and the lowering of greenhouse gases (since hydrofluoro carbons are greenhouse gases with high global warming potential). It is a well-known fact that phase-out of the HCFC and other harmful refrigerants is associated with the cost of replacement. Considering the fact that the replacement is not straight-forward and requires varying levels of adjustments to the existing operating systems and equipment and the impact of chemical toxicity and hazards, we would like to second the amendment proposals arguing for incorporation of a planned and weighted phase-out and the need for technical and financial robustness to undertake these replacement exercises.

At this important juncture, I am pleased to inform that, Timor Leste has been exploring of the nationally appropriate low carbon development pathways and developing the menu of options to promote green economy in the country. Timor Leste is looking to adopt a holistic approach in which the multi-faceted measures will help the country meet the requirements under the Montreal Protocol and voluntary contribution towards mitigation of the greenhouse gases. We believe that *"small is beautiful"* and that in this global quest to protect the protecting layer of Ozone, *"every drop matters"*.

Mr. President,

At the end, we would like to extend our gratitude to the Multilateral Fund for the crucial support bestowed upon us in conceptualizing, designing, formulating and implementing the activities in compliance to the Montreal Protocol. We remain committed to meeting the goals laid forward by the Montreal Protocol and rely on the unwavering support from Multilateral Fund and agencies to strengthen the enabling environment for countries like Timor-Leste to comply with the vision and goals led by Montreal Protocol. For us in Timor-Leste, we see an opportunity of linking the Montreal Protocol activities with those of the Sustainable Development Goals and hence we are in the process of identifying the priority Sustainable Development Goals appropriate for

our country. The assistance has been highly appreciated and we request the Multilateral Fund to continuously support the Institutional Strengthening Project to enable Article 5 countries to be in compliance with the Montreal Protocol.

Finally I thank you Mr. President