



**TWENTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO
THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL: DUBAI, UNITED ARAB
EMIRATES: 1ST – 5TH NOVEMBER 2015.**

STATEMENT BY HON. OPPAH MUCHINGURI-KASHIRI
(M.P.)
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND CLIMATE
GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE

President of the 27th Meeting of Parties to the Montreal
Protocol

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

Firstly, I would like to join other delegates who have spoken before me to extend to you, Mr. President, my warmest congratulations on your election to the bureau of the 27th Meeting of Parties to the Montreal Protocol. I would like to assure you of my Government's support and utmost co-operation during your tenure of Presidency.

I also extend my gratitude and appreciation to the Government of United Arab Emirates for the warm hospitality since our arrival into this country. In addition, I also wish to thank the Ozone Secretariat for the excellent arrangements for my delegation to attend this important meeting.

Mr President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and gentlemen, the progress we have collectively made in phasing out the production and consumption of ODSs is very evident not only from the data submitted by Parties and compiled by the Ozone Secretariat but most importantly from the latest findings by the Scientific Assessment Panel (SAP). The SAP Report confirms that the ozone hole is recovering and this is as a result of the collaborative efforts by all Governments of the World, Industry, NGOs and especially the Media in addressing this global problem. I therefore extend my appreciation and congratulations to the Ozone Family for the great achievements we have made so far.

Mr. President, 2015 marks the phase out of methyl bromide and methyl chloroform in developing countries. This leaves us with HCFCs as the only remaining ODSs to be phased out. Phasing out HCFCs will no doubt have a significant contribution to current efforts under the UNFCCC to reduce impacts of climate change. Montreal Protocol has a complimentary role to play by phasing down HFCs that were introduced as replacements for CFCs and HCFCs particularly in refrigeration and air conditioning.

Mr President, the impacts of Climate Change are being felt and experienced in most parts of the globe more than ever before. As we tackle the phase out of the remaining ODSs, namely the HCFCs, I call upon the Montreal Protocol Parties to play their complementary role by adopting very low Global Warming Potential alternatives particularly in the refrigeration and air conditioning sector.

If this is not done urgently, the benefits of the recovery of the Ozone Layer we are witnessing today will soon be outweighed by the adverse impacts of climate change and other global environmental problems. These global environmental problems are closely intertwined so much that solving one without due consideration of the others will result in catastrophic results for the entire planet. We have one earth, let's act collectively to save our planet.

Mr. President, on behalf of the African States, I call upon the Parties to the Montreal Protocol to speedily agree on best ways to manage HFCs. The discussions on HFC Management have been going on for too long as the World continues to experience one catastrophe after another as a result of continued build up of these gases into the atmosphere. A formal agreement should be reached for the avoidance of such high GWP alternatives to HCFCs the betterment of life for generations to come. It is therefore my wish that at the conclusion of this meeting, we adopt a decision to phase down HFCs as the Montreal Protocol has the Institutional capacity to manage such gases in the same way CFCs and HCFCs are being managed

As a developing nation, Zimbabwe is faced with other socio-economic responsibilities in addition to its environmental protection obligations. This calls for strict and at times unbalanced allocation of scarce resources within the country. The Multilateral Fund has so far played an important role in my country's successful ODS Phase out programmes. With the phase out of HCFCs now gathering momentum in my country, continued funding is needed to comply with HCFC control measures.

Our refrigeration and air conditioning sector needs adequate financial and technological support to shift to non-HCFC and non HFC technologies.

Mr President, allow me to express my sincere gratitude to the assistance my Country has received from the Multilateral Fund Secretariat over the years. However, there are challenges that my Government is facing in the implementation of the HCFC Phase out Management Plan which require continued assistance. The major challenge is the non availability of alternative technologies at reasonable cost. Currently, refrigeration technicians cannot get Hydrocarbon refrigerants and servicing tools at affordable prices locally or within the region. Assistance in this regard will be greatly appreciated.

In conclusion, Mr. President, my Government strongly supports the adoption of decisions that will mitigate the adverse impacts of Climate Change through use of zero or very low GWP refrigerants. The success of the Montreal Protocol in isolation will not be a major cause for celebration if other environmental problems are not adequately resolved.

I thank you all for your attention.