



**INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF REFRIGERATION
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Dubai

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Statement

given by Didier Coulomb,

Director General of the International Institute of Refrigeration (IIR)

Madam, Mr President, Dear Delegates,

The International Institute of Refrigeration (IIR) is an independent intergovernmental science and technology based organization which promotes knowledge of refrigeration and associated technologies that improve quality of life in a cost-effective and environmentally sustainable manner including:

- Food quality and safety from farm to consumer
- Comfort in homes and commercial buildings
- Health products and services
- Low temperature technology and liquefied gas technology
- Energy efficiency
- Use of non-ozone-depleting and low global warming refrigerants in a safe manner.

Refrigeration (including air conditioning) is indispensable to life, thus its use will continue to expand steadily in the future, particularly in developing countries.

However, refrigeration contributes to two major threats to the environment: ozone depletion and climate change. Initial actions designed to address these issues led to the Montreal and Kyoto Protocols.

The impact of the refrigeration sector on the environment is two-fold:

- Refrigeration uses refrigerant fluids, some of which exert a negative effect on the environment if released into the atmosphere due to equipment leaks or incomplete recovery when disposal of equipment takes place:
 - CFCs, and to a lesser extent HCFCs, contribute to the depletion of stratospheric ozone
 - CFCs, HCFCs and HFCs are generally potent greenhouse gases which cause global warming.
- Refrigeration technologies use energy and thus indirectly contribute to the emission of CO₂. Refrigeration accounts for about 17% of worldwide electricity use. For this reason, and also in order to address cost and future power production capacity issues, replacement of a refrigeration system is acceptable only if the energy efficiency of the new system is greater than that of the system it replaces.

Consequently, the IIR has been fostering production and dissemination of impartial scientific information by organizing conferences, publishing guides and Informatory Notes in order to assist all stakeholders, countries, businesses, universities, to reduce the emission of refrigerants and the energy consumption of equipment. This is reflected in 2015 by:

- The publication of Informatory Notes on a range of regulations limiting the use of HFCs with a focus on the European regulation on fluorinated gases, on evaporative cooling, on certification of technicians and engineers, on the role of refrigeration in the global economy, etc....
- The publication of a guide on CO₂ and a guide on indirect refrigeration and heat pump systems
- The organization of conferences, for instance in May on Ammonia and CO₂
- The actions of IIR working groups, on Life Cycle Climate Performance of refrigerating equipment, on the cold chain in warm countries ... and on regional projects, on magnetic cooling, on alternative refrigerants ...

2015 is a key year for all of us, with the adoption of plans for the phase-out of HCFCs, the establishment of new European regulations on HFCs and especially with the Paris meeting on the climate and the possible adoption of a new international agreement on global warming. In any case, we must develop and adopt low-GWP, high-efficiency technologies in the refrigeration sector in all countries.

The IIR will help you to do that, in an impartial manner.
Make use of our expertise. Thank you.