

**Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

**National Environmental Protection Agency**

**Third Extraordinary Meeting of the Parties (22 - 23 July 2016)**

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Madam. Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen!

On behalf of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the people and the National Environmental Protection Agency, I would like to congratulate the secretariat of the Montreal Protocol for Ozone Depletion Substances, the ozone secretariat, the Republic of Austria and the organizers for their efforts to make the Resumed OEWG37, OEWG38 and the extraordinary meeting a reality here in Vienna.

Afghanistan ratified the Montreal Protocol on substances that depletes the ozone layer in June 2004, to phase out use of ozone depleting substances. My country believes that MP is among the most successful multilateral environmental treaties in the history and has made major accomplishments. The amendment to include HFCs has set a course for actions that avoids 0.5C of warming by the end of the century. However, like similar countries, rapid economic growth due to low established baseline, dramatically increased the demand for all kind of goods and services including refrigerant equipment and gases, which should controlled under the Montreal Protocol. We acknowledge that despite all challenges, good progress we have made, to accomplish the tasks and relevant obligations under Montreal Protocol.

According to the information provided by the Afghan customs authorities, used refrigerators, air conditions, compressors and commercial cooling machines are often smuggled. To combat illegal trade, it is absolutely necessary to empower the Afghan customs on the principals of MP and also encourage the importers to cooperate.

As a landlocked country, entry ports can only be accessed through neighbouring countries including Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Iran and China. Thousands kilometres of border are not controlled, which provide incentives for illegal imports of goods including refrigerant gases.

Madam. Chair

Afghanistan would like to propose support the proposed amendment with the consensus of all parties in 2016. The year 2017 will be our proposed time as the start for baseline date. We also call for the World Customs Organization (WCO) to establish a specialized category for HFCs and products using HFCs to track such products across borders and transfer the practice to the national-level efforts to assign unique tariff codes on HFC products. With regards to Freeze date, my country support the ideas of 2025. On the phase-down schedule, we prefer to adjust the schedule with careful coordination between non-Article 5 and Article 5 phase-down schedules. We emphasize on a reasonable time for freezing of consumption including a series of technologies that could be easily and quickly adopted. A technical review to periodically assess the state of alternatives of which most of party countries are proposing will be ideal. We also support the completion of consolidated draft amendment to the protocol as proposed by France and other parties. In terms of financing, consideration of the geographical and political situation of parties are very important.

Madam Chair

I trust that parties will act swiftly to solve the environmental problem and reduce HFCs by amendment to the Montreal Protocol which is best to regulate these substances. Therefore, Afghanistan welcomes the intent of the CRPs on establishing a standards coordination group with practical modalities, that can be achievable for all parties.

In conclusion, I would like to bring to your kind attention that my country is a special cases in terms of circumstances of working and different from the other parties. It is still in conflicts, uncontrolled borders, and traditional administrative system. Every single movements for reduction and limiting the ODS by our team is with probable risks. We were supposed to loss our ozone officer in an attack of ODS illegal importer just couple of months ago. My team receives warnings when they inspect the companies, borders and other stocks.

Following ratification of Montreal Protocol, Afghanistan has made good progress in achieving the targets including but not limited to:

1. Implementation of first phase of Montreal Protocol and phase-out of CFCs. Holones, Carbon Tetra Chloride (CTC) in 2010

2. Reduction and prohibition of import of CFCs including R12 with the support of relevant organizations. This has resulted that Afghanistan receive the award of successful country in 2008,2009, 2011 and 2012
3. Under the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of MP, works on gradual phase out of HCFC and prohibit the production and import of the said gases until 2040.
4. Training and capacity building of 866 custom officers
5. Training of 105 of law enforcement organizations
6. Training of 380 technicians
7. Distribution of 18 RTI
8. Distribution of 130 ODS recycling machines
9. Training of 5 master trainer of refrigerators technicians
10. Reduction of 176 MT ODS
11. Prohibition of CFCs, Carbon Tetra Chloride , Haloons
12. Fixation of HCFC consumption in 2013
13. Public Awareness
14. Publish of 10 questions and 10 answers.
15. The most successful program was awareness of religious scholars and transformation of messages through Mosques.

In the end, Afghanistan has been committed, and will be committed to work for the achievement of every single item of the protocol.

Thank you