



COUNTRY STATEMENT BY

**DATUK DR. CHING THOO A/L KIM
SECRETARY-GENERAL
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (NRES)**

AS HEAD OF THE MALAYSIAN DELEGATION

FOR

**COMBINED 13TH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
PARTIES TO THE VIENNA CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION
OF THE OZONE LAYER (13th COP) AND THE 36TH MEETING OF
THE PARTIES TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES
THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER (36th MOP)**

(HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT)

31 OCTOBER – 1 NOVEMBER 2024

**UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE CENTRE (UNCC)
BANGKOK, THAILAND**

Mr./ Ms. XXXXX

President of the Combined 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, and the 36th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

Ms. Megumi Seki Nakamura

Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning / Good afternoon.

1. On behalf of the Government of Malaysia, I congratulate you, **Mr./Ms. President**, on your well-deserved election as the President of the Combined 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the 36th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

2. Malaysia sincerely thanks the Government of Thailand and the United Nations for their warm hospitality and outstanding efforts in organising this important meeting. We fully support your leadership, Mr. President, and stand firmly behind the collective efforts to ensure its success. Malaysia is committed to working together to achieve the shared objectives of this gathering.

3. As we commence the combined 13th Conference and the 36th Meeting of the Parties in 2024, we celebrate 36 years of steadfast global commitment to protecting the ozone layer. The scientific community has highlighted the positive impact of these efforts, which is evident in the ongoing recovery of the ozone layer. This success is a testimony of what can be accomplished through international cooperation and the global community addressing the triple planetary crisis - climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss.

4. As a committed Party to the Montreal Protocol, Malaysia has proudly achieved a significant milestone by completing Stage II of our HCFC Phase-Out Management Plan (HPMP). This initiative has enabled 55 small and medium enterprises in the foam sector to transition to ozone-friendly technologies and adopt more sustainable business practices. In 2023, Malaysia recorded an approximately 70% reduction in HCFC consumption, surpassing the Protocol's target of a 43% reduction. Furthermore, as of 1st January 2023, Malaysia implemented a complete ban on importing HCFC-141b in the foam sector.

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen,

5. This year, Malaysia is embarking on the final HCFC Phase-Out Management Plan (HPMP), which aims to eliminate the remaining HCFC consumption by 2030. We will strengthen our national servicing sector's infrastructure and technical capacities by implementing comprehensive training programs and harmonising certification for technicians. Additionally, we will enhance regulatory systems to manage the transition of HCFC-based equipment to alternatives. We aim to foster a sustainable

economy that protects the environment and reduces public living costs, ensuring a healthier and more affordable future for all Malaysians.

6. As we transition from ozone protection to climate action, Malaysia is simultaneously implementing the first stage of our Kigali Implementation Plan (KIP) to reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding Earth's life. Starting 1st January 2024, Malaysia introduced HFC quota allocations as part of our commitment under the Kigali Amendment to regulate the import and export of HFCs, which are potent greenhouse gases. The funding approved by the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for Malaysia's Kigali Implementation Plan Stage I, covering the period of 2024 to 2029, is essential for implementing the strategies outlined in the plan and ensuring compliance with our obligations under the Montreal Protocol.

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen,

7. I want to reiterate that Malaysia's Kigali Implementation Plan is vital in extending the Montreal Protocol's efforts to combat climate change and align with the broader climate agenda. The Plan addresses critical challenges, such as maintaining energy efficiency with low-global-warming-potential (GWP) alternatives, ensuring safety due to the flammability and toxicity of some alternatives, and managing the controlled substances responsibly. This provides Malaysia with an opportunity to integrate the phasedown of HFCs into our national sustainable development priorities for low-carbon, green growth, and a sustainable lifestyle, complementing Malaysia's highly aspirational approach to decarbonising by committing to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 2050.

8. Malaysia views the HFC phase-down as a significant challenge, particularly for Article 5 countries, unless affordable, competitive alternatives and technologies are readily available. Critical uncertainties remain regarding safety standards, especially concerning the flammability, toxicity, and high-pressure conditions associated with new alternative substances. Furthermore, the growing concern over per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), known for their persistence in the environment and potential health risks, adds complexity to this transition.

9. Malaysia recognises the urgent need for further research and collaboration to address these challenges. It is of utmost importance to provide capacity-building and technical assistance to national ozone officers, customs and related enforcement agencies, and government stakeholders. This support will enhance their knowledge of emerging issues and the latest available alternative technologies, ensuring that ODS phase-out and HFC phase-down efforts are conducted to safeguard environmental and public health while facilitating a safe and sustainable transition.

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen,

10. Malaysia would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Montreal Protocol for its continuous support, mainly through the financial assistance provided by the Multilateral Fund (MLF). We also would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the donor parties for their ongoing financial commitment to ensure the successful implementation of the Protocol. In conclusion, we would like to reaffirm our strong commitment and unwavering support to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances

that Deplete the Ozone Layer, recognising its vital role in addressing ozone depletion and global warming concerns.

11. We firmly believe that, with the total commitment and cooperation of all Parties, we can achieve the Protocol's long-term goals, contributing to a safer, more sustainable environment and mitigating the impacts of climate change for present and future generations. **Protect The Ozone Layer, Advancing Climate Action, Our Shared Responsibility.**

Thank you.

31 October 2024