

**Ozone COP13MOP36 – National Statement**  
**Deputy Minister for Climate Change, Environment, and Energy**  
**Date and Time: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024, 10:00**  
**Venue:UNCC, Bangkok, Thailand**

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen.

Assalam Alaikum, and a very good evening to all of you.

At the outset, let me express my gratitude to the Kingdom of Thailand for the warm hospitality and the Ozone Secretariat for the excellent arrangements to welcome us to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the Thirty-Sixth Meeting of the Parties.

Montreal Protocol is a testament to what can be achieved with collective action. Over the years, the Protocol has been remarkably successful in safeguarding the ozone layer and driving global climate action.

For Maldives, a small island developing state, climate change is no longer a threat but a lived reality. Without effective and urgent

climate action, the frequency and magnitude of damages will be devastating.

Recognizing the urgent need to address the climate crisis, Maldives is doing its part. In 2020, we became the first developing country to successfully phase out HCFCs. This was done ten years ahead of the schedule, in large part due to the assistance we received from the Ozone Secretariat. I would like to take this moment to thank the Secretariat and the Multilateral Fund for the continued assistance to Maldives, and all Parties in implementing our HCFC Phase-Out Management Plans.

For Maldives, this milestone not only eliminated 4.6 ODP tonnes of HCFC-22 but also delivered climate benefits by preventing over 151,000 metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Building on this progress, we are actively developing the Maldives' HFC phase-down plan, in accordance with the targets set by the Kigali Amendment.

[Mr President]

The HFC phase out comes with significant technical challenges. These include the need for alternative refrigerants with lower Global Warming Potential and the complexities around handling flammable gases. These challenges are particularly stark for small island developing states like us. For Maldives, suitable alternative for our fisheries sector is still wanting. This sector is tightly linked to livelihoods and our food security.

[Distinguished Delegates]

As we phase down HFCs, we must also prioritize energy-efficient cooling technologies and climate-friendly refrigerants. We must also look into the adoption of Lifecycle Refrigerant Management practices, including the recovery and reclamation of refrigerants at the end of their use. This should reflect the circumstance and available resources for Low Volume Consuming Countries. By combining these efforts with effective training and maintenance,

we can not only reduce emissions but also unlock new opportunities for a sustainable future.

We remain confident that through continued dialogue in this platform and through global collaboration, Montreal Protocol will remain as a model of international. Together, we can work to guarantee a liveable, healthy planet for the generations to come.

I Thank you.