

STATEMENT BY

**HONOURABLE KIRIAU TUREPU,
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT,
COOK ISLANDS**

**TO THE TENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF
THE PARTIES (COP 10) TO THE VIENNA CONVENTION
AND
TWENTY SIXTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES (MOP 26)
TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES
THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER**

HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT

17-21 November 2014

Thank you [Mister/Madam] President

Mr. President

Excellencies

Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

Kia Orana and a very good [morning/afternoon] to you all.

We would like to thank the Government and people of France for hosting this Tenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Vienna Convention and this Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

It is, indeed, a great honour and privilege for me and my country to participate in the Tenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Vienna Convention and this Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol here in the “City of Love”, Paris

We recognize that this convention is the United Nations treaty with the largest number of ratifications, along with the Montreal Protocol. We commend the efforts of Parties and the solid support this [Convention/Protocol] has provided, which has resulted in global reductions to the tune of about 98% of production and consumption of ozone depleting substances.

[Mister/Madam] President, my delegation wishes to congratulate you on your appointment and express our support in the work you are going to perform in this high office.

I would also like to give my sincere gratitude and appreciation to Mister/Madam [President, Mr Nino Tkhlava] and the Bureau for a job well done. I believe, under your able leadership [Mister/Madam] President, we would be able to also have fruitful outcomes in this joint Tenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Vienna Convention and this the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol.

[Mister/Madam] President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since accession to the Montreal Protocol on the 22nd December 2003, the Cook Islands stands committed to the protection of the ozone layer and to implement its obligations under Montreal Protocol. The Cook Islands has eliminated the use of CFCs, in accordance with the phase out schedule determined by the Montreal Protocol. We have also successfully accelerated our phased-out of HCFCs to over 50% of our baseline set in from the years 2009 and 2010.

All these achievements were possible due to the concrete support provided by the Montreal Protocol, the strong political commitment of the Government of Cook Islands and a very effective Public-Private Partnership programme initiated by the government and through programs aimed at providing necessary capacity building to Customs Officials and Refrigeration & Air-Conditioning technicians. We have also, in partnership with the Asian Development Bank and its programme, “Promoting Energy Efficiency in the Pacific (PEEP)” facilitated the replacement of ‘old’ refrigerators and freezers with Montreal Protocol compliant alternatives.

[Mister/Madam] President,

- In this age of Climate Change, the Cook Islands and many of the other Small Island Developing States have become innocent victims of Climate Change. With that being said and in light of the current negotiations taking place under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change with respect to the 2015 Agreement, the Cook Islands underscores that the global nature of the climate change needs the widest possible cooperation by all countries and organizations in order to combat climate change adverse impacts. Whilst recognizing the cooperation by the Convention/Protocol, the Cook Islands notes that the strengthening of the long-term temperature goal is of critical importance for us as a SIDS country therefore temperature rises above 1.5 degrees cannot be an option for low lying small islands like the Cook Islands. Therefore the alternative refrigerant, R134a, although compliant with the Protocol, has a high Global-warming potential and we therefore urge the [Convention/Protocol] to explore Hydrocarbon options and if agreed, provide the necessary support through the Multilateral Fund to Article 5 countries to enable the safe handling of these alternatives as these are arriving on our shores.

Cook Islands would also like to put forward the following request;

1. That the Montreal Protocol should conduct a specific assessment study on the development cost of phase-out of ozone depleting substances.
2. That the Montreal Protocol should conduct a specific assessment study on the development cost for the replacement technologies that are ozone and climate friendly and energy efficient.
3. Thirdly, for the Montreal Protocol to take into consideration the needs to factor in the costs of safe disposal of the replaced ODS within the Pacific Region and the Small Island Developing States.

We recognize that achieving the phase-out is ambitious but achievable and that the [Convention/Protocol] is providing support towards achieving this, we would like to urge the [Convention/Protocol] to continue to support

Article 5 countries who have reached the 100% phase-out targets and now need to maintain this level, particularly in the areas of public awareness and enforcement capacity.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I conclude, I would like to convey our deep appreciation to the Ozone Secretariat for their hard work in providing excellent arrangements for the meeting. We would be happy to work with other parties on any initiative in protecting our planet for the future generation.

Meitaki maata, Thank you all

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