

**Statement by Mr. Yoshihiro Katayama,
the Head of the Japanese Delegation
of the 25th Meeting of the Parties to the
Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer
21 – 25 October, 2013
Bangkok, Thailand**

Chairman,

Distinguished delegates,

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to the effort made by the Executive Secretary and the members of the Ozone Secretariat in organizing this important meeting, and heartfelt gratitude to the warm hospitality offered by the Government of Thailand.

In the past 26 years, the Montreal Protocol has substantially reduced the production and consumption of ODS, contributed not only to the ozone layer protection but also to the global warming mitigation. The Montreal Protocol has contributed to Sustainable Development, by encouraging good cooperation between developed and developing countries in tackling common global challenges. Although there is no specific target related to ODS in the ongoing discussion of SDGs, the mechanism employed in the Montreal Protocol, such as setting goals and determining phase-down

schedule, could well contribute to a successful formulation of SDGs.

Although there is a long way to go before SDGs are compiled, there is no doubt that environment will continue to be one of the key elements of Sustainable Development. In order to “meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”, a holistic approach is needed across the lines between the present and future generations, and between developing and developed countries.

At present, many parties to the Montreal Protocol are facing the challenges of HCFC phase-out. This has led to the discussion on how to develop low-GWP alternatives to HCFCs and HFCs in future. Although HFCs do not destroy the ozone layer, their negative impact will be greater in future, as their use grows rapidly. Japan has been actively working to phase down HFCs by promoting the development and use of low-GWP alternatives. Even before the discussion group on the North American amendment proposal took place at the OEWG in June, Japan introduced new legislation including measures to phase down the production and import of HFCs and promotion of low-GWP alternatives as well as emission reduction of HFCs used in products and equipment. By tackling the issue of HFCs, we can cope with future challenges by learning from the

past experiences of the Montreal Protocol.

Japan recognizes that financial assistance to Article 5 Parties through the MLF has played a critical role in facilitating cooperation between developing and developed countries under the Montreal Protocol. Japan, as the second largest donor to the MLF, believes it essential that the MLF is used as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Considering recent developments in the international community which have made some of the developing countries achieve remarkable economic growth, Japan expects that Article 5 countries with high economic growth play responsible and appropriate roles. Since international effort is needed to tackle global challenges, Japan considers that economic conditions of individual countries should be taken into account in future MLF replenishments.

Distinguished delegates,

The Montreal Protocol is coming to its juncture. We need to think about how to merge our effort with other international conventions and frameworks, which have not necessarily addressed the protection of the ozone layer. What we need is a holistic and flexible approach, on how to

utilize what we have achieved under the Montreal protocol to the broader goal of the achievement of Sustainable Development.

Thank you for your attention.