

Statement
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High-Level Segment of the 28th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on
Substances that Depletes the Ozone Layer
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Kigali, Rwanda

Excellency Ministers, Vice-Ministers of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol
Executive Secretary to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol
Distinguished Delegates and Representatives of International Organizations,
Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great pleasure for me to be invited to attend the 28th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Depletes the Ozone Layer in Kigali, Rwanda, which is plentiful of natural resources. On behalf of the Government of Lao PDR, may I express our deep and sincere appreciation to the Government of Rwanda and their officials for their graciously hosting the 28th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol and the excellent arrangements and hospitality made for the Meeting. I also extend my appreciation to the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Ozone Secretariat and all associated staff for their excellent preparedness and organization of this important Meeting.

Excellency, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen;

The Government of Lao PDR has delegated me to confirm commitment of Lao PDR to join our hands toward the protection of global environment including the restore and protection of the ozone layer through the implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. These include the implementation of HCFC Phase-out Management Plan Stage I, the establishment of Minister Decision on Ozone Depleting Substances Control to strengthen national licensing system and collaboration with neighboring countries to prevent illegal movement of ozone depleting substances or ODS at international and local customs check points along the land border. As a result, Lao PDR could successfully comply with HCFC reduction schedules as per the Montreal Protocol obligations during 2013-2015.

Notwithstanding the fact that Lao PDR has successfully implemented HCFC Phase-out Management Plan and licensing system leading to compliance with HCFC reduction schedule under the Montreal Protocol, it is essential for Lao PDR to maintain this momentum. A number of activities must be continuingly implemented to overcome the challenges in phasing out HCFC in the next five year from 2016 to achieve 35% reduction of HCFC consumption in 2020.

Apart from the implementation of HCFC Phase-out Management Plan, Lao PDR is in the process of finalizing the survey results under Multilateral Fund Project namely, ODS Alternatives Survey. As most of commercially viable alternatives in Lao PDR are powerful greenhouse gases, they significantly contribute to global warming problem. As the Parties are negotiation the HFC Phase-down Amendment under the Montreal Protocol, the ODS Alternatives Survey Project would play a critical role for developing countries to understand a comprehensive overview of their national markets where ODS alternatives have been and will be phased in. The Government of Lao PDR has fully recognized potential implications of climate change to human and global environment. During the 28th and 29th ASEAN Summits took place in our Vientiane Capital City from 6-8 September 2016, the Government of Lao PDR agreed to adopt the HFC Phase-down Amendment in 2016.

Excellency, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen;

On behalf of the Government of Lao PDR, I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to donor countries; the Executive Committee and the Multilateral Fund Secretariat in providing continue financial support to Lao PDR through assistance of the United Nation Environment Programme and the Government of France. This has allowed Lao PDR to smoothly implement activities necessary for the phase-out of ODS and meet all obligations under the Montreal Protocol. Again, thank you much for very warm hospitality of the Government of Rwanda and the Ozone Secretariat in arranging the venue and accommodation to facilitate this important meeting in a smooth manner.

Finally, I wish the 28th Meeting of the Parties a success and achieve the objective and plan to continue restore and preserve the ozone layer as per the theme of international ozone day "**Ozone and Climate: Restored by a world united**". This has well demonstrated spirit of global cooperation among Parties and agencies in addressing the global environmental challenge. Our Delegation would like to inform the Meeting that Lao PDR is very proud to be a part of this honorable Meeting.

May I wish you all good health, prosperity, and wish the 28th Meeting of the Parties a success.

I thank you very much for your kind attention!