Madam President, distinguished delegates, colleagues,

On behalf of the International Institute of Refrigeration, I wish to thank the Government of Rwanda for its hospitality and extend our compliments to the Secretariat of the Montreal Protocol and all Parties for their continued commitment to international cooperation and environmental protection.

I would also like to acknowledge the longstanding cooperation between the IIR, UNEP and the Montreal Protocol. This collaboration dates back to the early years of the Protocol, when in June 1989, the first Refrigeration, Air-Conditioning and Heat Pumps Technical Options Report was published by UNEP with the support of the IIR. We remain fully committed to continuing this scientific and technical cooperation in the years ahead.

Today, ten years after the adoption of the Kigali Amendment, we celebrate the progress that has been achieved, and the spirit of international cooperation that continues to drive our sector forward. Allow me to share a perspective from the refrigeration scientific community:

The transition to low GWP refrigerants under the Kigali Amendment represents tremendous progress. To fully reap its climate benefits, we need to adopt a whole-system approach, considering not only the choice of refrigerant, but also system energy efficiency and the environmental impact of the energy sources used. Safe and responsible system design, operation and maintenance are equally essential.

Putting this approach into practice requires implementing solutions which are adapted to local needs and conditions. The choice of technology depends on the application, climate, energy infrastructure, availability of equipment and technical capacity. Scientific research and expertise help us identify the most appropriate solutions, balancing environmental performance, safety and economic feasibility.

I would also like to highlight the growing importance of heat pumping technologies, reminding us that heating and cooling are two sides of the same coin.

Heat pumps offer significant opportunities worldwide. They are increasingly contributing to the electrification and decarbonisation of heating, while strengthening energy security and reducing dependence on fossil fuels, particularly in today's context of geopolitical uncertainties.

At the same time, thermal integration through heat recovery, the use of waste heat and renewable energy resources, combined with thermal storage, can improve refrigeration system efficiency, support industrial decarbonisation and strengthen resilience in areas where electricity supply remains unreliable.

These opportunities demonstrate the importance of considering heating and cooling together, while recognising the different priorities and circumstances of each country.

At the International Institute of Refrigeration, we are committed to generating and sharing scientific knowledge and expertise to support the Parties in this transition. This knowledge draws on scientific research, decades of expertise and advances made possible through international cooperation among scientists and technical experts from our member countries and around the world.

I would like to encourage all countries, scientific and technical institutions, international organisations and industry stakeholders to strengthen this cooperation, share their knowledge and experience, and join us in advancing scientific collaboration through the IIR.

As an intergovernmental organisation, the IIR supports its member countries in implementing the Montreal Protocol. Today, this protocol serves as a clear demonstration of what international cooperation can achieve. Building on this success, continued cooperation, guided by science and mutual trust, will be essential to advancing sustainable heating and cooling solutions that meet the needs of all nations.

Thank you.