

Dear Mr. President, fellow delegates and colleagues, and a special thank you to the government of Ecuador for hosting us here in Quito.

In our everyday work, we clearly see that over its now more than 30-year lifetime, and even more in the last years after Kigali, the Montreal Protocol continue to prove its relevance and importance.

In our statement, we want to inform you about three emerging issues that are in our focus for the time being;

Firstly, earlier this year we commissioned the Norwegian Institute for Air Research to perform a screening survey to see if they could detect certain emerging synthetic chemical substances in Arctic air samples. The institute operates a sophisticated monitoring site at the Zeppelin Mountain in Spitsbergen/Svalbard. Through this screening survey, five volatile fluoroorganic and related compounds were detected in air samples in the Arctic region for the very first time. According to our current knowledge only one of them have ever been detected in environmental samples worldwide. Their presence in the vulnerable Arctic region is something that has alarmed us greatly. And, we are now very interested in finding out more about the substances involved. Information regarding in which sectors these substances are used, quantities that are in use and where emissions are emerging from, are presently rather scarce. However, what we know so far, points towards cooling and cleaning uses in electronic equipment, and in some medical applications. To get more information, we are planning to initiate further monitoring activities of these substances at the Zeppelin station in order to get a more concrete picture of their concentrations level in the atmosphere. Further, we would like to investigate their potential impact on climate, but also if they might impact the ozone layer. Information suggest that they will remain in the atmosphere for a long time, and can be transported over long-range distances. They might also have a strong Infrared-absorbance and therefore potentially can influence global warming. In addition, several of them also consists of chlorine atoms and therefore might affect the ozone layer. Therefore, more information about both their Global Warming Potential and Ozone Depleting Potential is something of interest for us. Our concern is that these now detected substances are thought to be highly persistent and degrade slowly. We feel the results of our screening survey shows the importance of maintaining and preferably strengthening atmospheric monitoring activities. We encourage other parties, in position to do so, and the scientific community to contribute

with an information gathering exercise that might make this troublesome picture clearer for all of us.

Secondly and another very important and relevant issue that shows the importance of strengthening monitoring activities is the ongoing situation with the unexpected emissions of CFC-11. We are deeply concerned about the current situation, and would like to see swift action taken to prevent that this will influence especially the timing of the ozone layer recovery and climate change in general. We feel the severity of this situation justifies a closer look and a review of the protocols institutional setup in the coming years.

In the context of strengthening monitoring, we are happy to announce that Norway is pledging an additional contribution to the Vienna Convention Trust fund for observation and research of 250,000 Norwegian kroner, which with today's exchange rate, equals to approximately 30,000 USD.

Lastly, I want to use this occasion to congratulate and sincerely thank all the 59 parties that have ratified the Kigali-amendment so far. But, also encourage countries that have not done so far, to ratify as soon as possible. Norway ratified the Kigali Amendment in September 2017 as the very first Article 2 country. Since then, we have been busy setting up the necessary regulations and a licensing system that will provide allowances for import of HFCs to Norway. This regulation is currently out for public consultation, just in time to make it operational by 1. January 2019, when the Kigali-amendment enters into force. To address the urgent need for immediate reductions in GHG emissions, we intend to reduce the cap in our national licensing system by approximately 30 % compared to our commitment in the Kigali-amendment. In practice, this will be done by discarding the HCFC part of our HFC baseline level, making fewer import quotas available than we could have done.

We think that this information reflects our deep appreciation and commitment to the Kigali-amendment. But, also the need for all of us to keep focusing on the importance of relevant monitoring programmes is very important to us.

Both to identify new potentially problematic substances but also to be able to address challenges regarding the substances controlled under the protocol.

Thank you for your attention.