**COUNTRY STATEMENT: PHILIPPINES**

**JOINT 10TH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES**

**TO THE GENEVA CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION**

**OF THE OZONE LATER AND 26TH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES**

**THAT DEPLETE THE OZONE LAYER (10 COP/26 MOP)**

**PARIS, FRANCE**

**20-21 NOVEMBER 2014 (HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT)**

**ATTY. ANALIZA REBUELTA-TEH**

**UNDERSECRETARY**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**

COP AND MOP PRESIDENTS, EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, GOOD AFTERNOON!

THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION WOULD LIKE TO COMMEND THE OZONE SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP) HEADED BY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, MS. TINA BIRMPILI, FOR THE EXCELLENT ORGANIZATION OF THIS MEETING. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXTEND OUR DEEP APPRECIATION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE FOR HOSTING THIS MEETING, AND THE UNESCO FOR PROVIDING THE VENUE FOR THE MEETING.

HIGHLY ACKNOWLEDGED IS THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE MULTILATERAL FUND (MLF) AND ITS IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES: THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP) AND THE UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (UNIDO); AND THE WORLDBANK IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ODS PHASE-OUT PROJECTS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

THE PHILIPPINES COMMENDS THE REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT PANEL MADE THIS MORNING. IT NOTED THAT THE WORLDWIDE ACTION TO PHASE-OUT ODS HAS RESULTED IN REMARKABLE SUCCESS. THE OZONE LAYER IS IN TRACK FOR RECOVERY TO 1980 BENCHMARK LEVELS BY MID-CENTURY.

INDEED, THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL CONTROLS HAVE LED TO A SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN THE EMISSIONS OF ODS OVER THE LAST 2 DECADES.

THE PHILIPPINES TAKES PRIDE OF BEING PART OF THIS EFFORT. IT HAS PHASED-OUT TOTALLY 5 OUT OF 6 SUBSTANCES CONTROLLED BY THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL. THE ONLY REMAINING SUBSTANCES ARE METHYL BROMIDE FOR QUARANTINE PRESHIPMENT USE AND HCFCs.

THE CHALLENGE NOW IS HOW DO WE AS PARTIES TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL CONTINUE TO STOP OZONE DEPLETION AND SLOW THE GROWTH OF GREENHOUSE GASSES. THE CHALLENGE REMAINS - - - FINDING SUBSTITUTES FOR THE ODS THT WILL NOT OFFSET/UNDERMINE THE CLIMATE GAINS ACHIEVED BY MONTREAL PROTOCOL SO FAR.

THE PHILIPPINES IS NOW IMPLEMENTING THE HYDROCHLOROFLUOROCARBONS (HCFC) PHASE-OUT MANAGEMENT PLAN (HPMP) STAGE 1. UNDER THE FOAM SECTOR PLAN, THE PHASE-OUT OF HCFC-141b WILL BE COMPLETED THIS YEAR TARGETTING A REDUCTION OF OVER 50% OF THE COUNTRY’S CONSUMPTION.

THE HCFC PHASE-OUT IS BEING IMPLEMENTED THROUGH A MIX OF APPROACHES THAT COVERS POLICY REFORMS, INVESTMENT IN PROCESS CONVERSION BY 20 COMPANIES, AND SUPPORT ACTIVITIES SUCH AS TRAINING/CAPACITY BUILDING OF ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, SERVICE PROVIDERS, AND KNOWLEDGE MULTIPLIERS.

THE PHILIPPINE EXPERIENCE IN THE PHASE OUT OF HDFC 141B IN THE FOAM SECTOR SHOWS THAT WE CAN ADOPT ALTERNATIVES THAT ARE BOTH OZONE AND CLIMATE FRIENDLY.

HENCE, THE PHILIPPINES SUPPORTS THE CREATION OF A CONTACT GROUP TO DISCUSS THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE HYDROFLUOROCARBON (HFC) PHASE-DOWN TO OUR OZONE LAYER PROTECTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION INITIATIVES. THROUGH OPEN AND INFORMED DISCUSSIONS, WE BELIEVE THAT WE CAN MOVE FORWARD IN A COHESIVE MANNER AND RE-AFFIRM THE OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL IN MEETING ITS OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS.

FURTHER, STRENGTHENING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL AT THE COUNTRY AND GLOBAL LEVEL NEEDS TO BE PURSUED.

VIGOROUS EFFORTS AGAINST ILLEGAL ODS TRADE NEED TO BE STEPPED UP.

OF RELEVANCE TO US IS THE CONTINUED COOPERATION BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES’ BUREAU OF CUSTOMS AND REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES SUCH AS THE WORLD CUSTOMS ORGANIZATION DEALING WITH CAPACITY BUILDING, INTELLIGENCE, AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

CONCRETE PROGRAMS, SUPPORT AND INCENTIVES FOR THE DISPOSAL/DESTRUCTION OF UNWANTED ODS STOCKS IN THE FORM OF CONFISCATED ODS, SPENT ODS FROM THE MANUFACTURERS OF ODS-BASED EQUIPMENT, AND CONTAMINATED ODS RECOVERED BY SERVICE SHOPS HAVE TO BE ACTUALIZED.

ALL THESE WOULD REQUIRE SUBSTANTIAL REPLENISHMENT OF MULTILATERAL FUNDS.

WE URGE ALL MEMBERS AND COUNTRIES TO HEIGHTEN OUR COMMITMENTS UNDER THE CONVENTION AND THE PROTOCOL. LET US PROTECT THE OZONE PROTECTING THE PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATION. THE MISSION GOES ON.

THANK YOU!