



---

**STATEMENT BY HON. GALE T.C RIGOBERT  
MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, INNOVATION,  
GENDER RELATIONS AND SUSTAINBLE  
DEVELOPMENT AND HEAD OF SAINT LUCIA'S  
DELEGATION, AT THE 30<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE  
PARTIES TO THE PARTIES TO THE MONTREAL  
PROTOCOL ON  
SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER**

**HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT**

**NOVEMBER 8-9, 2018**

**QUITO, ECUADOR**

---

Mr/Madam President;

Your Excellencies;

Distinguished Delegates;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

On behalf of the Government and people of Saint Lucia,  
I wish to extend my deepest appreciation to the Ozone  
Secretariat for the efficient organization of the 30th  
Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on  
Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. We also

---

express our utmost gratitude to the Government of Ecuador for hosting this meeting in the beautiful and historic city of Quito. Thank you for your warm welcome and hospitality, despite the cold temperature.

Distinguished Delegates,

The Government of Saint Lucia wishes to acknowledge the remarkable achievements of the Montreal Protocol over the past three decades. Under this agreement, we all committed to phasing out the use of ozone depleting substances (ODSs) in our countries, signaling a truly global effort to make changes for a greater good. Through successful and focused implementation of the Montreal Protocol, over 98% of ODSs have been phased

---

out globally, and as a result, the ozone layer is on the path to recovery.

Although we are a small nation, Saint Lucia has played its part in ensuring a healthy ozone layer for all, by phasing out a major group of ODSs, the chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), in 2008. We are also working towards the phase-out of hydro-chloro-fluorocarbons (HCFCs), in keeping with the timelines set for developing countries. However, we are mindful of the challenges which lie ahead, in particular, finding suitable replacements for these ozone depleting substances. The current alternatives to HCFCs in our markets, the hydro-fluoro-carbons (HFCs), are not sustainable, as they pose a threat to our climate.

---

We also face several barriers to the adoption of the more ozone-and climate friendly alternative refrigerants and technologies, including their limited availability in our region; higher costs; and the absence of safety standards. However, we recognize that if we, as Parties, do not act quickly to address these high global warming HFCs, we stand to erase over thirty years of climate benefits achieved through the phasing out of ODSs.

To this end, my Government wishes to convey our intention to ratify the Kigali Amendment on HFCs within the coming year and wishes to congratulate all the parties who have ratified the Amendment thus far, including my fellow countries from the English-Speaking Caribbean (Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados

---

and Grenada). Your leadership and commitment are well noted.

Distinguished Delegates,

The Montreal Protocol has long been lauded as the most successful environmental treaty ever negotiated. The success of the Protocol can largely be attributed to its practice of adopting decisions on scientific and technical assessments; the demonstration of solidarity and consistent financial support provided by developed countries to developing countries; and the strong institutions of which it comprises. It is our hope that these bodies will continue to provide the Parties with the information and support that is needed to ensure that they are able to fulfil their new obligations under

---

the Kigali Amendment. By doing so, we will continue to save our Earth for future generations to come.

My Delegation wishes to express appreciation for the support received from the Multilateral Fund Secretariat and the Implementing Agencies, namely, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, that have enabled Saint Lucia to maintain compliance with the ODS phase-out to date, and we look forward to working with you as we address HFCs in the near future.

Finally, my Government pledges to continue working with the international community and the Ozone Secretariat to ensure a healthy environment for all.

---

I thank you for your kind attention!

---