**Mandate for a possible contact group on the feasibility and ways of managing HFCs**

The Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol at its thirty-fifth meeting held in Bangkok from 22 to 24 April 2015, agreed that “it would continue to work inter-sessionally in an informal manner to study the feasibility and ways of managing HFCs, including, inter alia, the related challenges set out in annex II to the [report of the thirty-fifth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group], with a view to the establishment of a contact group on the feasibility and ways of managing HFCs at the thirty-sixth meeting of the Open-ended Working Group” (paragraph 128, UNEP/OzL.Pro.WG.1/35/6).

The informal meeting was convened on the 12-13 of June in Vienna on the above mentioned basis.

The parties have recognised in their interventions the success of the Montreal Protocol and its institutions in phasing out ODSs.

Parties agree that nothing should be considered agreed until everything is agreed.

[Parties agree that they shall resolve the list of challenges as mentioned below first.

Parties agree to consider the feasibility and ways of managing HFCs in a contact group, where the parties shall resolve the following issues:]

[Parties in a contact group shall consider the feasibility and ways of managing HFCs, where the parties first shall resolve the following issues by formulating processes, mechanisms and approaches as required thereof:]

[Parties in a contact group shall consider the feasibility and ways of managing HFCs, based on a common understanding of the following issues/principles:]

[Parties, in a contact group, shall [resolve][comprehensively address], by [identifying and elaborating] [designing and working out] processes, mechanisms and approaches, the following challenges first:]

* Recognition of the special situation of developing countries and the principles under the Montreal Protocol which have enabled sufficient additional time in the implementation of commitments by A5 countries,
* Commitment by non A5 parties to maintain the MLF as the financial mechanism and provide additional funding through MLF to enable A5 compliance with any control measures for HFCs,
* The elements in paragraph 1(a) of decision XXVI/9 in considering the feasibility and the ways of managing HFCs,
* Flexibility in implementation that enables countries to set their own strategies and set their own priorities in sectors and technologies,
* Exemption process and a mechanism for periodic review of alternatives including the consideration of availability or lack of availability of alternatives in all sectors in A5 countries and special needs for high ambient countries, based on all the elements listed in paragraph 1(a) of decision XXVI/9,
* [Linkage between the availability of alternatives and HCFC phase out,] [Relationship of HFC management with the HCFC phase out,]
* Non-party trade provisions, and
* Coordination of the Ozone Secretariat with the UNFCCC Secretariat on legal aspects, synergies and other issues with relation to HFC management under the Montreal Protocol.

[Then, ]Parties will discuss in the contact group the ways of managing HFCs including the proposed amendments and other options suggested/proposed by Parties.