

**Statement by the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
at the
30th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol
Ecuador**

Thank you, Madame President, and good afternoon, distinguished ladies and gentlemen. I would first like to apologize for the unavoidable absence of the Minister of Planning and Development, the Honourable Camille Robison-Regis. The Minister wishes to relay her highest regards to all participating nations and best wishes for a very productive Meeting.

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is pleased to join other nations in thanking the United Nations Environment Programme and the Ozone Secretariat for facilitating our participation, and extend our deep appreciation to the Government of Ecuador for its gracious hospitality and excellent facilities provided.

We also wish to acknowledge the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel and all other Working Groups of the Protocol for their excellent work and enduring commitment.

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago acceded to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol for the Phase-out of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) in August 1989, and remains highly committed to achieving and where possible exceeding our national obligations. We are also very proud to have been the 21st country worldwide to ratify the Kigali Amendment and urge other parties to expeditiously do so.

Trinidad and Tobago established the ODS Unit in August 1997, and through this Unit has successfully been managing activities of the country's phase-out programme within the context of the Country Programme (CP) which was approved by our Government in October 1996. The CP adopted a multi-sector, policy-based approach to meet our country's commitments for phasing-out all ODS.

Some of our national milestones achieved to date include:

- Implementation of a series of Public Awareness Programmes to inform the public about the country's commitment to the phase-out process as well as the need for everyone to participate in the process
- Implementation of a series of training programmes in Good Refrigeration Practices for Trainers and Technicians in the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration industry
- Implementation of a national programme for the recovery and recycling of refrigerants in the domestic and industrial refrigeration and air conditioning sectors
- Implementation of a freeze and a quota system on the importation of ODSs from July 1, 1999
- Imposing restrictions on the importation of equipment requiring the use of ODS

- Stipulating that all equipment or processes requiring the use of ODS be properly identified
- Training of Customs Officers on the control and monitoring of ODS imports and exports
- Phasing out of CFCs since December 31st 2007
- Phasing out the use of Halons as a fire-fighting substance
- Implementation of national standards and guidelines for refrigerant and equipment using refrigerant
- Implementation of a Professional Certification System for Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Technicians

At present, Trinidad and Tobago is vigorously implementing our HCFC Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP) which will address, through numerous activities, the phase out of the remaining HCFC consumption in Trinidad and Tobago, which is centered in the refrigeration and air conditioning service sectors. Thus far, Trinidad and Tobago has exceeded targets to date under the HPMP and is therefore well on the way to achieve all overall phase out obligation targets through training of the sector, improved legislative control, increased awareness of alternatives and provision of equipment.

We acknowledge the threat of illegal trade of all ODSs and have been aggressively seeking to tighten our legislative controls and monitoring mechanisms to address this issue. Our country wishes to support and encourage further investigation into illegal ODS trade and control mechanisms to this regard, as well as further research on destruction technologies and its applicability to Low Volume Consuming Countries. We also strongly support research into viable ODS alternatives.

We wish to express our sincere thanks to the Secretariat and other Implementing Agencies, for the financial and technical assistance rendered to our country thus far which has greatly aided our national successes, and look forward to receiving further support of this nature.

In closing, I would like to applaud the efforts of all those involved in the implementation of the Montreal Protocol and reiterate my country's commitment to assist the global community in the repair and recovery of our very fragile ozone layer.

Thank you