

**Statement by the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
at the
Combined Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention
and the Twenty Sixth of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good afternoon, distinguished ladies and gentlemen.

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is pleased to join other nations in participating in the combined tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and the Twenty Sixth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol. The Government would like to sincerely thank the United Nations Environment Programme and the Ozone Secretariat for facilitating our participation, and extend our deep appreciation to the Government of France for its gracious hospitality and provision of excellent facilities.

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 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.

Trinidad and Tobago established the National Ozone Unit presently within the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, 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 CFCs from July 1, 1999
- Implementation of a freeze agreement and quota system for methyl bromide
- 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
- The establishment of standards for refrigerant and related equipment
- Encouraging, where possible, the use of hydrocarbon as an alternative refrigerant
- Conversion of a local CFC Aerosol Filling Facility to a non-CFC facility
- Phasing out the use of Halons as a fire-fighting substance
- Phasing out of imports of CFCs under the Terminal Phase out Management Plan as at December 31st 2007
- The commencement of the phase out of HCFCs since January 1 2013

Our country is also liaising very closely with various implementing agencies to effectively phase out other ozone depleting substances such as methyl bromide, through training of the sector, improved legislative control, increased awareness of alternatives and provision of equipment. We are on track to phase out Methyl Bromide use in non quarantine and pre shipment from January 1, 2015.

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. As a small island developing state which feels the effects of Climate Change, we also strongly support the call to discuss the inclusion of HFCs within the Montreal Protocol. Our country also wishes to support and encourage further investigation into illegal ODS trade and other control mechanisms to this regard, such as the strengthening of Custom Codes.

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.