



REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI

Statement

by

Honorable Minister Mr. Alexander Teabo

Minister of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development

of the Republic of Kiribati

High level Segment,
11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of
the Ozone Layer (COP 11) *and* 29th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on
Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (MOP 29)
MONTREAL, CANADA.

23-24th November, 2017

Presidents
Heads of Delegations
Distinguished delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to bring warm greetings from the Government and people of Kiribati whose behalf I proudly represent at this important gathering.

Kam na mauri!!!

Acknowledgement

I join previous speakers to thank the Ozone Secretariat for all the excellent arrangement to make this meeting successful and I also wish to thank the people and the Government of Canada for their gracious host.

I also thank both Presidents for COP 11 and MOP 29th for their great stewardship and I am confident that under their leadership we will achieve the concrete outcome guiding our way forward ahead of us to ensure the continued success of the Protocol in the coming years.

It is indeed a special honour for me to be among you all at this joint important events and to be able to partake with other leaders from various countries who share the same passion and commitment as we have on ozone and the need to protect it for the sustained existence of livelihood of all on our Planet Earth. We must be united with commitment in this passion. The ozone is our common shield and umbrella that binds our countries and people together.

Kiribati is privileged to participate in the COP 11 and MOP 29 to share views on how the Convention and the Protocol should serve its Parties more effectively.

Highlight on the theme

The theme chosen for us to deliberate in this high-level segment reminds us of unwavering commitment we made 30 years ago for healing the ozone layer which we have successfully achieved. It also urges us to deal with environmental problems the Protocol creates and this is the right time to

tackle this problem. We should be ready to face the new challenge ahead of us; the challenges the Kigali Amendment will bring to every one of us in this room to overcome but I am confident without doubt that the Montreal Protocol will continue to guide us onto the path of success.

Highlight on the commitment

Kiribati is strongly committed in supporting the objective and purpose of the Montreal Protocol. As a small island state in the Pacific with very limited resources, we have shown global leadership in protecting on the global commons by declaring The Phoenix Island Protected Area (PIPA) with a size of 410,500 km² the second largest marine protected areas in the world and the UNESCO world's largest heritage. PIPA represents 11.7% of our EEZ meaning that Kiribati has achieved the Aichi Target 11 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 14.5.

Like other Article 5 Countries, Kiribati is grateful for the continued financial and technical support provided through the Multi-lateral fund in supporting my Government to implement our obligations under the Protocol. Through this funding support, we have managed to provide the submission of country report and Article 7 data report on time this year. We have also implemented a number of national activities including the re-fresher in-country trainings to local technicians on refrigeration and ODS enforcement authorities, continued to implement the Quota system through the licensing system, celebrating the ozone day at the national level engaging technicians in the awareness activity; to name a few.

Despite these achievements, Kiribati continues to face challenges at the country level which may undermine our ability to comply with the requirements of the Montreal Protocol. The issue of ODS consumption from flagged ships continues to exist which would affect Kiribati reporting obligation on its consumption. We also continue to experience difficulty with the disposal of stockpiled ODS gases and products containing ODS due to the lack of options in the country.

Weeks before I came, the Government of Kiribati has approved the Cabinet paper on ratifying the Kigali Amendment and I am happy to say that we are

now in the process of clearing the formalities at the national level for ratification.

I would like to congratulate countries who have already ratified the Amendment and I urge others who have not done so to consider ratifying at the earliest opportunity.

Call for support

As we work towards phasing down the HFCs under this Amendment, we must not forget to focus our attention to assist the unprivileged and incapable members of our global family in particular the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States. We must continue to provide them with assistance both technical and financial support to enable them to meet their compliance with the Montreal Protocol.

I acknowledge the fact that when it comes to funding, it is always a tough issue to consider and decision making is always difficult. However for the Multi-lateral fund replenishment, I would like to see a more transparent and a more-detailed decision on the funding level for Low volume consuming countries like mine and that the funding should give due recognition to countries with larger geographical areas such as Kiribati.

Kiribati consists of 33 small islands with a total land area of 811 square kilometres and dispersed over 3.5 million square kilometres. Having two ports of entry isolated from each other, we have two options to reach the other port. It is either by ship which takes one week to get to the other port or by air traveling through a foreign country which is very costly. In this aspect, the funding for Article 5 countries must be calculated taking this geographical factor into account and should also give allowance for sustainability.

Data collection for HFC is anticipated to be an issue for Article 5 countries especially for Kiribati and therefore the methodology for data collection should be developed in a way that it is user friendly and can be applicable in the context of Kiribati. Similarly, the reporting template for HFC as well its process and procedure should be simplified as much as possible to ease the reporting burden on Article 5 countries.

Funding for institutional strengthening for HFC data collection and reporting should be continuously made available for Article 5 countries taking into account the unique and geographical situations of LDCs and SIDS particularly Kiribati. Kiribati would also like to call for the continuous support for capacity building and training across various areas associated with HFC phase down in particular the HFC data collection, handling of HFC alternatives, HFC reporting, to name a few.

Concluding remarks

To conclude my remarks, I wish to reiterate that Kiribati is committed to support the objectives and purpose of the Montreal Protocol and please be assured of our full support and cooperation. Let me end by saying that there is nothing impossible to stop if it is manmade and if our ozone is threatened by manmade activities it is through this Montreal Protocol that we can have our hopes and our future. With these words, I wish this meeting success with the Kiribati traditional blessing of Good Health, Peace and Prosperity.

Thank you!!!