



**Statement by Mr Abdulla Ziyad
Minister of State for Environment and Energy
Republic of Maldives
29th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol
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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

Mr President of the 11th Conference of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and President of the 29th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol

Ministers

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalaam Alaikum, and a very good [morning/afternoon] to you all

Let me first take this opportunity to congratulate you Mr President on your election to guide our work here. Let me assure you of my delegation's full co-operation and support in the deliberations ahead.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the Government and peoples of Canada for the warm welcome and hospitality and the Ozone Secretariat for the excellent organization and arrangements for this meeting. Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate all the ozone heroes here with us today.

Mr President

We have all witnessed the heartbreaking images that came out of the Caribbean in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. Our thoughts and prayers are with our Island brothers and sisters who have lost their loved ones, their homes, and their livelihoods.

Mr President

We begin this year's MOP on very promising news – of having already reached the magic number 20 on the Kigali Amendment. The Kigali Amendment is indeed a testament to what can be achieved through continued dialogue, compromise and collaborative partnership. I would like to urge all Parties to keep the momentum and spirit of Kigali ongoing and ratify the Amendment as soon as may be possible.

With the entry into force of the Kigali Amendment in 2019, we will need to make ourselves 'Kigali' ready. In the Maldives, we are now in the final stages of our HPMP. As part of our HCFC Phase-out Management Plan, we began the freeze of HCFC in 2011. Subsequently, in May 2015, we implemented an equipment ban on all HCFC based equipment, setting the stage for further reductions in HCFC. We are then at a critical juncture.

We need to plan ahead and are eager to move early where possible in adopting low GWP alternatives. However, much of this is contingent on technological innovation and market availability. Through the Kigali Amendment, we have given a strong signal to the markets on this very regard.

However, there still remain some sectors and specific areas where suitable alternatives are limited. In the case of Maldives, this is the fisheries sector. This sector constitutes as one of the largest consumer of refrigerants in the country, and a transformation of this sector will be critical for us to reduce our HFC consumption and implement the Kigali Amendment. We would like to request the Parties, the TEAP, and the Ozone Secretariat to continue studying this issue and assist in taking the necessary steps forward.

Mr President

As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol, we must acknowledge that the success of Montreal Protocol is the success of a method – a method that is built on collaboration and dialogue. We must continue on this tradition.

I thank you.

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