



**TWENTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO
THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL: GENEVA,
SWITZERLAND: 12TH TO 16TH NOVEMBER 2012.**

**STATEMENT BY HEAD OF DELEGATION:
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBAWE**

The President of the 24th Meeting of Parties to the Montreal Protocol

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

Firstly I would like to join other delegates who have spoken before me to extend to you, Mr. President, my warmest congratulations on your election to the bureau of the 24th Meeting of Parties to the Montreal Protocol. I would like to assure you of my Country's support and utmost co-operation during your tenure of Presidency.

I also extend my gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Switzerland for the warm hospitality since our arrival into the country. In addition I also wish to thank the Ozone Secretariat for the excellent arrangements for my delegation to attend this important meeting.

Distinguished Delegates, since we are celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the signing of the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer, I would like to extend my congratulations to the Ozone Family for the great achievements we have made so far. The Montreal Protocol has no doubt been the most successful Multilateral Environment Agreement to date.

This has been through a transparent and mutually respectful negotiating environment adopted during our meetings. The adoption of decisions by consensus gives all the Parties ownership and a responsibility to be bound by these same decisions. It is my delegation's wish that this spirit will prevail as we tackle more challenging issues that lie ahead.

Mr President, our theme as Parties to the Montreal Protocol for the 25th Anniversary celebrations is "Protecting our atmosphere for generations to come". This theme calls upon the Ozone Family to complement efforts by other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) that are working towards a safe and sustainable atmosphere for future generations. I therefore urge all Parties to deliberate and adopt decisions that will benefit the present and future generations.

The impacts of Climate Change are being felt and experienced in most parts of the globe more than ever before. This calls upon the Montreal Protocol to play its complementary role by avoiding alternatives that have high Global Warming Potentials and promote ozone and climate friendly chemicals particularly refrigerants.

I am pleased to note that such issues were discussed during the Open Ended Working Group Meeting and have also been discussed during the Preparatory Meeting. Such collaborative efforts will result in common approaches to solving global environmental problems, most of which are closely interlinked.

Mr. President, Distinguished Guests, my country and others within our region have already experienced an influx of HydroFluorocarbons (HFC) and Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) contaminated refrigerants. Our efforts through legal processes to ship back these contaminated refrigerants to the countries of origin have failed. We should be united in condemning the illegal production and trade of these chemicals if we are committed to the decisions and provisions of the Montreal Protocol. To this end, my Government has stepped up efforts to control and monitor all designated and unofficial ports of entry as a way to combat the illegal importation of these unwanted chemicals.

Mr. President and Distinguished delegates, as a result of this intensive monitoring of our ports of entry, our Customs Officers have seized considerable amounts of contaminated HFCs and HCFCs including HFC blends. Zimbabwe being a developing country lacks the adequate financial resources and technological infrastructures for disposal of these unwanted and contaminated stocks of seized refrigerants.

My Government therefore supports the idea of localised or mobile destruction facilities for environmentally sound management of seized and contaminated stocks of these substances. To safeguard the climate system as well as preserving the stratospheric ozone layer, these stocks should be disposed of in an environmentally sound manner if we are to totally realise the achievements we have made so far.

Mr. President, as developing countries, our environmental responsibilities compete with other socio-economic responsibilities of our Governments. The Multilateral Fund has played an important role in the success of ODS Phase out activities in developing countries including Zimbabwe. With the phase out of Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) still in its preliminary stages in developing countries, the Multilateral Fund will be the active ingredient in the accelerated phase out and compliance with control measures. Our refrigeration industry needs adequate financial and technological support to shift to non-HCFC technology.

Lastly Mr. President, as earlier alluded, my Government strongly believes that the success of the Montreal Protocol relies heavily in its collaboration with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements. My delegation therefore supports the continued work of Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP) in finding lasting solutions to the problems of stratospheric ozone layer depletion and global warming.

Mr. President, five years ago, during the 20th Anniversary, we met in Montreal, Canada and decided to take a more proactive role in HCFC phase out. This resulted in the adoption of the accelerated HCFC phase out schedules for both developed and developing countries. It is my fervent hope that on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary, here in Geneva, Switzerland, the Meeting of Parties will adopt yet another set of decisions that will truly help the atmosphere to recover and be safe for our future generations.

I thank you all

Francis D. C. Nhema (M.P.)
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