

**HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE
37th MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE MONTREAL
PROTOCOL
ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER**

6 – 7 November 2025

Nairobi, Kenya

STATEMENT

BY

INDIA

Mr/Madam President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

I take this opportunity to compliment the Government of Kenya for hosting the 37th Meeting of the Parties (MOP) to the Montreal Protocol and the Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat and her team, for excellent arrangements for facilitating this important meeting.

2025 marks the 40th anniversary of the Vienna Convention, an important milestone in global environmental governance. During the journey of four decades, the Vienna Convention and its “Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer” have galvanized all Member States to work together and successfully phase out Ozone Depleting Substances (ODSs) using the principle of 'Common but Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR)', which provided a grace period for developing countries.

Soon after India became a Party to the Montreal Protocol in June 1992, a detailed Country Program for phase-out of Ozone Depleting Substances under the Montreal Protocol was developed in 1993 in consultation with all the concerned stakeholders. **This followed a structured implementation framework supported by regulatory and fiscal measures, leading towards India successfully meeting all the compliance targets of the Montreal Protocol.** Currently the phase out of

Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) is being implemented as per the accelerated phase-out schedule of the Montreal Protocol. As proactive measures, India has phased out use of HCFCs in manufacturing of new equipment as on 1st January 2025. In addition, India, also proactively phased out the use of HCFC-141b, a high Global Warming Potential (GWP) foam blowing agent used in manufacturing of rigid polyurethane foam, as on 1st January 2020. During the ongoing implementation of HCFC Phase out Management Plans (HPMPs), India has exceeded the HCFC reduction targets at each stage of the agreed schedule of the Montreal Protocol. While doing so, it has been ensured that industrial obsolescence and adverse economic impacts are minimized.

Recognizing the importance of cooling and its close linkage with the Montreal Protocol implementation, the Government of India has developed and launched the India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP), a cross-sectoral roadmap to meet sustainable cooling needs of the country while implementing the Montreal Protocol. It balances ambitious goals with flexibility for line Ministries to maximize economic, social, and environmental co-benefits, ultimately supporting India's 2070 net-zero emissions target.

With increased demand for air conditioning, India acknowledges that training and certifying service personnel is a priority for the wider adoption of alternative low GWP refrigerant technologies. This is crucial for safe and accurate equipment

installation and servicing, promoting good servicing practices and preventing the use of spurious refrigerants that pose safety risks.

The challenges for Article-5 Countries in implementing a sustainable HFC phase down under the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol has been under regular discussions. These challenges are very different and significant compared to the previous Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) phase out challenges. We see a rapid transition towards new low-Global Warming Potential (GWP) alternatives, many of which are flammable, toxic, or operate under high pressure. These need to be handled and regulated cautiously. It is understood that even non-Article-5 countries are facing challenges in adopting these technologies. There is also a need to consider a long-term sustainable cooling strategy that would reduce dependence on HFCs and not just the immediate compliance targets. Energy efficiency improvements in the context of cooling applications needs to be fully addressed as they have indirect impact on achieving a sustainable HFC phase down under the Kigali Amendment. It is important that contact group on Replenishment should consider all these elements while finalising the TOR for replenishment of the Multilateral Fund for the triennium 2027-2029.

Consensus approach in evolving decisions has significantly contributed to the success of the Montreal Protocol. Clearly, this requires concrete effort by all of us in our endeavors. My delegation is working constructively and positively with all Parties

to find a practical way forward and help adopt decisions by consensus. This includes flexibility to balance environmental ambitions with the development and economic imperatives of our people.

I thank you.
