

## EXECUTIVE HIGH LEVEL ASSEMBLY

### VIENNA COMMUNIQUÉ

21 July 2016

We, the MINISTERS and high level representatives of developed and developing countries that are partners in the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) to reduce short-lived climate pollutants, have come together today to confirm our support and commitment to rapid action to reduce hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under the Montreal Protocol. Now is the time to act to ensure that we avoid the climate impacts of HFCs before they grow any larger. We value the collaboration and actions of CCAC non-state partners, who have also demonstrated this commitment. The science is clear, as is the path we must take if we are to pursue one of the quickest and most significant near-term opportunities to reduce short-lived climate pollutants, and make a major contribution to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Together, we:

*Re-iterate* that CCAC State Partners strongly support the adoption of an ambitious Montreal Protocol amendment in 2016 that includes an early freeze and rapid action to phase down HFCs

*Note* that a phase-down of HFCs will reduce one of the fastest growing classes of greenhouse gases and that adoption of an amendment in 2016 before COP22 in Marrakesh would send a strong signal of global momentum to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement

*Note* that an HFC phase-down under the Montreal Protocol can avoid up to 0.5 degrees Celsius<sup>1</sup> of global warming by the turn of the century

*Highlight* that the increasing availability of climate-friendly alternatives to HFCs in many sectors and applications, as well as the potential of “not-in-kind” alternatives, is providing opportunities for many countries and relevant stakeholders to take early action to reduce the use of HFCs

*Recognize* the value in complementing an HFC phase-down with measures to improve energy efficiency of HFC-containing equipment, noting that improving the average efficiency of air conditioners sold in 2030 by 30%, in parallel with low Global Warming Potential (GWP) refrigerants, could reduce emissions by up to 25 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> over the lifetime of the equipment<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Xu, Y., D. Zaelke, G. J. M. Velders, V. Ramanathan (2013), The role of HFCs in mitigating 21st century climate change. *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics* 13: 6083–6089. [doi:10.5194/acp-13-6083-2013]

<sup>2</sup> Shah, N., Wei, M., Letschert, V., & Phadke, A. (2015), Benefits of Leapfrogging to Superefficiency and Low Global Warming Potential Refrigerants in Room Air Conditioning (No. LBNL-1003671). Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL), U.S. Department of Energy, Berkeley, CA (United States).

*Applaud* the growing number of regional and national actions already underway to phase down HFCs and promote climate friendly alternatives

*Welcome* efforts to develop and adopt technologies and practices that reduce HFC use and emissions and collaborate internationally to expand the availability of low or zero GWP alternatives

*Call on* standard setting organizations to accelerate their efforts to update relevant standards related to refrigerants in order to allow the widest possible use of climate friendly alternatives

*Highlight* that CCAC State Partners recognize the need for increased support to the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol to provide assistance to developing countries to implement an ambitious phase-down and note that CCAC partners are encouraged by the recent leader-level statements from G7 and Nordic countries signalling their intent to provide additional support through the Multilateral Fund following adoption of an amendment for its implementation.

*Welcome* initiatives such as the Clean Energy Ministerial's recently launched Advanced Cooling Challenge which will develop and deploy at scale super-efficient, and affordable cooling technologies using low GWP refrigerants

*Affirm* that the CCAC will continue to encourage global and domestic action to reduce HFC uses and emissions through its capacity building activities to improve knowledge, promote low GWP climate-friendly alternatives, and remove barriers to their deployment

*Challenge* states that want to make a difference and who appreciate the multiple benefits of action and the value that immediate action can bring, to join us in taking the significant steps required to ensure that we have an ambitious HFC phase-down amendment in 2016 no later than when the Parties to the Montreal Protocol meet in Rwanda in October 2016.