

Australian Statement on Air Pollution/Atmosphere

Mr Chairman

Australia supports the view that the international governance of air and atmospheric pollution is fragmented and we should explore ways to improve synergies and cooperation between relevant international and regional actors. We also support more involvement by international funding mechanisms.

Australia also supports calls for enhanced international cooperation to enable developing countries to implement national plans and strategies through improved compilation, evaluation and analysis of data on the state of the atmosphere and air pollution and improved dissemination of information of developments in policy-making and planning.

Australia is mindful of the particular needs of developing countries in meeting their Montreal Protocol obligations. Australia recognises that the Multilateral Fund (MLF) for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol has significantly helped developing countries meet their obligations for phasing out ozone depleting substances. Australia takes an active role in the MLF, assisting developing countries in its region through bilateral projects with India and Pacific Island Countries.

Regional co-operation on practical efforts is valuable. Australia provides support for the "Regional Strategy for Pacific Island Countries" which aims for an accelerated phase out of ozone depleting substances in 11 small island countries. Through this strategy, six PICs achieved zero consumption of CFCs five years ahead of Montreal Protocol requirements.

Key components of the Regional Strategy include provision of technical assistance for implementing and enforcing ODS legislation, and training of refrigeration technicians to minimize emissions of ODS and their synthetic greenhouse gas replacements.

A new one year project with PICs will begin in 2007 to provide targeted assistance for those countries that have not yet implemented ODS legislation and will develop a regional network to support ongoing compliance with the Montreal Protocol in PICs.

It is through practical engagement such as this that we can best meet our obligations under the various conventions and protocols in which we are engaged.