

Australian Statement on Air Pollution

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 practical cooperation between relevant international and regional actors while avoiding duplication and overlap.

Australia also supports calls for ongoing 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.

We should be careful to avoid a prescriptive, top-down approach that does not allow countries to choose the most approach for their particular circumstances.

Australia is mindful of the particular needs of developing countries in meeting their Montreal Protocol obligations and the potential threat of illegal trade to the recovery of the ozone layer.

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. The Montreal Protocol is the most appropriate forum to consider these issues and it is important to recognize and respect their mandate. Through capacity building and investment projects, developing countries have been given assistance to develop legislation, including licensing and quota systems, and customs officer training, as well as building regional capacity through networks.

Regional co-operation on practical efforts is valuable. This needs to be reflected in the outcomes of CSD 15 as a priority. 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.

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.