



3 December 2012

Dear Co-Chairs:

Since COP 17, the pre-2020 emissions gap has increased by several gigatonnes and the window of opportunity for dealing with this global catastrophe has narrowed. The Environmental Investigation Agency, an ENGO who has been a leader in the efforts to phase-out the industrial gases that deplete the ozone layer and act as powerful global warming agents, would like to present to you findings concerning the need for this body to urge the Montreal Protocol to address the consumption and production of HFCs.

Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are man-made fluorinated gases (F-gases) developed and commercialized to replace CFCs, HCFCs and other chemicals that deplete the ozone layer. Unlike CFCs and HCFCs, HFCs do not destroy ozone; however, they are powerful greenhouse gases (GHGs), with global warming potentials (GWP) hundreds or thousands of times more powerful than carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). HFCs are primarily used in refrigeration, air conditioning, foam blowing, aerosols, fire protection and solvents. Climate-friendly alternative refrigerants and technologies are available, and are being developed, which means that HFCs can be phased out over time.

Parties to the UNFCCC are currently discussing initiatives to address the pre-2020 ambition gap under the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP). One of the actions listed under this approach is “Reducing production and use of HFCs under the Montreal Protocol.” At Bangkok and in their recent ADP submissions, a number of Parties gave their strong backing to this approach. Against this backdrop, the European Union has proposed formalizing a set of International Cooperative Initiatives (ICIs) that “have demonstrable potential, in addition to existing pledges, to close the emissions gap between now and 2020.” As part of this initiative, the EU suggests holding a discussion on “how to promote further the global phase-out of F-gases, and how to support this work under the Montreal Protocol.”

In light of the substantial short-term emissions gap, the co-chairs should encourage Parties to seek substantive progress on identifying actions to increase mitigation ambition between now and 2020 as a matter of utmost priority. Parties must agree on a formal work plan setting out key milestones for 2013; they must also issue a COP decision giving their formal support to a global phase-down of the production and consumption of HFCs under the Montreal Protocol, recognizing that emissions of these substances are included in the GHGs covered by the UNFCCC.

Multiple studies have demonstrated that delaying action to address emissions from HFCs means steeper and more costly actions in the medium term. Neither the climate nor the global economy can afford to wait; concerted action and strong political commitment at the highest level will be required to ensure that the situation does not spiral out of control. At Doha, Parties must do everything in their power to achieve substantive and meaningful progress on closing the multi-gigatonne gap between current pledges and the emissions reductions required to limit global temperature rise to 2 degrees centigrade. Time is not on our side, but as UNEP's recent emissions report makes clear, 17 Gt CO<sub>2</sub>e-worth of solutions are there for the taking. The time for action on HFCs has arrived; failure to do so will result in an additional year of inertia and circular debates. Following the strong statement from world leaders at the Rio+20 conference in June, Parties at Doha must send a clear and unambiguous message to the international community, endorsing a global production and use phase-out of HFCs and urging the Montreal Protocol to undertake this phase-out without delay, whilst recognizing that HFC emissions remain under the jurisdiction of the UNFCCC.

For more information, please access our briefing document on the issues relating to HFCs here: [http://www.eia-global.org/PDF/EIA\\_Montreal\\_Protocol\\_briefing\\_1112.pdf](http://www.eia-global.org/PDF/EIA_Montreal_Protocol_briefing_1112.pdf)

We appreciate your focus and work on this vital issue,

Warm Regards,

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