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United Nations Environment Programme  
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Submission via email: marco.gonzalez@unep.gov

Dear Marco:

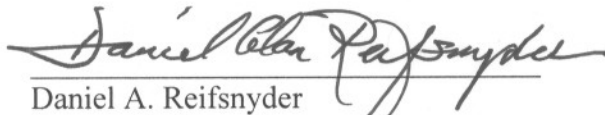
The Governments of Canada, Mexico, and the United States of America continue to be concerned about the increasing global trend in the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) as replacements for hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), which are being phased out under the Montreal Protocol. Although HFCs do not damage the stratospheric ozone layer, their high global warming potential coupled with growing demand for HCFC alternatives pose an increasingly serious threat to the climate system. The ongoing phaseout of HCFCs represents an opportunity to encourage both the use of existing climate-friendly alternatives and the development of new alternatives that do not harm the ozone layer or climate system. We believe the Parties have the responsibility to ensure the Montreal Protocol legacy demonstrates clear environmental commitments and should not ignore other environmental impacts from alternatives such as HFCs.

At last year's Meeting of the Parties, 90 countries signed a declaration recognizing that the projected increase in the use of HFCs is a major challenge for the world's climate system. Building on this commitment, the Governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States are again submitting a proposal to amend the Montreal Protocol to address HFCs through a global phasedown in their production and consumption. Our proposed amendment builds on past discussions by Parties both in 2009 and 2010 regarding proposals submitted by our countries, as well as by Mauritius and the Federated States of Micronesia. Similar to last year, the proposal includes a provision to address HFC by-product emissions, and we are enclosing an accompanying draft decision aimed specifically at such emissions.

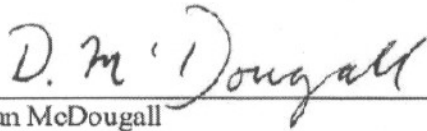
Our proposal seeks to ensure that the phaseout of HCFCs is implemented in a manner that preserves the ozone protection benefits of the Montreal Protocol, while further promoting complementary climate protection benefits consistent with international efforts under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UN FCCC). Recognizing that there already exists a significant installed base of HFCs that needs to be addressed, we continue to believe the Montreal Protocol provides the optimal forum for taking effective global action on these substances, and the respective responsibilities of the Montreal Protocol and the UN FCCC can be coordinated to support responsible management of HFCs.

We urge Parties to consider this amendment proposal and the accompanying decision. We ask you to ensure that all documents be posted on the Secretariat's website, so they will be available to other Parties as they prepare for the Open-Ended Working Group Meeting in August and the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Parties in November. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.


Very best wishes,



Daniel A. Reifsnyder  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for  
Environment and Sustainable Development  
U.S. Department of State



Dan McDougall  
Sous-ministre adjoint / Assistant Deputy Minister  
Affaires Internationales / International Affairs  
Environnement Canada / Environment Canada



Mauricio Limón Aguirre  
Subsecretario de Gestión para la Protección Ambiental/  
Deputy Minister of Management for Environmental Protection  
Secretaria de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales de Mexico/  
Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico

- Enclosures:
1. HFC Phasedown Amendment Proposal
  2. HFC-23 Decision Proposal
  3. Summary of HFC Phasedown Amendment Proposal
  4. Environmental Benefits Summary