

Salutations:

I bring you warm and fraternal greetings from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Environment, Foreign Trade and Export Development . This morning the Ministry of Environment recognizes the important contribution that the National Ozone Unit of Grenada has played and continues to lead in the global effort to preserve, protect and restore our fragile stratospheric ozone layer.

The launch of the HPMP today is a clear demonstration of the Government of Grenada's renewed commitment in fulfilling its obligations, when the Government of Grenada in 1993 acceded to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

Since the 1970's, atmospheric scientists have recognized that chemicals released in the atmosphere as a result of anthropogenic activities deplete stratospheric ozone.

The Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the Ozone Layer was adopted in 1987 to protect global ozone and consequently protect life from increased ultraviolet radiation at the earth's surface.

The Montreal Protocol and its amendments have successfully controlled the global production and consumption of ODS's over the last two decades. In this regard, the Montreal Protocol has been widely regarded as the most successful Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA). Quite recently the Montreal Protocol has been successful in phasing out of almost 100% of Ozone Depleting Substances and has also achieved universal ratification by United Nations member states. What can be considered even more significant is the climate benefits that the Montreal Protocol has been able to achieve in the process of phasing out ODS. Most ODSs are harmful green house gases. In the 2010 Scientific Assessment Report of Ozone Depletion, it is noted that the "Montreal Protocol has made large contributions toward reducing global green house gas emissions". The report further states that "the decrease of annual ODS emissions under the Montreal Protocol is estimated to be about 10 gigatonnes of avoided CO₂ – equivalent emissions per year, which is about five times larger than the annual emissions reduction target for the first commitment period (2008-2012) of the Kyoto Protocol".

In this regard we urge the Montreal Protocol community to continue in its effort to rid the planet of these chemicals that damage the ozone layer and impact on the climate system.

While we celebrate the achievements of this successful international treaty, we must also recognize the individual efforts of developing countries including our own National Ozone Unit which is the executing arm of the Government of Grenada's commitment to the global effort to phase out ozone depleting substances.

These achievements have allowed Grenada to phase out CFC's four years ahead of the Montreal Protocol target of 2010. Further, we are of the firm opinion that the components of this HPMP Project has been developed in such a manner that will allow the country to return even better results that we did with the phasing out of CFCs.

The Government of Grenada would liked to express in a most profound manner, its sincerest appreciation and external gratefulness to the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol who has over the years provided the necessary funding for all of the various projects under the Montreal Protocol that the country has undertaken since 1997 – a total in excess of EC \$ 2 million dollars to date.

We would also like to recognize the support received from the United Nations Environment Programme – Regional Office Latin America and the Caribbean (UNEP-ROLAC) and the United Nations Development Program (UNEP), as implementing agencies that have worked along with Grenada during the implementing phases of the many projects over the years.

Particularly we would like to recognize UNEP who is the lead implementing agency for the HPMP. This institution is expected to provide the necessary support mechanism to ensure Grenada meets its objectives under the HPMP.

As I close, permit me one more time to reinforce the Government of Grenada's committed to the Montreal Protocol. The Government will continue to provide the required support to the National Ozone Unit and other stakeholders in its fight to protect the stratospheric ozone layer.