

For immediate release, 14 October 2016 Kigali, Rwanda

Statements ahead of adoption of an amendment to the Montreal Protocol 28th Meeting of Parties

The Republic of the Marshall Islands, the European Union, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Canada have issued the below statements this evening ahead of the adoption of an amendment to the Montreal Protocol at the 28th Meeting of Parties in Kigali, Rwanda.

Mattlan Zackhras, Minister-in-Assistance to the President, Republic of the Marshall Islands

"This is the biggest step we have taken this year towards making the goals of the Paris Agreement a reality, and ensuring we do what is necessary to save my country. It may not be entirely what the islands wanted, but it is a good deal and the High Ambition Coalition fought hard to secure it. We all know we must go further, and we will go further – the built in review system and promises of financial support for even earlier action will ensure that we do. It will be a proud call back home to my family tonight."

Miguel Arias Cañete, Commissioner for Climate Action & Energy, European Union

"This is a huge win for the climate. We have taken a major concrete step in delivering on the promises we made in Paris last December. The global phase-down we have agreed today could knock off up to half a degree of warming by the end of the century. I am proud of the role the High Ambition Coalition played in brokering this deal."

Andrew Yatilman, Director of the Office of Environment & Emergency Management, Federated States of Micronesia

"We came; we labored for years; we conquered."

Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Canada

"Great things happen when you have motivated and engaged Parties working in the spirit of collaboration and trust towards a common cause. In Canada and around the world, the changing climate – affected by carbon pollution and short-lived climate pollutants like hydrofluorocarbons – threatens the planet and the very existence of small island states like the Marshall Islands. This latest achievement is one of the most significant wins for the climate."