

**UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme under the Multilateral Fund****From the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol (25 March 1999)**

## PRESS RELEASE

1. Today, 25 March, the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol approved a critical project to enable the Government of China to close the entire CFC production capacity in China estimated at 120,000 metric tonnes annually.
2. This took place in Montreal, Canada, at the 27th meeting of the Executive Committee, the management body of the Multilateral Fund. The Executive Committee had already approved a project in 1997 to eliminate the entire production and consumption of halons in China. With this new decision, the Multilateral Fund has agreed to fund the phase-out of the production of all the Ozone Depleting Substances in China. This will enable the Government of China to comply with the ODS production freeze and subsequent obligations under the Montreal Protocol.
3. After phase out by the industrialized countries of the CFC production in 1996, China became the largest CFC producer in the world. This decision of the Executive Committee would have significant benefit for the recovery of the ozone layer and will greatly facilitate the global implementation of the Montreal Protocol because shutting down the ODS production facilities in China will reduce the availability of CFC and provide the economic incentive for early phase-out in the CFC consumption sector.
4. The success today at the Executive Committee has not come easily. For the past four years, the Executive Committee has been working to develop guidelines to provide a fair compensation to ODS producing developing countries to phasing out the ODS production. Numerous discussions, both formal and informal, have been conducted to achieve consensus. Ms. Jacinthe Seguin, head of Canada's delegation to the Executive Committee, who has been overseeing the negotiation for the past two years which eventually led to this decision, summed up the feeling of the Executive Committee when she stated, "The Government of Canada is very pleased that we have been able to achieve this breakthrough in this important area and would hope we could see further projects like this in the near future".
5. The Government of China has taken their obligation under the Montreal Protocol very seriously and has pursued the negotiation with great enthusiasm and perseverance. At the conclusion of the negotiation, Mr. Liu Yi, a senior representative from the Government of China said, "The Government of China is very pleased with this decision of the Executive Committee and this will enable China to fulfill its obligation under the Montreal Protocol".
6. While rejoicing at the first major phase-out project approved for the CFC production sector, the Executive Committee acknowledged there was more work to be done in this sector and encouraged other ODS producing developing countries to follow the example of China and strive for an early phase-out of the CFC production in their countries.

**Note for journalists**

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