

**OPENING STATEMENT
BY
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**AT
REGIONAL EXPERT GROUP MEETING
(EGM)
ON
ELIMINATION OF CFCs CONTAINED IN AEROSOL METERED DOSE
INHALERS (MDI) IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT
STATES (CIS)**

4-5 OCTOBER 2011, MOSCOW, RF

Representatives of the Government of the Russian Federation
Invited guests
Colleagues
Ladies and gentlemen

I am pleased to inform you that Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and Ministry of Health and Social Development of the Russian Federation, together with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) will host an Expert Group Meeting on Elimination of CFCs contained in Aerosol Metered Dose Inhalers (MDI) in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

It is an honour and a pleasure for me to be with you here at this important meeting of international experts to share views on alternatives to CFC use in the MDI production. The condition here prepared by our Russian colleagues make it easy for all of us to work assiduously to achieving a positive outcome from this expert meeting, i.e. to find technical alternative solutions to replace CFC in the MDI industry in the RF. I am also very pleased to see many representatives of the local MDI producing companies, representatives of the Ministries of Health from CISs and pharma industry and European Medical Companies here. This is clear indication of the strong desire of them to work together at solving this significant global environmental problem of the depletion of the ozone layer.

Last years, the ozone hole split into two holes in an unprecedented manner. The size of the hole reached about 28 million square kilometres, which is close to the largest size of the hole ever recorded in 2000. A recent NASA study indicated that the rate of ozone depletion in the earth's upper atmosphere is decreasing. It will take many more years before we can confirm the expected recovery of the stratospheric ozone layer, as it is expected by 2050. This means that the ozone layer will still remain vulnerable in the coming decade and we must continue our efforts at eliminating the chemicals that destroy it.

Now the world is fully into the compliance phase of the Montreal Protocol. This is a key step in the history of the Protocol, as the effectiveness of the whole process will be judged by how well we achieved compliance. By 2010, all key Ozone Depleting Substances (CFCs, Halons, Methyl Bromide, CTC) have important controlled levels

in place. The new compliance date for HCFCs phase out has been established. Compliance requirements are now a reality for all countries.

We believe there are no MDI producers in the CISs, except the two major MDI producers in the Russian Federation. There was an MDI production in Charkov, the Ukraine, however, its production was ceased some years ago. No MDI manufacturing facilities are available in the CIS countries instead of the Russian Federation. However, there is still import of CFC-based MDIs into the region. The local demand for Salbutamol in the CIS countries is covered mostly by imports from Poland, India and EU. The two Russian enterprises have supplied Salbutamol to the Russian market, which covered 83% of the total market in 2009. However, for its production about 200 MT is still used by the two Russian MDI-producing companies.

The Russian Federation has demonstrated a significant commitment to the elimination of the use of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) in a number of industrial sectors. With the assistance of significant grants from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and donor countries CFC manufacture has ceased in Russia and the use of CFC has been dramatically reduced. However the issues associated with the use of CFCs in MDIs were effectively deferred. It became evident that without some intervention in the form of financial assistance, it is most probable that the MDI projects would either continue to slip, or that the enterprises may be placed in a position where they have to consider ceasing manufacture of MDIs, as they are no longer commercially viable or the approved materials (CFCs) are no longer available. Technical assistance need to be provided to convert the production of CFC metered-dose inhalers (MDIs) to ozone-friendly HFC-134a at the two local MDI producers in the RF.

The national strategies on the phase out of CFC-based MDIs in the CISs to be prepared for each country in the region, if not prepared by the Ministries of Health and they should include the dates of the final phase of CFCs in manufacture of MDIs or their imports into a particular CIS country. They need also to include governmental measures on transition to the new non-CFC MDIs.

Patients in the CISs should be reassured that:

- The new inhaler is as safe and as effective as the previous ones.
- CFCs are damaging to the global environment but not damaging to the health of the individual.
- Although they will experience differences in appearance, dosage and taste, these do not imply any reduction in the effectiveness of the medicines.

The main objective of this Regional Meeting is to advise on the development of main components of a local transition strategy for non-CFC-MDIs as per each country of the CISs and explore specific activities that are proven to be technically viable and economically feasible that could be implemented in the shortest possible period of time to achieve the greatest reduction in consumption of CFCs in MDI production in the CISs; through appropriate technology transfer, to phase-out the consumption of 212 ODP tones of CFC-11 and CFC-12 (2010) used in the manufacture of MDIs in the Russian Federation. This regional EGM will also address the technical requirements for conversion of manufacturing facilities currently using CFCs to manufacture MDIs to one only using HFC-134a at the two Russian MDI-producing enterprises.

UNIDO's experience in environmental awareness, technology promotion and transfer, cleaner technology, environmental and quality management and in the phasing out of banned materials and chemicals can be efficiently leveraged and applied to the goal of eliminating the emission of ODS in the region.

On behalf of UNIDO, I extend an invitation to all of you to participate in this important Export Group Meeting.

Thank you.

4 October 2011
Moscow