



INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF REFRIGERATION

INSTITUT INTERNATIONAL DU FROID

177, bd. Malesherbes — 75017 Paris (FRANCE)

Tel.: 33 (0)1.42.27.32.35 — Fax: 33 (0)1.47.63.17.98

E-mail: iif-iir@iifiir.org — www.iifiir.org

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***Statement given by Didier Coulomb,
Director General of the International Institute of Refrigeration (IIR)***

Last month, all Nations agreed to phase down the usage of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) in Kigali, Rwanda. This gradual reduction scheduled by 2047 is indeed a remarkable first step towards the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions.

But this is not sufficient. As the main user of HFCs, refrigeration, including air conditioning and heat pumping, represents more than 17% of the world electricity consumption. The use of refrigeration which is essential to life will continue to grow steadily in the future, particularly in developing countries. Therefore the power consumption of refrigerated facilities needs to be reduced in a drastic way.

The replacement of today's technologies using high GWP refrigerants needs to go hand in hand with a true effort of increasing the energy efficiency of facilities and systems more generally. This is absolutely necessary to make sure the efforts undertaken with refrigerants are paying off in order to mitigate the greenhouse gas emissions in both the long and short run.

Financial and regulatory initiatives in the energy sector have to be aligned with those regarding HFCs. Also, both national and international bodies need to adapt current standards and regulations to make the implementation of new technologies that may be hazardous in terms of safety easier.

Scientific, objective, hands-on and updated information on the available or coming technologies, on their potential usages, their pros and cons, is crucial. The International Institute of Refrigeration (IIR) is in position to provide it to you. So please join us. Thank you!