Pledge Text

MITIGATING SULPHUR HEXAFLUORIDE (SF_6) EMISSIONS IN THE POWER SECTOR

PLEDGE

Recalling the Paris Agreement and reaffirming its Article 2;

Recalling the COP29 Global Energy Storage and Grids Pledge;

Recalling the COP28 Global Stocktake goals of

- tripling renewable energy capacity globally and doubling the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030, and
- accelerating zero- and low-emission technologies, and
- accelerating the substantial reduction of non-carbon-dioxide emissions globally

Recognising that, in order to ensure that the global community meets the Paris Agreement goal of keeping warming well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C, mitigation requires action on all greenhouse gases;

Recognising the extraordinarily high global warming potential and long atmospheric lifetime of sulphur hexafluoride;

Recognising the rapid increase in atmospheric concentrations of SF_6 and under-reporting of emissions;

Recognising that the power sector is the dominant source of SF_6 emissions and that a substantial in-use stock exists in the current infrastructure, with significant future decommissioning of SF_6-containing switchgear anticipated;

Recognising the challenge of massively expanding power grids around the world – as a prerequisite for the global energy transition – while avoiding lock-in of SF_6 in new infrastructure;

Welcoming the opportunity to reduce emissions through improved handling of the existing SF_6 stock over the entire life cycle of SF_6-containing equipment;

Welcoming the availability and growing market readiness of SF_6-free technological alternatives;

Emphasising the essential role of governments, regulators, grid operators, manufacturers, financial institutions, development partners and other key stakeholders in preventing SF_6 emissions and accelerating the deployment of SF_6-free equipment

We, national governments,

1. *Commit to* improve data, evidence and analysis on SF_6 stock, emissions, abatement opportunities and mitigation potential and strengthen monitoring, and reporting through existing arrangements, where appropriate;

2. *Support efforts to* improve environmentally sound management of SF_6 across the entire life cycle, with the aim of minimising emissions during production, use, maintenance and decommissioning of

SF_6-containing equipment, taking into account national circumstances and stages of policy development;

3. *Encourage* the deployment of SF_6-free technologies in newly built power sector infrastructure where technically feasible and economically viable, taking into account national circumstances;

4. *Commit to* explore policies and frameworks to support the mitigation of SF_6 emissions and the deployment of alternative technologies taking into account national circumstances;

5. *Commit to* facilitate the sharing of technical expertise, experience and best practice to support the mitigation of SF_6 emissions and the deployment of alternative technologies;

6. *Encourage* Parties, consistent with national circumstances, to address SF_6 in their climate agenda, including, where appropriate, Nationally Determined Contributions;

7. *Commit to* share experience and cooperate in addressing the SF_6 challenge, through relevant international initiatives and partnerships, including, where appropriate and on a voluntary basis, the International Initiative for the Phase-Out of Sulphur Hexafluoride in the Power Sector and *Call on* other states and key actors to join.

Conclusion

By endorsing this Pledge, we signal our shared ambition to align the expansion of electricity infrastructure with climate objectives. Together, we will strengthen transparency, build capacity, promote the application of innovation, facilitate international cooperation, and progressively reduce SF_6 emissions from the power sector.

Through international cooperation and knowledge sharing, we aim to accelerate the transition towards resilient, modern and SF_6-free lower-emission power systems.