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**Tenth Conference of the Parties (COP-10)  
to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

**Buenos Aires, Argentina, December 6-17, 2004**

***Statement given by Didier Coulomb,  
Director of the International Institute of Refrigeration***

Mr. President, Dear Delegates,

It is a great honour for the International Institute of Refrigeration to have the opportunity to present its position during the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties in Buenos Aires.

The International Institute of Refrigeration (IIR) is an intergovernmental organization. It brings together 61 countries, which represent 80% of the global population. The IIR's mission is to promote and disseminate knowledge of refrigeration technology and all its applications.

Refrigeration is not only useful for humanity (air conditioning, industrial processes...), but is even vital in several of its applications (food, health...). It is also used in many advanced technologies (space industry, information technology, superconductivity...). Moreover, its use is increasing regularly and will continue to increase in the future. Thus, more than 1 billion domestic refrigerators are currently in operation worldwide, which corresponds to a doubling of the production between 1990 and 2002.

The global-warming impact of refrigerating plants is clear but requires in-depth analysis:

- about 20% of this impact is due to direct emissions of certain greenhouse gases used as refrigerants (halogenated gases);
- about 80% of this impact is due to the energy consumption of the refrigerating systems. It should be recalled that refrigeration (including air conditioning) accounts for about 15% of worldwide electricity consumption.

Much work has already been undertaken to reduce the impact due to emissions, in particular following the Montreal Protocol on ozone depletion; the refrigeration community and the IIR proved their efficiency on this occasion. But much still remains to be done, particularly in the area of fluid containment.

With regards to reducing energy consumption, the challenge is still ahead of us. Hence, it is necessary to set ambitious goals. The IIR — as early as 2000 in The Hague (COP-6) — set the objective: reducing the unitary energy consumption of refrigerating plants by 30-50% — according to applications — by 2020. This requires time and financial means.

It would be counter-productive to shift arbitrarily from fluids with a strong greenhouse effect, but used in proven equipment, to fluids apparently less harmful but which could possibly lead to a higher total climate impact due to lower energy efficiency.

It is preferable to promote, application by application, the most environmentally friendly option on the basis of an objective reference system taking into account the total climate impact, i.e. emissions but also energy consumption.

One must also take into account the fact that equipment changes take time and currently, certain essential refrigeration applications can only be correctly provided with certain fluids.

The IIR brings together all refrigeration-sector stakeholders. The IIR contributed to the success of the Montreal Protocol. Thanks to the expertise and international dimension of its network of experts, the IIR is active and wants to still further enhance its action in order to address the major challenge of mitigating global warming. We invite all countries to join us in this action.