Statement on HFC Draft Agreement at the United Nations

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Today the Coalition for Peace Action, which has been advocating prompt action on the dangers to our climate posed by HFC's - greenhouse gases used around the world in refrigeration - welcomes the step by over 100 countries at the United Nations in New York, to agree to freeze HFC emissions at an early date. We need to see all the details, but it appears that this proposed agreement will freeze and then reduce and eliminate HFC's, which are 10,000% more deadly (*not* a misprint) than C02, the main greenhouse gas targeted by the previous Paris Accords.

Tackling HFC is the next big thing in stopping runaway climate change. The other is tighter control of the production and leaking of methane gases into the atmosphere - these occur both in nature, but also have been greatly amplified by the production and fracking of natural gas for fuel. While we welcome this important step, we also caution that none of the steps taken so far, are sufficient to meet the problem of the overall changing climate. But they are a welcome first and second step.

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The White House Council on Environmental Quality's Bo Machayo announced today:

"First, more than 100 countries called for securing an ambitious amendment (on HFCs) with an “early freeze date.” This group includes the United States, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, all 28 countries in the European Union, all 54 countries in Africa, and several island states that are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Complementing this announcement, more than 500 companies and organizations and hundreds of sub-national governments called upon world leaders to take strong action on HFCs.

Second, a group of donor countries and philanthropists announced their intent to provide $80 million in support to help countries in need of assistance (i.e., Article 5 countries) implement an ambitious amendment and improve energy efficiency. The philanthropic component of this is the largest-ever private grant made for energy efficiency in this sector."