

STATEMENT MADE BY ABDULLAHI SHEIKH HUSSEIN OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT OF SOMALI REPUBLIC AT THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF 19TH MEETINGS TO THE PARTIES OF MONTREAL PROTOCOL AND 20TH ANNIVERSARY IN MONTREAL, CANADA FROM SEPTEMBER 16TH TO 21ST SEPTEMBER 2007.

Thank you,

Mr. President,

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Environment of Canada

The UNEP Executive Director

The Executive Secretary of the Ozone Layer

Hon. Ministers

Excellencies

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

I have the pleasure to speak on behalf of the minister of the environment of Somalia and Somali government in this important conference.

Mr. president let me start expressing my deepest gratitude to government of Canada and its people for their good hospitality and warm welcome extended to us. It is my firmly belief that having the Ozone subsistence depleting conferences here in Montreal, will send a strong and positive message to the citizen of the world which may have more impacts and are vulnerable to the ozone depleting effects both health and the environment. In this regard, dear colleagues, we most look ODS as a problem capable of destroying peoples' basic livelihoods and planets ecosystem.

As we know, the Mandate of the Montreal protocol is to control the production and consumption of substances, which are categorized as Ozone – Depleting Substances (ODS). These substances include CFC's, harlons, methyl bromide, carbon tetrachloride,

methyl chloroform and HCFCs. For each group the protocol provides a timetable in which the production of the substance must be phased out and eventually eliminated.

Many scientific reports indicated that the parties to the Montreal protocol has phased-out the production of over 95 percent (developed countries) of all of the chemicals controlled by the protocol as result, global observations have verified that atmospheric levels of key ozone depleting provisions the ozone layer should return to pre-1980 levels by 2050-2075. These key successful achievements were as a result of: -

Setting policy

- Science driven (assessment panels)
- Amendment and adjustment
- Good alternative for bad products (industry)

Implementing it in the real world

- Finance-the multilateral fund (MLF)
- UN family-the implementing agencies
- Realism, pragmatism, pre-1992

Compliance control

- Reporting
- Compliance procedure

These successful achievements we are celebrating today must continue until we reach complete phase-out of ODS. The achievements of Montreal protocol can also be a model of other conventions to follow.

Somalia has been a party to the Montreal protocol on ozone depleting substance since 2001. Therefore the government of Somalia is a bound to implement its relations and phase out of ODSs on a specific date determined by the protocol. However, Somalia has not benefited from the resources available to under developing countries, although it collected and submitted to the secretariat ODS data in 2005 – 2006. This country has no

capacity to fulfill its all obligations arising from the protocol because of the challenges it has been facing. The major challenges encountered in the phase out of the ODS are: -

- Lack of trained staff in ozone management
- Lack of legislation and legal control of any kind to monitor the import and use of ozone depleting substance
- Lack of awareness and public education
- Lack of financial and technological assistance

The environment in Somalia has been severely degraded due to unsustainable use of natural resources, climate change and substances that deplete ozone layer as well as illegal trafficking of dumping toxic waste chemicals. Consequently the lives and livelihoods of Somali have been impacted. The poverty and illiteracy and civil conflicts have also exacerbated the situation.

Since the outbreak of the Somali civil war in 1990, Somalia political, socio-economic and environmental structures have been disintegrated. Disruption in governance and civil order over the last two decades has left Somalia without effective environmental management interventions. Consequently, environmental resources have experienced continued degradation. Somalia's interest in environmental resources issues beyond its own borders have also been excluded from a large number of international and regional agreements and conventions over this same period. Although Somalia is a signatory to a number of Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs), there has been little progress in implementation.

The absence of an effective legislative, institutional and policy framework lack of technical capacity for monitoring and planning, and issues relating to ODS further compound environmental problems. The environment is severely degraded and threatened with continued degradation unless action is taken to introduce and support environmentally sustainable development and practices.

Somalia will therefore need to address the environmental challenges urgently, to safeguard livelihoods and promote sustainable development. Ratification of environmental conventions presents the best opportunity for Somalia to join the global community in this process, and to access technical and financial resources to develop and implement programmes and strategies to address these challenges.

The key priorities of the ministry to address these problems are as follows: -

1. Improvement of cooperation and coordination at the national and international level.
2. Identification, adaptation and use of environmentally sound technologies and practices.
3. Public education and awareness arising.
4. Development of environmental information systems.
5. Mobilization of financial resources
6. Development and implementation of proactive environmental management tools
7. Capacity – building training environmental education awareness.

To implement the above-mentioned priorities, Somalia requires

- a) Institutional capacity building,
- b) Regulatory infrastructure,
- c) Monitoring and enforcement measures
- d) Policies and strategies
- e) Training of relevant personnel in meeting obligations under the conventions.
- f) Mobilization of resources from national, bilateral and multilateral resources.
- g) Development of private and public partnership
- h) Establishment, use and maintenance of information systems
- i) Empowering local communities
- j) Promoting cleaner environmental programmes
- k) Training of customs officers in monitoring and controlling of ODS imports

- l) Issuing license system
- m) Assessment and reporting of consumption levels

Today is becoming obvious that Somalia is increasingly facing the challenges of managing of phasing out of ODS. The 19th meeting of Montreal protocol therefore provides us an opportunity to develop a strategy to ODS by ensuring that the Somalia benefits fully from the increased availability of financial resources and technology, while at the same time we are not generating problems for our future generations to address.

Today, we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the protocol, and have been named as international year of the ozone layer. Despite of success stories, there are still many challenges to address.

- Early phase out of HCFCs;
- CFC-MDIs and MB phase out;
- ODS banks (the total substances contained in existing equipment, chemicals stockpiles, foams and other products not yet released to the atmosphere
- Links with Kyoto protocol: addressing the interaction between early phase-out of HCFCs and the CDM supporting HCF 23 destruction;
- Multilateral fund: ensuring sufficient level of support over the next replenishment periods to assist with early phase – out of HCFCs.

Mr. President

In conclusion, Somalia seeks your support in this process and we look forward to a long-term cooperation with ODS secretariat and its implementing partners.

Thank you for your kind listening and attention.