STATEMENT BY

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MINISTER OF LANDS AND
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MALAWI

TO THE 19TH MEETING OF PARTIES TO
THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL, AT
PALACE DE CONGRESS,
MONTREAL, CANADA

HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT

17TH – 21ST SEPTEMBER 2007
MR. PRESIDENT
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES, INVITED GUESTS
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

On behalf of the Malawi Government, I would like to join the speakers who preceded me in congratulating you Mr. President and the Bureau on your election to such a position of responsibility in this meeting, which is occurring together with the 20th Anniversary Celebrations of the Montreal Protocol.

My delegation wishes to express its support in the work you are going to perform in this high office. My sincere thanks also go to the outgoing president and the entire Bureau of the 18th Meeting of parties for the job well done.

Mr. President
Allow me also to convey to you and all distinguished delegates assembled here the sincere appreciation of the Malawi Government for the outstanding work done by UNEP in particular, the Ozone Secretariat and the Assessment Panels for their efforts on the problem of the ozone layer and the substances that deplete the ozone layer.

Mr. President
Malawi stands committed to the protection of the ozone layer and the statistical trends obtained from our ozone depleting substances monitoring system indicates that the consumption of CFC is
declining showing we are on the right course to meet the 2010 CFC phase-out target.

Malawi also recognizes the contribution of regional initiatives established as part of the United Nations Environment Programme to assist Article 5 Parties in capacity building and technology transfer towards implementation of the protocol in phasing out ozone depleting substances.

Mr. President, Malawi commends the Multilateral Fund [MLF] and Parties that have supported and funded activities of the Montreal Protocol in the past 20 years for the successes achieved. I would therefore encourage more assistance to ensure that we effectively face the remaining phase-out challenges on HCFC after 2010. The Multilateral Fund will be needed to support the accelerated phase-out of the HCFCs particularly in Article 5 countries. This will also assist Parties to consolidate and sustain achievements already gained in the past 20 years of Protocol implementation.

In this regard, the Malawi Government wishes to commend the United Nations Environment Programme together with the other implementing agencies and bilateral partners such as German Technical Agency (GTZ) for assisting Malawi to develop and implement the national Refrigeration Management Plan (RMP), the national ODS regulations and complete phase out of methyl bromide for non-critical uses.
Holistically, this has strengthened the already existing environmental legislation in the protection of the environment and natural resources in the country. The Government of Malawi has further elaborated these legal measures to the industry and the general public involved in use and trade in ozone depleting substances.

The implementation of the Refrigeration Management Plan has further assisted in the training of trainers who are re-training refrigeration and air conditioning technicians. This has contributed a significant impact to the already on-going efforts to meet our obligations under the Protocol.

Mr. President
On behalf of the Malawi Government, I would like to express our gratitude to the Government of Canada and the United Nations Environment Programme for the excellent organisation of this important meeting and also commend the Canadian Government for their good hospitality on the 20th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol. Malawi agrees and fully supports the adoption of the Montreal Declaration and an accelerated phase-out schedule of the HCFCs.

Mr. President, the Government of Malawi appreciates the award it received in the implementation of Montreal Protocol Activities especially the complete phase-out of methyl bromide use in the country.
Finally, on behalf of the Government of Malawi and on my own behalf, I would like to reaffirm our commitment in carrying out our mandate and obligations towards protection of the ozone layer.

In fulfilling the task given to each signatory to the Protocol, Malawi would continue to cooperate with other Montreal Protocol parties in the phase-out of ozone depleting substances and other initiatives towards protection of the ozone layer.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION