Afghanistan

General Environmental Protection Authority

Thirty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (MOP38)

Afghanistan Statement

In the Name of God, the most Merciful, and the most Compassionate

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honor and privilege to speak today on behalf of Afghan delegation and the General Environmental Protection Authority. I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Rwanda for hosting this important meeting, and to the Ozone Secretariat for its excellent preparation and continued efforts in promoting international cooperation under the Montreal Protocol.

This meeting provides an important opportunity to strengthen collective commitments, enhance cooperation, and accelerate actions towards protecting the ozone layer and achieving the objectives of the Montreal Protocol and its amendments.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year 2026 marks the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Kigali Amendment in this beautiful city of Kigali. This milestone highlights the important connection between ozone layer protection and global climate action. Afghanistan recognizes the achievements of the Montreal Protocol and reaffirms its commitment to international efforts aimed at protecting the ozone layer and addressing environmental challenges.

Afghanistan faces considerable institutional, technical, and financial challenges in implementing the Montreal Protocol. Since August 2021, several internationally supported environmental projects, including ozone-related projects, have been suspended, significantly affecting our national implementation capacity, technical activities, institutional development, and reporting mechanisms.

In this regard, we call upon the international community, the Ozone Secretariat, the Multilateral Fund, and implementing agencies to support Afghanistan in resuming suspended projects and restoring technical cooperation. Environmental protection is a shared global responsibility and should remain a priority for the benefit of all humanity.

Afghanistan is ready to strengthen its engagement and cooperation under the Montreal Protocol. However, sustained international technical and financial assistance is essential to translate this commitment into practical achievements.

Distinguished Delegates,

Afghanistan would like to highlight three key national priorities:

First: Establishment and strengthening of the National Ozone Unit.

We seek technical and financial assistance to establish and operationalize a National Ozone Unit with adequate institutional resources, technical expertise, and equipment. This mechanism will strengthen national coordination, data collection, monitoring, management, and reporting in accordance with the requirements of the Montreal Protocol.

Second: Resumption of suspended ozone-related projects.

We strongly call for the resumption of previously approved and suspended projects in cooperation with UNIDO and UNEP. These projects are essential for rebuilding institutional capacity, strengthening technical expertise, improving monitoring systems, and supporting Afghanistan in fulfilling its obligations under the Montreal Protocol.

Third: Strengthening capacity for the Kigali Amendment.

We welcome international support to strengthen Afghanistan's technical and institutional readiness for the implementation of the Kigali Amendment. Our priorities include developing an HFC licensing and import control system, strengthening customs capacities, improving refrigerant data management, training refrigeration and air-conditioning technicians, and promoting energy-efficient and climate-friendly cooling technologies.

Honorable Participants

We emphasize the importance of strengthened international cooperation, predictable financial assistance, technology transfer, and sustainable capacity-building programmes, particularly for Least Developed Countries. We also encourage greater engagement with the private sector and relevant national institutions to ensure the environmentally sound management of refrigerants and the effective implementation of the Montreal Protocol.

Afghanistan stands ready to work constructively with the Ozone Secretariat, the Multilateral Fund, the UN Agencies and fellow Parties to advance our shared environmental objectives.

We believe that through mutual cooperation, technical assistance, and sustained international solidarity, we can ensure that no country is left behind in global efforts to protect the ozone layer and address climate change.

Finally, I would like to reiterate our sincere appreciation to the Government of Rwanda, the Ozone Secretariat, and all participating Parties for their valuable contributions to this important meeting.

Thank you for your kind attention.