REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

STATEMENT

BY

HONOURABLE WYNTER B. MMOLOTSI, MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND TOURISM

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5 - 6 NOVEMBER 2026 | KIGALI, RWANDA

Department of Meteorological Services

BOTSWANA
Our pride, your destination

President of the MOP38,

Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat,

Honourable Ministers,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is an honour for Botswana to join you here in Kigali for the Thirty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol and the 10-year anniversary of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol. I wish to express sincere appreciation to the Government and People of Rwanda for the warm hospitality extended to us.

2. Meeting here in Kigali carries particular significance, as we are uniting for the protection of our environment. Ten years ago, Parties, including Botswana, gathered in this city and adopted the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, which expanded the contribution of the Montreal Protocol from only protecting the ozone layer to making an equally important contribution to our global response to climate change.

3. The reduction of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), extremely potent greenhouse gases widely used in refrigeration and air conditioning, which cause climate change, is a welcome mitigation action that contributes to the global goal of keeping the global temperature rise below 2°C as outlined in the Paris Agreement. Ten years later, our task is increasingly shifting from domesticating the Kigali Amendment to implementing it.

4. For Botswana, this transition is critical. As a semi-arid country that experiences high temperatures, cooling is not a luxury, particularly under a warming climate. It is essential for our well-being in our homes, medical care in hospitals, the tourism industry, food systems, businesses, and many other sectors of our economy. Our challenge, therefore, is not whether Botswana will continue to need cooling but how we meet that growing demand sustainably.
5. Botswana has remained committed to the Montreal Protocol since becoming a Party in 1991. We phased out chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in 2010 in accordance with the Montreal Protocol schedule. We have developed regulatory frameworks for ozone-depleting substances, established licensing and quota systems for controlled substances, and continue implementing our HCFC Phase-out Management Plan toward the complete phase-out of HCFC consumption by 2040. Following ratification of the Kigali Amendment in 2020, we have strengthened our controls on hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and undertaken the preparatory work necessary to implement our Kigali HFC Implementation Plan.

6. We recognise that the next phase of implementation requires looking beyond refrigerants to consider the efficiency of the equipment in which the refrigerants are used. Botswana is therefore working with our national and regional partners on Minimum Energy Performance Standards for refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment. For a hot country such as ours, efficient cooling means lower electricity demand, reduced emissions, and therefore contributes to our Nationally

Determined Contribution (NDC) targets while lowering operating costs for households and businesses.

7. We are investing in the development of capacities of technicians. Our refrigeration and air-conditioning technicians are being trained in the safe handling of alternative refrigerants, including flammable refrigerants. We are strengthening our approach to technician certification and working with training institutions and industry so that our workforce is prepared for the ever-evolving technologies.

8. Ladies and gentlemen, Botswana believes that transition must be inclusive; in this regard, Botswana has deliberately begun bringing gender considerations into the cooling transition. This year, Botswana used World Ozone Day to shine a light on women working and training in the refrigeration and air-conditioning sector. Our message was that the transition to sustainable cooling must also create opportunities for all, including women, youth, technicians and entrepreneurs.

9. We are also strengthening enforcement. During this year, Botswana has undertaken joint border cooperation activities with our neighbours, reinforcing cross-border control of ozone-depleting substances. Regionally and internationally, we must continue strengthening information exchange, customs capacity, licensing systems, risk profiling and our collective ability to combat illegal trade.

10. **Distinguished delegates,** the progress that Botswana and many other Article 5 Parties have made would not have been possible

without the Multilateral Fund. As we consider its replenishment for the period 2027 to 2029, Botswana joins other developing countries in calling for an adequate replenishment that reflects the real costs of implementation. Our ambition must be matched by the means to implement.

11. The transition we are asking developing countries to undertake requires finance. It requires technology, institutional capacity, trained technicians. And critically, it requires alternative refrigerants and technologies that are safe, affordable and appropriate to our national circumstances.

12. We therefore encourage Parties to continue strengthening support for National Ozone Units through the Institutional Strengthening Mechanism. These institutions remain at the centre of national implementation by coordinating stakeholders, administering licensing systems, reporting data, implementing projects, and ensuring that our international commitments translate into action on the ground.

13. For countries such as Botswana, it is also essential to ensure that the transition does not turn our markets into destinations for obsolete, inefficient, or inappropriate technologies. The transition must be both environmentally sound and economically equitable.

14. **Ladies and gentlemen**, the Montreal Protocol is often described as one of the world's most successful environmental agreements. Its

success was not accidental. It was built on science, trust, and cooperation. Importantly, it recognised that countries have different circumstances and capacities and that developing countries require support to meet shared global objectives. That principle remains as important today as it was when the Protocol was adopted.

15. As we mark ten years of the Kigali Amendment, Botswana believes that the next chapter of the Montreal Protocol should be one in which we build synergies in ozone protection, climate action, energy efficiency, sustainable cooling, skills development and economic opportunity. The Government of Botswana remains committed to playing its part. We will continue strengthening our regulatory framework, investing in our technicians and institutions and collaborating with our neighbours to strengthen enforcement. We will also continue pursuing energy-efficient and climate-friendly cooling and working with the international community to ensure that the Montreal Protocol remains a model of effective multilateral environmental cooperation.

16. **Lastly distinguished delegates,** Botswana is humbled to be selected and entrusted to co-chair proceedings of MOP38. We do so with a commitment to the consensus-building spirit that has defined this Protocol for nearly four decades. As we deliberate here in Kigali, let us protect that spirit. Let us ensure that our decisions are ambitious, but implementable. Let us ensure that no country is left behind in the transition. Most importantly, let us ensure that the success of the Montreal Protocol continues to be measured not only by the

commitments we make in meeting rooms, but by the change we deliver in our countries and in the lives of our people.

17. I thank you.

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