STATEMENT BY H.E. PAK SOKHARAVUTH
Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment, Kingdom of Cambodia
At the High-Level Segment of the 38th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer
Kigali, Republic of Rwanda | 2–6 November 2026

- *H.E, President, of the MOP38*
- *Ms. Megumi Seki Nakamura, Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat,*
- Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Ministry of Environment of the Kingdom of Cambodia, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Rwanda for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements in hosting the 38th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol. I also wish to express our appreciation to the Ozone Secretariat, the Multilateral Fund Secretariat, the implementing agencies, and all development partners for their continued support in advancing the implementation of the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment.

Mr. President, Excellencies,

This meeting holds particular significance as we commemorate the **10th anniversary of the adoption of the Kigali Amendment in October 2016, here in Kigali, Rwanda.** Over the past decade, the Kigali Amendment has demonstrated the strong determination of the international community to build upon the achievements of the Montreal Protocol by addressing hydrofluorocarbons, which are powerful greenhouse gases widely used in refrigeration and air conditioning. This historic agreement has strengthened the contribution of the Montreal Protocol to global climate action while creating opportunities to promote energy-efficient technologies, sustainable cooling, and green economic development. As we celebrate this important milestone, Cambodia wishes to reaffirm its strong commitment to the Vienna Convention, the Montreal Protocol, and the Kigali Amendment, recognizing that their successful implementation is essential for protecting the ozone layer, mitigating climate change, and safeguarding the well-being of future generations.

Under the leadership of **Samdech Moha Bovor Thipadei Hun Manet, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia**, environmental protection and climate action remain important priorities of the Royal Government of Cambodia. Our national efforts are guided by the **Pentagonal Strategy–Phase I**, the **Circular Strategy on Environment 2023–2028**, built upon the three strategic pillars of **Clean, Green, and Sustainable**, and the **Code on Environment and Natural Resources**. These policy and legal frameworks, together with the Sub-Decree on the Management of Ozone-Depleting Substances, provide an important foundation for strengthening environmental governance, controlling imports and consumption of regulated substances, and promoting environmentally sound technologies. Furthermore, Cambodia's **Third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0)** and its long-term climate objectives reinforce the importance of reducing HFC emissions, improving energy efficiency, and promoting sustainable cooling as part of our national climate mitigation and adaptation efforts.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,

Cambodia has made continued progress in fulfilling its obligations under the Montreal Protocol through the implementation of the **Hydrochlorofluorocarbon Phase-out Management Plan (HPMP)**, supported by the Multilateral Fund and implementing agencies. Our activities include strengthening the import licensing and quota system, improving customs monitoring and enforcement, providing technical training to refrigeration and air-conditioning technicians, promoting good servicing practices, and supporting the transition from HCFC-based equipment toward ozone-friendly alternatives. Cambodia has also undertaken initiatives to replace older HCFC-22 air-conditioning equipment with more environmentally friendly and energy-efficient technologies. These efforts contribute to the gradual elimination of ozone-depleting substances while supporting national energy-efficiency and climate objectives.

Following Cambodia's ratification of the Kigali Amendment in April 2021, the Ministry of Environment has strengthened national preparations and implementation arrangements for the HFC phase-down. Cambodia has introduced an HFC quota system, reinforced its electronic import licensing procedures, enhanced cooperation between the National Ozone Unit and the General Department of Customs and Excise, and undertaken national verification of HFC consumption data. These activities are essential for ensuring compliance with reporting requirements, improving the accuracy of national consumption information, and supporting effective implementation of the Kigali Amendment. Cambodia is also advancing the preparation and implementation arrangements of its **Kigali HFC Implementation Plan (KIP)**, including measures for institutional strengthening, capacity-building, refrigerant management, and the adoption of low-global-warming-potential alternatives.

Recognizing the growing demand for refrigeration and air conditioning, Cambodia is placing greater emphasis on integrating **energy efficiency with the HFC phase-down**. Our National Cooling Action Plan, the development of minimum energy performance standards and energy labelling requirements for air-conditioning equipment, and the adoption of National Guidelines for Passive Cooling Strategies provide important opportunities to reduce energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions. Cambodia is also promoting improved refrigerant management throughout the life cycle of cooling equipment, including installation, maintenance, servicing, recovery, recycling, and reclamation. Particular attention is being given to the mobile air-conditioning sector, where the continued use of high-global-warming-potential refrigerants, especially R-134a in second-hand vehicles, presents additional challenges for the transition toward more sustainable technologies.

Mr. President, Excellencies,

Despite these achievements, Cambodia continues to face challenges, particularly in upgrading recovery and reclamation facilities, ensuring the environmentally sound management of refrigerants at the end of equipment life, improving technician competencies, preventing illegal trade in controlled substances, and facilitating access to affordable, safe, and energy-efficient alternatives. We therefore emphasize the importance of continued financial and technical assistance through the **Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol**, particularly to support the implementation of the HPMP and KIP, strengthen national institutional and enforcement capacities, improve refrigerant life-cycle management, and accelerate technology transfer. We also encourage manufacturers and exporting countries to promote affordable low- and zero-global-warming-potential technologies and support capacity-building for technicians and service providers in developing countries.

As we commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Kigali Amendment, Cambodia believes that the next decade must focus on translating commitments into measurable results. This requires stronger international cooperation, improved access to sustainable cooling technologies, greater integration of energy efficiency and refrigerant management, and strengthened partnerships among governments, industries, implementing agencies, and development partners. Cambodia stands ready to continue working closely with the Ozone Secretariat, the Multilateral Fund, UNEP, UNDP, and all Parties to ensure the effective implementation of the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,

In conclusion, Cambodia reaffirms its unwavering commitment to protecting the ozone layer, accelerating the phase-out of HCFCs, implementing the phasedown of HFCs, and promoting climate-friendly and energy-efficient cooling technologies. The tenth anniversary of the Kigali Amendment reminds us that international cooperation can transform shared environmental challenges into opportunities for innovation, sustainable development, and climate resilience. Let us build upon the achievements of the past decade and work together to ensure that the Montreal Protocol continues to deliver lasting benefits for the ozone layer, the global climate, and future generations.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.