THIRTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE
MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT
DEPLETE THE OZONE LAYER (MOP38)
High-Level Segment
Kigali, Rwanda | 5–6 November 2026

Agenda Item: Statements by heads of delegations of Parties and observer organizations

JOINT CIVIL SOCIETY STATEMENT

Delivered by:
Griffins Ochieng, Executive Director, Centre for Environment, Justice and Development (CEJAD), Kenya, on behalf of the following civil society organizations:*

- Carbon Containment Lab (CC Lab) US
- Cascade Climate US
- CLASP US
- Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) UK and US
- Institute for Energy and Climate Strategies (IECS) US
- Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development (IGSD) US and International
- International Energy Initiative (IEI) Brasil
- Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
- REGeneration, Thailand
- Solutions for Our Climate (SFO°C), Republic of Korea
- Sustainable Research and Action for Environmental Development (SRADev), Nigeria

**We welcome endorsement of our Joint Statement by additional civil society organizations.*

Madam President, Excellencies, Executive Secretary, distinguished delegates, and colleagues:

Speaking from the delegation of the Centre for Environment, Justice and Development (CEJAD), Kenya, I have the honor to deliver this statement as Executive Director, on behalf of our partner civil society organizations.

As we mark the tenth anniversary of the Kigali Amendment—with the fortieth anniversary of the Montreal Protocol on the horizon—we celebrate unprecedented success, but we face an unforgiving reality. Full implementation of the Kigali Amendment can avoid up to 0.5°C of warming. Yet the rate of warming continues to accelerate, and a 1.5°C overshoot is now considered inevitable. Every fraction of a degree matters. Concurrently, even as the ozone layer recovers, emerging threats jeopardize both the atmospheric and climate legacies of this landmark treaty.

We warmly welcome the ministerial leadership of the Friends of the Kigali Amendment. A robust partnership with civil society remains indispensable to translating high-level political commitments into equitable, on-the-ground implementation.

Our collective priorities are twofold:

First, we must achieve universal ratification, accelerate Kigali implementation, and capture the massive climate mitigation benefits, which can be doubled when paired with energy efficiency improvements. This requires:

- Modernizing licensing systems to effectively close regulatory loopholes in transit, free-trade zones, and international e-commerce;
- Halting illegal trade and preventing the environmental dumping of obsolete, energy-inefficient cooling equipment through shared producer and importer responsibility frameworks;
- Strengthening HFC-23 monitoring and instituting strict controls on unaccounted emissions;
- Bolstering institutional support for National Ozone Units, customs enforcement, and technician capacity;
- Scaling energy-efficient cooling technologies and updating safety standards for flammable alternatives; and
- Accelerating national phasedown schedules, equipment bans, and advancing a global Kigali adjustment.

Second, we must confront unresolved gaps and emerging environmental and public health hazards. This demands:

- Instituting comprehensive Lifecycle Refrigerant Management (LRM)—banning disposable cylinders, mandating leak prevention, and adequately funding recovery, reclamation, and destruction;
- Halting emissions from fluorochemical production by curbing feedstock exemptions and expanding atmospheric monitoring;
- Addressing rising industrial nitrous oxide (N_2O) emissions;
- Evaluating and establishing controls over very short-lived substances (VSLS) that threaten stratospheric ozone recovery; and
- Preventing PFAS pollution by directing Multilateral Fund support toward natural, PFAS-free alternatives wherever available.

The Montreal Protocol proved it can evolve with science. As we navigate a world overshooting 1.5°C, that evolution must continue—to slow the rate of warming, curb overshoot, avert irreversible tipping points, and safeguard public health for decades to come.

Together, we have solved global environmental crises before. Let this tenth anniversary mark not just what we have successfully protected, but the decisive, united action we take next.

Thank you.