

STATEMENT BY THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI DURING THE THIRTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEPLETE THE OZONE LAYER, 5TH NOVEMBER 2026, KIGALI RWANDA

- **MADAM. PRESIDENT**
- **Your Excellences**
- **Distinguished Delegates**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

- On behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini and my delegation I would like to express our appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Rwanda for the warm welcome to this beautiful city of Kigali; and further thank the Ozone Secretariat for the excellent organisation of this historical meeting, which marks the 10th anniversary of the Kigali Amendment.
- Madam President, from the onset, let me congratulate you on your election as the President of this MOP and pledge our full support. Let me further recognise the commendable effort and unprecedented level of cooperation shown by Parties to the Montreal Protocol in working tirelessly to phase out ozone depleting substances while also phasing down hydroflourocarbons; with proven, tangible and impactful results. Furthermore, we appreciate the work of the assessment

panels whose scientific research has formed the basis of the decisions taken by the Parties, enabling them to respond to new and emerging challenges.

- Madam President, Eswatini has actively participated in this journey. Having completely transitioned our manufacturing sector from the use of HCFCs and HFCs to ozone and climate friendly technologies about a decade ago, we are proud to state that this has been one of our biggest achievements since the adoption of the Kigali amendment. This has not only ensured compliance but also allowed access to new markets and created more jobs at the country level.
- Subsequent to this, the ratification of the Kigali amendment and establishment of HFC quota and licensing system through legislation, the country is well on its way to phasing down HFCs in the remaining sectors and adopting energy efficient technologies. This work has enabled further collaboration with more government and private entities, including the standards and energy regulators. Furthermore, the cooling sector has been an integral part in the shaping of national energy policies.
- This further resonates well with the objectives of our Nationally Determined Contributions , which provide a clear basis for the enhanced ambition of Eswatini to mitigate climate change impacts through the implementation of concrete actions that have been identified across key sectors; of which reduction in the consumption of HFCs is a significant mitigation contribution. This presents an opportunity to identify linkages between climate action targets and the overarching national development priorities.

- Through the recent banks inventory, we have realised the challenge of addressing the waste accumulated from end of life cooling equipment and refrigerants. In Eswatini, ownership of refrigerators and other cooling equipment is magnified by the very high access to electricity of over 85%. To address this, a central refrigerant recovery and recycle centre is being established, to further strengthen the management of refrigerants. This, is intended to reduce consumption in line with the country targets; and also manage waste from the sector in an environmentally sound manner through recycling and reuse.
- We are committed to applying best practices for installation, servicing, and monitoring to reduce leakages during the operating lifetime of cooling equipment and ensuring refrigerant recovery at equipment end-of-life..
- With the date for the total global phase out of all ozone depleting substances approaching, it has become increasingly important for Parties to ensure that the gains achieved this far are sustained and climate action efforts enhanced. This calls for us to continue working together and strengthen our contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

- As I conclude, I want to reiterate Eswatini's commitment to this journey and all other global environmental initiatives.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION