Draft high-level statement – MOP-38 on behalf of the EU

Madam/Mr. President, Your Excellences, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to represent the European Union and its 27 Member States at the Thirty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (MOP38).

Firstly, we would like to express our gratitude to Rwanda for its hospitality as our host for MOP38, and to mark the 10th anniversary of the signing of the historic Kigali Amendment.

We would also like to thank the Ozone Secretariat, for its support to the Parties throughout the many years of implementation of the Montreal Protocol, as well as ensuring the smooth management of this meeting.

Madam/Mr. President,

The Montreal Protocol is widely recognised as one of the most successful multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). It is also an excellent example of the environmental and public health benefits that multilateral cooperation can deliver.

Since the Protocol came into force, our global efforts have been crucial in reducing the prevalence of skin cancer, eye cataracts and other health effects that result from exposure to excessive solar radiation. These results have been achieved by the phase-down and phase-out of more than 100 harmful man-made chemicals, used primarily for heating and refrigeration, which deplete the ozone layer or delay its recovery and contribute to climate change.

Since the 1970s, scientific research has informed us that CFCs were damaging the Ozone Layer, and that a global response was needed to tackle the problem. Its recovery is underway, with a predicted return to 1980s levels in the Antarctic within 40 years, assuming we maintain progress.

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Today, we are in a different world as climate change increasingly affects daily lives through heatwaves, droughts and other extremes driving the need for cooling, refrigeration and sustainable heating solutions. Therefore, our task is to ensure that the growing demand for cooling and heating is met in a sustainable way.

<The 10th anniversary of the Kigali Amendment>

Last year we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Vienna Convention, and next year it will be the turn of the Montreal Protocol. This year, it is important that we mark the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Kigali Amendment to the Protocol

The Montreal Protocol proved very effective at eliminating ozone depleting substances. However, our understanding of environmental science, and thus the challenges we face, is constantly evolving. We now know that many of the original replacement gases significantly impact climate change.

The Kigali Amendment addresses this issue. It is a landmark amendment which harnesses the proven capacity of the Protocol to effectively manage the phase down of ozone depleting chemicals, and pivots it towards the phase down of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and so promotes climate protection.

The Kigali Amendment has already been successful in limiting the growth of greenhouse gas emissions. Further emissions can be avoided by accelerating the transition to energy efficient cooling solutions and natural refrigerants.

The technical workshop organised by the Rwandan government last Sunday, allowed us to reflect on the progress made in the first decade of the Kigali Amendment while also identifying key actions for the next phase of its implementation.

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We would like to express our appreciation to the 176[1] Parties which have now ratified the Kigali Amendment and we hope that universal ratification will be achieved in the near future to underscore our shared commitment to its common goals.

<Institutional strengthening, PFAS and feedstock emissions>
As our scientific understanding develops, we now know there are emerging issues that require timely action.

There are unexplained gaps between bottom-up estimates and monitored global levels of certain controlled substances. Our collective efforts to improve global coverage of atmospheric regional monitoring systems will allow improved understanding of these discrepancies and should help to reconcile them.

There is increasing evidence that requires us to reassess some of the assumptions of the Protocol, including that emissions from feedstock production are negligible. This includes emissions relating to PFAS, which are expected to become more significant in the future. Scientific awareness of the harmful effects of PFAS, and its breakdown products on human health and the environment, is growing.

The EU looks forward, in the spirit of continuous improvement, to engaging with parties on these issues, based on best science, including the recommendations of the Assessment Panels, particularly in the context of the upcoming 2027 quadrennial assessments.

The goal over time should be that feedstock emissions become insignificant. The EU has already adopted an ambitious HFC phase-out framework, well ahead of the Kigali Amendment, that provides certainty for markets, and drives the deployment of solutions using natural refrigerants. Efforts to improve licensing systems and tackle

[1] 23 Oct 2026 https://ozone.unep.org/all-ratifications

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illegal trade, highlight the need for parties to continue sharing information, best practices and lessons learnt

Here in Kigali 10 years ago, we agreed an important step to improve the global environment; now we should start to build upon that legacy with further steps on these emerging issues.

<The Multilateral Fund and Terms of reference for a study on replenishment>

The Multilateral Fund (MLF) plays an essential role in enabling Article 5 Parties to achieve and maintain compliance. It is also a platform for innovation and capacity-building, and facilitates the transition to natural refrigerants which are the most sustainable solution.

During this meeting, we will decide on the allocation of funding for the 2027-2029 replenishment of the MLF, which remains one of the most cost-efficient climate mitigation instruments.

The EU and its Member States have always provided adequate funding for the MLF to be operational and to deliver. We are committed to continuing to allocate resources to support Article 5 parties in meeting their compliance targets through sustainable solutions during the upcoming triennium.

<Global collaboration>

In summary Madam/Mr. President, we must continue to support the Vienna Convention and its Montreal Protocol and Kigali Amendment, and implement the agreed actions to enhance recovery of the Ozone Layer and limit Climate Change.

The EU aims to act as a global leader in relation to these goals and is moving ahead of the Kigali Amendment schedule. We encourage other

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Parties to do likewise and emphasise that future responsibilities and actions should reflect the evolution of economic capabilities.

Finally, may we as Parties continue to work together in the spirit of mutual trust with determination and goodwill, to deliver sustainable solutions and outstanding results for the ozone layer and climate protection.

Thank you for your attention and happy 10th birthday to the Kigali Amendment.

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