Official Statement by the Head of Delegation of the Republic of Liberia

Presented by: Hon. Anthony S, Kollie

Deputy Executive Director/ EPA Liberia

Mr. President, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I bring you warm greetings on behalf of His Excellency the President, Joseph Nyuma Boakai sr, the Government, and the resilient people of the Republic of Liberia.

Liberia fully aligns itself with the progressive statement delivered on behalf of the African Group (At the U.N. General Assembly). We express our profound gratitude to our host country and the UNEP Ozone Secretariat for their leadership and exceptional hospitality during this 38th Meeting of the Parties.

Mr. President,

This year, 2026, marks exactly one decade since the adoption of the historic Kigali Amendment. For Liberia, this milestone holds deep national and institutional pride. Six years ago, Liberia became the historic 100th nation to ratify the Kigali Amendment, a watershed moment that provided a massive boost to global climate action and signaled our unwavering commitment to environmental multilateralism.

However, as a vulnerable coastal nation on the West African Atlantic line, Liberia does not view ozone protection through an abstract lens. For us, changing rainfall patterns, coastal erosion, and rising temperatures are present-day realities. We recognize that accelerating the phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) under the Kigali framework is one of the most effective, immediate paths we possess to avoid up to 0.5°C of global warming by the end of this century.

Through the National Ozone Unit (NOU) of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of Liberia, we have translated our international obligations into tangible domestic actions. We are strengthening the enforcement of our revised *Montreal Protocol Controlled Substances Regulations* and have integrated our cooling transition directly into our broader National Adaptation Plans (NAP) and updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Yet, Mr. President, as an Article 5 nation entering the critical operational stages of the HFC freeze and phase-down, our journey is constrained by structural imbalances that require urgent, localized solutions:

1. **The Proliferation of Inefficient Cooling Equipment:** Least Developed Countries remain acutely vulnerable to environmental dumping. Without robust global frameworks, our markets risk being flooded with obsolete, energy-inefficient cooling technologies that exacerbate national grid pressures and lock in high global warming potential emission pathways.
2. **Customs and Enforcement Capacity Gaps:** While our EPA has made leaps in training customs officers and local technicians, the reality of porous borders requires sophisticated, real-time tracking systems and testing equipment to completely eradicate the illicit trade of banned or controlled substances.
3. **The Imperative of Lifecycle Refrigerant Management (LRM)**: Phasing down imports is only half the solution. Liberia urges the parties to prioritize investment in localized infrastructure for the recovery, recycling, reclamation, and environmentally safe destruction of refrigerant banks.

Mr. President,

To achieve these objectives, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities must remain active and well-funded. Liberia calls upon the Multilateral Fund (MLF) and our international partners to expand accessible financial windows. We do not just need compliance-driven funding; we require catalytic capital that enables technology transfer, scales up local technical vocational training, and incentivizes the deployment of affordable, energy-efficient, natural-refrigerant alternatives.

Let us leave this 38th MOP not with recycled promises, but with concrete, operational commitments that empower developing nations to meet their targets without sacrificing their economic development.

Thank you.