Statement by:
H.E. Ali Faris Yusuf, Minister of State for Climate Change, Environment and Energy
Republic of Maldives
MOP38
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Kigali Convention Center, Kigali, Rwanda

[Check against Delivery]

Bismillahi-rrahman-nni-rrahim

Honorable Ministers,

Distinguished Delegates,

Assalam Alaikum, and a very good [morning/afternoon]

At the outset, let me express my sincere gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Rwanda and the city of Kigali for the warm welcome and hospitality and, for bringing us back to the very city where this historic agreement was adopted 10 years ago. I also thank the Ozone Secretariat for their excellent preparations for MOP38.

[Mr/Madam. President]

For Maldives, as a Small Island Developing State particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, the Kigali Amendment represents an important opportunity to advance climate action. As the first developing country to successfully phase out HCFCs in 2020, ten years ahead of schedule, we continue to build on this achievement in the implementation of the Kigali Amendment.

Maldives has finalised Stage I of its Kigali Implementation Plan and submitted in this September for consideration by the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund. This plan is a strategic framework for our national HFC phasedown, which reflect our unique geographical circumstances, growing cooling demand, and the need for accessible and sustainable alternatives.

[Mr/Madam. President]

The Kigali Amendment has an important role to play in ensuring that growing cooling needs are met sustainably, providing solutions to the rising temperatures and extreme heat. In this regard, Maldives is working to promote energy efficient cooling technologies and strengthen environmentally sound management of refrigerants in the country.

As a tropical island nation, cooling needs are directly connected to our daily lives and to key economic sectors, including tourism, fisheries, healthcare, and food storage. Our geographical dispersion, import dependence, and limited economies of scale present considerable challenges in accessing affordable, energy-efficient cooling solutions. The transition to alternative refrigerants also requires substantial investment in technical capacity, safety standards, and supporting infrastructure. These challenges are particularly pronounced for low-volume-consuming countries such as Maldives.

[Mr/Madam. President]

As we enter the next decade of implementation, we must ensure that implementation continues to be inclusive to the needs of all Parties. We therefore emphasise the importance of sustained and accessible financial and technical assistance through the Multilateral Fund, particularly to support technology transfer, capacity building, and the adoption of energy-efficient, low-global-warming-potential alternatives. Maldives remains committed to working alongside the international community to protect the ozone layer and contribute to a climate-resilient future.

I Thank you.