Federated States of Micronesia — Head of Delegation Statement
High-Level Segment of the 38th Meeting of the Parties

Mr. President, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

The Federated States of Micronesia warmly thanks the Government and people of Rwanda for welcoming us once again to beautiful Kigali, ten years after the adoption of the Amendment that bears its name—a gift to the world and to future generations.

A decade ago, in this room, countries opened a new chapter in atmospheric protection.

Part of the magic of the Montreal Protocol is that a small Pacific island archipelago can propose a change to a global treaty and, within a few years, see it become reality under the stewardship of a country in the African highlands. That is extraordinary.

It could not have been done without the backing of 196 countries, the wisdom of the scientific community, and the guidance of experts from civil society and industry, who enabled the Protocol to launch into action and begin implementation.

The Montreal Protocol is trusted by its membership because of its past success and its ability to adapt to the future of a rapidly changing world. As members of the treaty, we have a responsibility to preserve its capacity to evolve and enable it to achieve, or even exceed, its potential.

As we look to the future, we need the Montreal Protocol and the Kigali Amendment to protect the planet and deliver their benefits to global society more than ever.

Rising temperatures are already endangering communities, driving sea-level rise and threatening coral reefs and forests with irreversible damage. Meanwhile, global demand for cooling is projected to more than triple by 2050, with much of that growth in developing countries. Meeting this demand with inefficient equipment would place an immense burden on already fragile and costly energy systems.

Excellencies, it is our responsibility as members and stewards of this treaty to continue implementing our commitments while making our collective response stronger, wiser, and more ambitious.

We must connect the refrigerant transition with energy efficiency and lifecycle refrigerant management. Together, these approaches can protect the atmosphere while delivering essential cooling, strengthening energy and food security, and safeguarding health in a rapidly warming world.

For small island developing states, these benefits are deeply consequential. Rising seas, extreme heat, and threats to our food systems place our communities under growing pressure. Preventing avoidable near-term warming matters to our security and our future.

From the Pacific, we know that the success of this treaty is measured not only in emissions avoided, but in the futures it helps preserve for our islands, our oceans, and the generations who will inherit them. Micronesia's contribution to the Kigali Amendment reminds us that even the smallest nations can help shape solutions of global significance.

Let us honor the gift of Kigali by ensuring that its greatest benefits are still ahead of us.

Thank you.