STATEMENT BY MS. LEILA AKELLO GONASA,
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NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY AND

HEAD OF UGANDA DELEGATION AT THE THIRTY EIGHTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEPLETE THE OZONE LAYER – 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KIGALI AMENDMENT 2016-2026

AT THE HIGH–LEVEL SEGMENT
5TH – 6TH NOVEMBER, 2026
KIGALI, RWANDA

The President MOP-38 to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer,

The Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP),

The Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat,

Heads of State,

Honorable Ministers,

Heads of Delegations,

Distinguished Delegates, Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Greetings from the Republic of Uganda, the cheerful and pleasant Neighbor of the Republic of Rwanda.

On behalf of the Government of Uganda, I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to my Neighbor, the Republic of Rwanda, UNEP, and the Ozone Secretariat, for organizing and hosting this Meeting of the Parties in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Kigali Amendment, in this vibrant geographical heart of Rwanda.

Madam President and distinguished Delegates,

The Government of Uganda acknowledges the successes achieved by the Parties over the years. The multilateralism employed by all the Parties has sustained remarkable implementation of the Montreal Protocol leading to tremendous achievements including phasing out more than 99.5% of the ozone depleting substances (ODS) and the impending full recovery of the Ozone Layer, among others. Government of Uganda categorically reaffirms her allegiance towards this multilateralism.

Government of Uganda appreciates the commendable leadership of the Ozone Secretariat, and enormous contribution by the Scientific Assessment Panel (SAP) and the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP), in providing the Parties with scientific information on the status of the Ozone Layer and associated climate-related phenomena. We also appreciate the excellent synergy and collaboration that the Ozone Secretariat has created with various multinational bodies tailored towards restoring our darling, the Ozone Layer.

Government of Uganda is cognizant of issues that have come to the fore of recent, concerning energy efficiency, lifecycle refrigerant management and alternative substances and products. These issues speak to the urgent need to minimize emissions of controlled substances into the atmosphere.

Government of Uganda strongly believes that promoting and adopting ozone and climate-friendly alternatives, is the way to go,

in order to safeguard human life, the planet earth and the environment in general.

Madam President and distinguished Delegates,
It is no news that Government of Uganda ratified all the amendments to the Montreal Protocol, and even put in place appropriate regulatory and institutional framework to implement the Montreal Protocol. Our successes under the Montreal Protocol need not to be elaborated because they speak for themselves. Uganda was the first Country in the East African Region to revise ODS Regulations to include emerging issues and Kigali Amendment Provisions and we now boast of 6 years' experience of enforcing these Regulations. We also have the Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) that are being enforced.

In addition, Uganda phased-out importation of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) in 2025, 5 years before the targeted phase-out date given to article 5 Countries. This is a no meagre achievement Madam President.

Government of Uganda has adopted innovative approaches to creating awareness on the Montreal Protocol, for instance, Uganda is the only Country in the World that conducts National Ozone Contests for Universities and Secondary Schools where Mr. Ozone and Ms. Ozone are crowned every year. Students are subjected to questions about the Ozone Layer Protection and the Montreal Protocol and the best performing students are crowned Mr. Ozone and Ms. Ozone. Mr. Ozone and Ms. Ozone are the face of the Montreal Protocol in their respective Universities and Secondary Schools. In so doing, Government of Uganda is instilling the love and responsibility for Ozone Layer Protection into the minds of all students right from their time at School so that by the time they graduate and start formal employment, they are already well acquainted with the knowledge and skills on Ozone Layer Protection.

We have also continued to train refrigeration and air conditioning technicians as well as Customs Officers and other law enforcement officers on various aspects on the Montreal Protocol.

Despite the successes we boast of, there are a number of challenges that we still face and these include:

(i) Uncertainty relating to availability and cost of ozone, climate-friendly alternative substances and technologies in markets across the world.
(ii) Availability of funds to facilitate implementation of the Protocol
(iii) Illegal trade. We would like to go beyond our national efforts and do international corporation with exporting Countries. Our plea is that let the exporting Countries seek informal prior informed consent (iPIC) from Uganda before clearing any exporters of refrigerants and equipment containing refrigerants.
(iv) Inadequate capacity-building and training at different levels of governance
(v) Insufficient engagement of different stakeholders, for example, consumers, business community, manufactures, regulating agencies, academia, researchers, and policy-makers); and,
(vi) Lack of reclamation centers to undertake recovery, recycling and reclamation of refrigerants.

Hence, Government of Uganda envisages that through concerted efforts to address the above-mentioned concerns and challenges, we can contribute to achieving the overall goal of safeguarding the Ozone Layer, mother planet earth, human life, among others.

Madam President, Government of Uganda wishes to appreciate the continued support received from the Multilateral Fund Secretariat, and the Implementing Agencies, especially, the OzonAction under the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Montreal Protocol Division at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), that have enabled Uganda to maintain compliance with the Montreal Protocol. We also appreciate the support and collaboration with GIZ, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in implementing the Energy Efficiency Pilot Project in Uganda. We request for more

projects in the near future so that we continue to work together to make this world a better place to live in, for us and future generations.

I can't thank you enough for lending me your ears!

For God and My Country.