

STATEMENT FOR THE MINISTER, HONOURABLE DR. EVELYN NDLOVU AT THE 38TH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEPLETE THE OZONE LAYER

5-6 NOVEMBER 2026

Excellencies

Zimbabwe associates itself with the statement delivered by the Africa Group and welcomes the convening of this meeting at a consequential moment for global climate action. Madam President, I wish to start by congratulating you on your election as the President of the Bureau of the 38th Meeting of Parties to the Montreal Protocol. Zimbabwe remains firmly committed to the objectives of the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment. As a Party operating under Article 5, Zimbabwe continues to implement its obligations in good faith and guided by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

Madam President, Zimbabwe has made significant progress toward complying with the provisions of the Montreal Protocol and the Kigali Amendment. To date, we have managed to phase out the use of chlorofluorocarbons across the refrigeration and air-conditioning servicing sector; eliminate carbon tetrachloride consumption; and phase out methyl bromide in quarantine and pre-shipment as well as soil fumigation uses. This achievement is in full compliance with the phase-out schedules set by the Montreal Protocol and reflects the sustained collaboration between Government and partners. Our focus now is on accelerated phase-down of Hydrochlorofluorocarbons use and, under the Kigali Amendment, the phase-down of Hydrofluorocarbons.

Madam President, to strengthen control over trade in ozone-depleting substances, Zimbabwe has implemented an electronic licensing and quota system for importing and exporting controlled substances. This system is fully integrated into the Zimbabwe Electronic Single Window System, which integrates border and trade regulatory processes across Government. This digitalisation has significantly enhanced our ability to monitor compliance, detect anomalies in trade patterns, and generate reliable data for national reporting under the Montreal Protocol.

Madam President, Zimbabwe recognises that sustainable compliance depends on the presence of well-trained personnel and effective enforcement at both the point of entry and point of use. To this end, a cocktail of measures including technical training of technicians and Custom Officers; joint border dialogues; and provision of servicing tools has been undertaken.

Zimbabwe has adopted a lifecycle approach to refrigerant management, covering importation, servicing, recovery, recycling and final disposal. Of particular note is the environmentally sound destruction of unwanted, contaminated and obsolete refrigerants and foam blowing agents using cement kilns; establishment of recovery and recycling schemes at servicing workshops to minimise venting

of refrigerants; and integration of lifecycle management principles into national policy and technician training curricula. These interventions demonstrate our commitment not only to compliance, but also to addressing the full lifecycle of controlled substances in a manner that protects the ozone layer and the global climate system.

Notwithstanding this progress, Zimbabwe continues to face challenges including limited access to means of implementation, the high cost of climate-friendly alternative technologies, emergence of undesignated borders that promote illegal trade, and the need for continuous capacity building as technologies and control measures evolve. We therefore appeal to the Multilateral Fund and Partners to continue supporting Article 5 Parties such as Zimbabwe with adequate and predictable means of implementation, particularly as we transition into the hydrofluorocarbons phase-down phase under the Kigali Amendment. Zimbabwe stands ready to continue playing its part, and to share its experiences with fellow Parties, particularly on the integration of ozone licensing systems into national single window platforms and the use of cement kilns for environmentally sound destruction of controlled substances.

I thank you, Madam President, and wish this 38th Meeting of the Parties every success in its deliberations.