MOP38

2-6 NOVEMBER 2026 | KIGALI, RWANDA

Ten Years of the Kigali Amendment: Political Leadership, Achievements and the Ways Forward

High-Level Roundtable

UN environment programme | ozone secretariat

THE KIGALI AMENDMENT 2016–2026

Over the past 10, the Kigali Amendment has evolved from a global commitment into national action. Many parties to the Montreal Protocol have achieved notable progress, inlcuding early adoption of lower-global-warming-potential alternatives, integration of cooling efficiency into cooling policies, and development of enabling frameworks for safe and sustainable transitions. These experiences provide important examples of what can be achieved when policies, financing, and capacity-building efforst are aligned.

At the same time, implementation continues to face challenges including gaps in market readiness, gaps in financing, technical capacity, and the need for strengthened regulatory and safety frameworks. Addressing these challenges will be critical to sustaining momentum over the next decade.

The high-level panel discussion during the high-level segment of the Thirty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties (MOP38) to mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol will provide a platform for ministers and high-level representatives to reflect on progress achieved over the first decade of implementation, share national and regional experiences, and provide policy perspectives on priorities for the future.

Panelist biographies

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema (Moderator)



Elizabeth Maruma Mrema is Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and was appointed in 2022.

Between 2020 and 2022, Ms. Mrema served as the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. In this role, Ms. Mrema shepherded global consensus on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, a landmark agreement to protect and restore the natural world on which humanity depends.

For over two decades, Ms. Mrema served in various capacities in UNEP, including as the Director of the Law Division and the Deputy Director of the Ecosystems Division.

Between 2009 to 2012, she served as the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat for the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Acting Executive Secretary of the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (UNEP/ASCOBANS), and Interim Executive Secretary of the UNEP/Gorilla Agreement, all based in Bonn, Germany.

A national of the United Republic of Tanzania, before joining the UN, Ms. Mrema worked with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Bernadette Arakwiye (Rwanda)



Bernadette Arakwiye is the Minister of Environment of the Republic of Rwanda since 24 July 2025.

Previously, she was Senior Manager for Africa Restoration Programmes at the World Resources Institute (WRI), where she mobilised resources for large-scale restoration, led a team of experts across seven African countries, and oversaw a portfolio focused on investing capital and in the capacity of restoration actors, enabling implementation, monitoring progress, and motivating stakeholders to scale restoration.

Ms. Arakwiye has served on advisory boards for regional and international restoration initiatives and has trained professionals and graduate students in restoration planning, implementation and monitoring.

Earlier in her career, she led restoration monitoring at WRI, generated and analyzed ecosystem services data at Conservation International in the United States, and conducted biodiversity research at the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International in Rwanda.

She holds a Ph.D. in Geography from Clark University in Massachusetts, where she received the NASA Earth and Space Science Fellowship, a Master's degree in Environmental Studies from Antioch University New England, and a Bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of Rwanda.

Ivo Marcin (Czechia)



Ivo Marcin is Deputy Minister at the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic and a Deputy Member of the Government of the Czech Republic.

With more than two decades of experience in public administration, economic policy, and international cooperation, he has played a leading role in advancing strategic investments, structural reforms, and sustainable development policies.

In his current role, he oversees European affairs, strategic investments, and international cooperation. He has been instrumental in the design and implementation of the Czech Republic's Modernisation Fund and serves as the country's representative on its Investment Committee. He has also represented the Czech Republic in negotiations with European institutions, international financial organizations, foreign governments, and other strategic partners.

Mr. Marcin's expertise spans public finance, economic and development policy, energy and climate policy, structural reforms, and international cooperation. Throughout his career, he has held senior leadership positions within the Czech public sector, contributing to national investment strategies, economic competitiveness, industrial transformation, and the energy transition agenda.

Maria Ysabel Valle Martinez (Peru)



María Ysabel Valle Martínez is a lawyer and Director General for Environmental Affairs in Industry at Peru's Ministry of Production. She also serves as the national authority responsible for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol in Peru.

She has nearly 30 years of professional experience and specializes in environmental law and regulatory management in the industrial sector.

Her professional background includes environmental regulation and assessment, strengthening public sector management, and promoting the circular economy, industrial decarbonization, and ozone layer protection.

Ali Faris Yoosuf (Maldives)



Ali Faris Yoosuf serves as Minister of State for Climate Change, Environment and Energy of the Republic of Maldives, where he contributes to advancing national priorities on climate action, environmental sustainability, and energy transition.

He also serves as the Head of the Water and Sanitation Sector, providing leadership and strategic direction towards strengthening water security, improving sanitation services, and building climate-resilient infrastructure across the Maldives.

A passionate climate enthusiast and advocate for sustainable development, Ali Faris is particularly interested in addressing the challenges faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS), especially in the areas of climate resilience, water security, and environmental protection.

Through his professional experience across both the public and private sectors, Ali Faris brings a practical and collaborative perspective to climate and environmental governance.

He is committed to promoting international cooperation, strengthening institutional capacity, and advancing sustainable solutions that contribute to a more resilient future for the Maldives and other vulnerable island nations.

Deborah Mlongo Barasa (Kenya)



Deborah Mlongo Barasa is a Kenyan physician and public administrator currently serving as Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry Environment, Climate Change and Forestry of the Republic of Kenya.

Ms. Barasa began her career as a senior medical officer at Mater Hospital and CHANF Community Health Services before joining the World Health Organization's Africa Hub. She served as a Director at the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention between 2019 and 2020.

In July 2024, she was appointed Cabinet Secretary for Health, and in March 2025 was reassigned to head the Environment, Climate Change and Forestry ministry docket.

Across nearly two decades, Ms. Barasa has combined clinical medicine, public health, and regional policy leadership, and as Environment CS she champions sustainable forestry, conservation, and eco-tourism initiatives.

She earned her Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBChB) from the University of Nairobi in 2006 and later completed a Master of Medicine in Internal Medicine at the same institution in 2017.

She also holds an MSc in Infectious Diseases from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Gia Matcharadze (Georgia)



Gia Matcharadze is the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Georgia to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, with concurrent accreditation to the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Rwanda, and serves as Permanent Representative to the African Union.

With a career spanning diplomacy, international security, law, and risk management, Mr. Matcharadze has served in senior positions within Georgia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and overseas missions. His diplomatic assignments have included postings in Ethiopia, the Czech Republic, Turkmenistan, and Afghanistan, where he served as Head of Georgia's mission in Kabul.

Before his current appointment, he served as Georgia's Envoy Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Ethiopia and Chargé d'Affaires in Addis Ababa. He has also held senior leadership roles in the energy and financial sectors, including with international companies based in Dubai and the Bank of Georgia.

Ambassador Matcharadze holds a Master's degree in International Law and Jurisprudence.