**Statement by Hon. Kare Chawicha Debessa,**

**State Minister, Ministry of Environment and Forest of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**

**AT**

**THE 27TH MEETING OF PARTIES TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEPLETE THE OZONE LAYER,**

**1ST – 5TH NOVEMBER 2015,**

Mr. President,

Your Excellencies Hon. Ministers and Heads of Delegations,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and of my delegation, I would like to express our gratitude to the government of United Arab Emirates and United Nations Environment Programme for the excellent organisation of this Meeting, and warm hospitality of the people of United Arab Emirates.

I also wish to convey my sincere appreciation for the outstanding work done by the United Nations environment programme in particular, the ozone secretariat and the assessment panels for their efforts in dealing with issues on substances that deplete the ozone layer.

Ethiopia also acknowledges the contribution of implementing agencies and the compliance assistance programmes established as part of the United Nations environmental programme ozone action to assist article 5 parties to the Montreal protocol, in capacity building activities and in the phase-out of ozone depleting substances.

Mr. president,

We are happy to announce that we are among the parties that have ratified all the amendments of the Montreal protocol and the implementation of our country programme is currently underway.

The Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is currently implementing the Hydro chlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) Phase-out Management Plan. We believe that the accelerated phase-out of HCFCs is going to be a great milestone in the history of the Montreal Protocol and our Government strives to enable Ethiopia’s compliance under this protocol

In the same manner, Parties should aim to prevent the increase in use of HFCs across the world, since HFCs were recommended some years ago as alternatives to HCFCs and yet they have been found to have a high global-warming potential. This is one of the greatest challenges we have to address in order to safeguard our environment, human life, among others.

In this regard, I would like to congratulate all parties for drafting the mandate of a contact group which enables to further discuss on the feasibility and ways of managing HFCs. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my delegation fully supports the discussions on the further amendments of the Montreal protocol.

In addition, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia has set a vision to build a middle-income Climate Resilient Green Economy by 2025 through zero net carbon growth. Since Activities under the Montreal Protocol have not only contributed to reversing the damage to the ozone layer but will contribute to greenhouse gas reductions. Ethiopia believes full compliance to the Montreal Protocol would be among key tools to fight against climate change.

Finally, Mr. President, Ethiopia is committed to fulfill its mandate and we would like to assure you of our fullest cooperation and sincerity in working with the global community in ensuring a better tomorrow with regard to ozone depleting substances and other environmental issues in particular.

I thank you for your kind attention!!