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**STATEMENT BY HEAD OF DELEGATION: REPUBLIC OF RWANDA 27TH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL: DUBAI - UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: 1ST TO 5TH NOVEMBER 2015.**

The President of the 27th Meeting of Parties to the Montreal Protocol

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Firstly, I would like to join other delegates to extend to you, Mr/Madam. President, my warmest congratulations on your election to the bureau of the 27th Meeting of Parties to the Montreal Protocol. I would like to assure you of my Country’s support and utmost co-operation during your tenure of Presidency.

I also extend my gratitude and appreciation to the Government of the United Arab Emirates for the warm hospitality since our arrival into the country. In addition, I also wish to thank the Ozone Secretariat for the excellent arrangements for my delegation to attend this important meeting.

I would like to extend my congratulations to all Parties to the Montreal Protocol for the achievements we have made so far. We however, still have a big task ahead of us; the impacts of Climate Change are being felt and experienced in most parts of the globe more than ever before. These impacts are even more felt in developing countries where the degree of resilience is comparatively low.

This then, calls upon the Montreal Protocol to play its complementary role by avoiding alternatives that have high Global Warming Potentials and promote ozone and climate friendly chemicals, particularly refrigerants. The recovery of the Ozone Layer alone is not a major achievement in the face of adverse impacts of climate change and other environmental challenges.

The Multilateral Fund has played an important role in the success of Ozone Depleting Substances Phase out activities in Rwanda. With the phase out of Hydro Chlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) is still on going in most developing countries including Rwanda, there is need for the Protocol to support and promote cleaner technology such that a synergetic approach is used to solve both ozone and climate change related environmental problems.

Mr. President, as earlier alluded, my Government strongly believes that the Montreal Protocol activities should be implemented in collaboration with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements. My delegation therefore, supports the continued work of Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP) and the Scientific Assessment Panel in finding lasting solutions to the problems of stratospheric ozone layer depletion and global warming.

Lastly, I would like to extend my Government’s appreciation to the Parties for having chosen Rwanda to host the 28th MOP in 2016. This will be yet another opportunity for my country to express her commitment towards protecting the ozone layer and the environment at large.

I thank you all and welcome to Rwanda, the land of a thousand hill.

Dr. Rose MUKANKOMEJE

DIRECTOR GENERAL,

RWANDA ENVIRONMENT

MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY