

**جمهورية الصومال الفيدرالية**

**مكتب وزير الدولة لشؤون البيئة**

لـــــدي مكـــــتب رئيـــــــــس الـــــوزراء

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**The Federal Government of Somalia**

**Office of the State Minister for Environmental Affairs**

**At the Office of the Prime Minister**

**The State Minister’s Statement at the 27th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol**

**Dubai, United Arab Emirates**

**1 – 5 November, 2015**

Allow me at the outset to express my deep appreciation to the Government and people of the United Arab Emirates for hosting this Meeting, and for the warm hospitality. The efforts and goodwill spearheaded with the view to ensuring the success of this Meeting are commended. We in Somalia are aware of the efforts that the United Arab Emirates continue to exert with the view to achieving sustainable development. The role that H.E. Dr. Rashid Ahmad Bin Fahad, Minister of Environment and Water of the UAE and his team have played in bringing about a consensus as regards the management of HFCs is highly appreciated.

It is an honor and privilege for me to represent my Government and my people at this Meeting. Notwithstanding the fact that Somalia has acceded to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol in August of 2001; however, the protracted crisis that has lasted for a very long period of time has precluded the possibility of the country to keep pace with developments in this area.

And as the country is now undergoing reconstruction following a protracted crisis, the opportunity for mainstreaming issues pertaining to the protection of the ozone layer into its national development strategies from the very start, is being seized. Somalia will be committed to meeting its obligations under the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol. And as we are revising our environmental policies, we will make sure that the country’s institutions incorporate environmental dimensions, particularly ozone layer protection, in all phases of the nation’s reconstruction and development strategies.

Countries that have developed rapidly and became the world’s largest economies have also caused extensive damage to their quality of air, water, and soil. Somalia will ensure that this does not happen to its environment as it is being reconstructed. It will harness its alternative energies and make its rebuilding plans energy efficient, which can greatly reduce or avoid greenhouse gas emissions.

Somalia will also be urging the financial institutions in the country to adopt “Green Finance.” This would take environmental factors into account when, for instance, providing credit, making investments and delivering financial services. The world is proud of having phased out 98 per cent of ozone depleting substances. If we, however, allow our investments to continue procuring technologies that increase ODS, then we will a re-occurrence of the problem of the depletion.

Big reductions in emissions will be made by maximizing energy savings when the government and the private sector renovate schools and other institutions and buildings that were destroyed during the protracted crisis. The construction of new buildings will have to adhere to strict energy standards and energy conservation criteria that will be laid by the government.

The revised environmental policies will encompass recommendations that would call for the strengthening of political will and leadership to ensure that the green growth vision is integrated in all sectors of the society, from the central government to regional entities, to the private sector.

The ordinary citizens in different parts of the country may be unaware of the achievements of the Montreal Protocol and the success story of protecting the ozone layer. Sensitization campaigns will be launched by the government to raise awareness of the progress made. The disconnect that has existed for some time now between us and the Ozone Secretariat will be reduced. We will seek from the Executive Secretary and her team to maintain excellent relations with our Government.

The private sector’s role in the resuscitation of the country is commended. However, we will make sure that the private sector internalizes the social costs of the externalities that result from their activities. We will ask our businessmen and businesswomen to comply with the principles of corporate social responsibility. We will tell them not to introduce and import technologies that increase ozone depleting substances

2015 marks a turning point in the development discourse. It marks, in my opinion, a paradigm shift in development agenda. By 2030, we are to ensure a lasting protection of our planet and its natural resources. This is in line with what is envisaged in the Sustainable Development Goals that have just recently been adopted by the UN General Assembly.

But it would be extremely challenging if this and other Sustainable Development Goals were to be achieved everywhere in the developing countries. Even in the most developed of the developing countries, this will be very challenging. In Africa, for instance, many countries are considered to be least developed economies. The level of extreme poverty in these countries is highest. Many of these countries are affected by protracted conflicts. The question that we should all ask is how can very low-income and structurally weak economies – such as those found in Africa – fulfill the Sustainable Development Goals!

Moreover, the developing countries are not monolithic in terms of the level of their development or under development. There are developing countries that are now potential with a clear vision, capacity, and adequate resources that can allow them to spearhead a policy for the post-2015 development agenda. There are, however, those which need to bring about a transformative political, social, and economic agenda that is critical for achieving SDGs, particularly those that are linked to the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol.

Many of us contend that the Montreal Protocol is an instrument for the sustainable development goals. Can it be an instrument for all the developing countries’ SDGs?