



## PRESS RELEASE

### MINISTRY OF WATER DEVELOPMENT, SANITATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**LUSAKA, 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH, 2021**

#### **ZAMBIA BECOMES 115<sup>TH</sup> PARTY TO RATIFY THE KIGALI AMENDMENT TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER**

The Government of the Republic of Zambia, through the Ministry of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection, is happy to inform the nation that Zambia has ratified the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

In a congratulatory message to Zambia, United Nations Environment Ozone Secretariat Acting Executive Secretary, Megumi Seki Nakamura said:

"I have the honour to address you on the occasion of Zambia's ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer on 15 March 2021 according to the communication issued by the United Nations Secretary-General in his capacity as depositary of the Amendment. Please accept our sincere congratulations on being the one hundred and fifteenth party to ratify the Amendment. This significant achievement, which has been posted on the Secretariat website at the following link: <https://ozone.unep.org/all-ratifications> sets an important example that we trust will be followed in the coming months by many more parties."

In fulfilment of Zambia's commitment to the Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone layer and Montreal Protocol on the Phase-out of Ozone-Depleting Substances (ODS), on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2021, Parliament approval the ratification of the Kigali Amendment.

As a Party to the Convention and the Protocol, Zambia is obliged under Article 2 of the Convention to adopt appropriate legislative or administrative measures to control, limit, prevent or reduce human activities that modify or are likely to modify the ozone layer or cause global warming.

Thus, following Cabinet's approval in December, 2019, the Ministry, through the Zambia Environmental Management Agency (ZEMA), as mandated by the Environmental Management Act No. 12 of 2011, has been working with various stakeholders to facilitate the ratification and domestication of the Kigali Amendment.

I am therefore elated to announce to the nation that we have become the 115<sup>th</sup> party to ratify the Kigali Amendment. The Kigali Amendment is aimed at tackling climate change by promoting the phase-down of Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which have been found to have high global warming potential and therefore have high climate impact. According to UNEP, the phase-down in the global consumption of HFCs could save as much as 0.5 degree Celsius of global warming by 2045 while continuing to protect the ozone layer.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank ZEMA for facilitating the entire ratification process and all stakeholders who made submissions to the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture, Lands and Natural Resources, leading to approval of its report on the proposal to ratify the Kigali Amendment.

### **Historical Context**

The historical background to global efforts in dealing with ODS is traced to the 1970s and 1980s when the Vienna Convention was adopted in 1985, and was quickly followed by the adoption of the Montreal Protocol.

The Protocol is an Action Plan designed to protect the Ozone Layer by phasing out the production of numerous substances that deplete the ozone layer. Zambia “acceded” to the Convention and the Protocol on 24<sup>th</sup> January, 1990. It is worth noting that the Protocol has over the years undergone amendments in order to ensure efficient implementation of the Convention, the latest being the Kigali Amendment (2016).

### **Benefits of Ratification**

Some of the expected benefits of ratification include;

- facilitation of the development of appropriate legislative and administrative measures in combatting global warming and therefore complying with the requirements of the Convention;
- elimination of the risk of Zambia becoming a dumping ground for obsolete HFC containing equipment and technologies; and
- access to financial and technical support including the transfer of technologies.

It is without question that Zambia continues to experience a number of climate hazards which include droughts, extreme temperatures, dry spells as well as seasonal flash floods. These have adversely impacted food and water security, infrastructure, energy, health and the livelihoods of communities and the socio-economic development of the country.

Therefore, Government remains committed to an integrated approach in the implementation of the Kigali Amendment to contribute to both national and global efforts aimed at combating climate change, thereby supporting a diversified and resilient economy, through reduced climate change impacts on human health and the environment.

### **Issued by:**

**Hon. Raphael Nakachinda, MP**  
Minister

**Ministry of Water Development, Sanitation and Environmental Protection**