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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
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Item 6(b)(i) of the provisional agenda¹

**PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT OF
THE EVALUATION FUNCTION OF THE MULTILATERAL FUND**

Introduction

1. At its 91st meeting, the Executive Committee approved the monitoring and evaluation work programme for 2023.² The related decision 91/9(c)(i) requested the Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (SMEO) to prepare the terms of reference (TORs) for an external assessment of the evaluation function, to be presented at the 92nd meeting. The TORs were presented in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/92/8 and approved by decision 92/7.

Progress update

2. As part of the preliminary work to deliver the assessment of the evaluation function, the SMEO undertook a scoping mission to New York in October 2023 to interview a number of heads of evaluation offices of the United Nations system, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), and several departments of the United Nations, including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the Office for Internal Oversight Services (OIOS).

3. The SMEO also met with the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance (DMSPC), which has a shared responsibility with the OIOS on evaluation issues, as described in administrative instruction on evaluation in the United Nations Secretariat (ST/AI/2021/3) and the related guidelines for its implementation.

4. The United Nations Secretariat has developed a variety of evaluation functions of different size, characteristics, and capacities, which are assessed every two years by the Inspection and Evaluation Division (IED) of the OIOS in its report “Strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation

¹ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/93/1

² Document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/91/11/Rev.1

findings on programme design, delivery, and policy directives”.³ The report also generates a companion dashboard document presenting a factsheet description for each of the 70 entities included in the report.⁴

5. Evaluation in the United Nations is governed by the ST/SGB/2018/3.⁵ The regulations provide the legislative directives established by the General Assembly governing the planning, programming, monitoring and evaluation of all activities undertaken by the United Nations, irrespective of their source of financing.

6. The current ongoing assessment may provide further understanding on the extent to which the evaluation function of the Multilateral Fund is aligned to the applicable rules and regulations for evaluation in the United Nations, for improving the evaluation function to better serve the needs of the Multilateral Fund.

Remaining activities in 2024

7. During her meetings with the heads of evaluation offices, the SMEO was assured of their collaboration in sharing their experiences and knowledge. The head of the Independent Evaluation Function of the UNDP, a former chair of the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN), was keen to offer their help in identifying UNDP evaluation reports of projects funded by the Multilateral Fund and implemented by UNDP. Their new tool, Artificial Intelligence for Development Analytics (AIDA), would facilitate the retrieval of this information.⁶

8. The evaluation unit has been gathering background information from the history of the Multilateral Fund on the evolution of monitoring and evaluation requirements since the Fund’s early days. This preliminary desk review will facilitate the work of the external expert who will be delivering the external assessment in 2024.

9. The SMEO will facilitate the organization of interviews and the distribution of questionnaires for the independent expert to reach out to all relevant stakeholders. The results of the assessment with its findings and recommendations will be presented to the 94th meeting of the Executive Committee.

³ OIOS - A/78/70

⁴ OIOS - United Nations Evaluation Dashboard 2020-2021, Assignment No: IED-23-006.

⁵ Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

⁶ <https://aida.undp.org/landing>