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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
Ninety-fourth Meeting
Montreal, 27-31 May 2024
Item 3 of the provisional agenda<sup>1</sup>

### **SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES**

## Introduction

1. This document presents the activities of the Secretariat since the issuance of the Secretariat activities document for the 93<sup>rd</sup> meeting.<sup>2</sup>

## I. Issues relating to meetings

## I.1 93<sup>rd</sup> meeting

2. The report of the 93<sup>rd</sup> meeting³ was conveyed to all Executive Committee members, implementing and bilateral agencies and the Ozone Secretariat, and was placed on the Multilateral Fund's website. Results of the meeting related to project approvals and HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) tranche submission delays were communicated to 89 and 25 Article 5 countries, respectively, and the relevant agencies. A post-meeting summary of the 93<sup>rd</sup> meeting and decisions taken at that meeting was prepared and shared on the Fund's website.

### I.2 94<sup>th</sup> meeting

3. The Secretariat prepared the meeting documents for the 94<sup>th</sup> meeting<sup>4</sup>, updated databases and prepared summary documents, where applicable. The Secretariat developed a revised document template for presenting the Kigali HFC implementation plans (KIPs) to the members of the Executive Committee.

Pre-session documents of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol are without prejudice to any decision that the Executive Committee might take following issuance of the document.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/94/1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/93/2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/93/105

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Letters of invitation were sent to members of the Executive Committee, the President of the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties, the President and Vice President of the Implementation Committee under the Non-Compliance Procedure of the Montreal Protocol, the Executive Director of UNEP, the Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat, the implementing agencies, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and non-governmental organizations.

Following the 94<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Secretariat will update and simplify the KIP guide based on the revised document template.

## **I.3** Inter-agency coordination meeting (IACM)

- 4. The Secretariat arranged an in-person IACM, held in Montreal, Canada, from 12 to 13 March 2024. Participants included the representatives of the bilateral agencies of Canada, Germany and Italy, representatives of the implementing agencies and Secretariat staff. Representative of two bilateral agencies participated online. The meeting report<sup>5</sup> is posted on the in-session area of the Fund's website for the 94<sup>th</sup> meeting. Highlights of the meeting are provided in the following paragraphs.
- 5. The importance of the Country Programme (CP) data timely submission was highlighted by the Secretariat, who also emphasized the need to ensure data consistency between project submissions and the data submitted under the CP report and Article 7. This would facilitate a more efficient review of the proposals and allow the Secretariat to focus on the substantive activities and funding required rather than on reconciling data. Agencies would work with countries to ensure that the reconciliation of HFC data discrepancies occurs as soon as possible.
- 6. The Secretariat presented the status of implementation of the 2024 business plan and estimates of the balance at the end of 2024. Agencies provided an update on the expected submissions for each country, including planned submissions for the 95<sup>th</sup> meeting, and shared their views relating to business planning including ways to fully commit Fund resources available to assist Article 5 countries in implementing Montreal Protocol provisions efficiently and effectively. Agencies advised that they were trying to submit on time for the 94<sup>th</sup> meeting as many projects as possible, however, due to countries' capacity and earlier submission deadlines, they had not been able to do so.
- 7. The agencies expressed appreciation for the webinar on the submission of KIPs, organized for agencies by the Secretariat on 29 February 2024<sup>6</sup>, and welcomed the organization of future webinars. The Secretariat reminded agencies to consistently include in the submission of new stages of HPMPs and KIPs the mandatory gender requirements and performance indicators. For new stages of HPMPs or KIPs where there are ongoing stages of the other, the Secretariat also reminded agencies to present the costs for project management units (PMUs), including how the PMU is composed, and how costs are distributed among each project, in light of the overlapping plans and projects. Agencies advised how they were expecting to use the additional resources provided under the administrative cost regime adopted at the 93<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
- 8. Referring to the paper to be prepared by the Secretariat at the request of the Executive Committee, on experiences, best practices and information on low global warming potential (GWP) alternatives in the polyurethane (PU) foam sector, the Secretariat referred to some countries having had delays due to lack of availability of alternative technologies. Based on experience, it was noted that most PU foam enterprises transitioned to cyclopentane during stage I, while in stage II more technologies were considered with different levels of success. Agencies shared their experiences in adopting low-GWP alternatives in PU foam projects implemented under the HPMPs, and the main challenges identified. A questionnaire on this matter would be sent to agencies to better understand these issues.
- 9. Regarding the analysis of the implications of decision 62/17 for the implementation of HPMPs, with a view to enabling the Executive Committee to discuss whether and how to revise its approach to the timing and the value of the final tranche of multiyear agreements, agencies discussed the particular difficulties of LVCs and the division of a small amount of funding among several tranches, which increased workload. Agencies also referred to the impact related to the implementation of a final one-year tranche, and not being administratively efficient to disburse such a small funding amount; to their impossibility to

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> IACM/2024/1/2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Refer to pararaph 26

programme work without funds having been received, which defeated the purpose of the incentive to meet the reduction targets represented by the 10 per cent of the total HPMP funds left until the final tranche; to the potential for fewer tranches and their timing to increase efficiency and reduce administrative burden; and to the possibility for adjustments of funding to be done in stage II.

- 10. The Secretariat informed that it is in the process of developing a methodology to estimate the avoided emissions from Multilateral Fund-supported HFC phase-down projects, which would be used by the Secretariat in its calculations. While the development of that methodology was still a work in progress, the Secretariat described the progress it had made in updating the Multilateral Fund Climate Impact Indicator (MCII). Further updates to the MCII model related to energy efficiency improvement would be made at a later stage. Agencies emphasized that it was critical to be transparent about the assumptions used in the methodology, and welcomed the opportunity for further discussions at future meetings.
- 11. The Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (SMEO) presented an update on the review of project completion reports (PCRs) and agencies provided feedback on the proposed new format. The new submission process, which would not yet be applied for the 94<sup>th</sup> and 95<sup>th</sup> meetings, would connect the PCR information with that of the corresponding project proposal and progress report. The SMEO also presented information about progress of the work programme for 2024 and 2025, and requested inputs from agencies on the thematic evaluations proposed for 2025.
- 12. An informal working lunch was held on 12 March, where the Secretariat provided an update on progress in the development of the knowledge management system (KMS). Once deployed, the KMS promises to streamline user experience significantly, eliminating duplication, providing analytical reports, and offering a dynamic search engine across various portals, thus enhancing efficiency and decision-making processes.

## II. Meetings attended and missions undertaken

- 13. During the reporting period, representatives of the Secretariat participated in the following events:
  - (a) A senior programme management officer participated in the Twinning Workshop for the Pacific Island Countries (PIC) Montreal Protocol Officers, Energy-Efficiency Policy Makers, and Financial Mechanisms Focal Points to Support Kigali Amendment Objectives; the thematic Meeting on Establishment and Implementation of Competency-based Certification; the Thematic Workshop on Strategy of Stage I of KIPs and Integration with the HPMP Stage II in PIC Network, held in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, from 5 to 10 February 2024;
  - (b) The Chief Officer and Secretariat staff attended the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6), held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 26 February to 1 March 2024. During the meeting, the Secretariat participated in the first Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) Day, in particular in the high-level dialogues on cooperation with MEAs. The Chief Officer introduced the Multilateral Fund and its achievements in the dialogue for strengthening cooperation between UNEA, UNEP and MEAs to enhance effective implementation at the national level. The Chief Officer and Secretariat staff also participated in a side event, organized by the Cool Coalition Secretariat, entitled "Global Cooling Pledge contact group roundtable", where the draft strategy to support implementation of the Pledge was presented and discussed among participants. The Chief Officer and the Chief of Administration, while being at UNEP headquarters, took the opportunity to conduct several meetings with different offices on administrative matters.

- (c) Following the UNEA-6 meeting, the Chief Officer and a Secretariat staff member participated in the first phase launch of the Africa Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold Chain (ACES), held in Kigali, Rwanda, on 4 March 2024, and the Chief Officer took part in the strategic roundtable on ACES' role as an enabler of access to sustainable, inclusive and resilient cooling in a warming world. Bilateral meetings were also held with the Director General of Rwanda Environment Management Authority, and her team.
- (d) A programme management officer participated in the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) Network and Enforcement Meeting for Montreal Protocol Officers and Montreal Protocol Customs Focal Points, held in Tirana, Albania, from 23 to 25 April 2024;
- (e) The Chief Officer and a senior programme management officer participated in the Network Meeting of the West Asia National Ozone Officers, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 24 to 25 April 2024. The SMEO joined the meeting online and provided an update on the implementation of the monitoring and evaluation work programme and progress on the ongoing evaluations;
- (f) The Chief Officer participated in the webinar "Financing considerations to support an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution", held on 16 April 2023, organized ahead of the 4<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-4), by the Financing Coordination Group (comprised of OECD, the Circulate Initiative, UNEP Finance Initiative, the World Bank, and the World Economic Forum, with guidance from Member States). She participated in the panel discussion "Financial Mechanisms and Resources Included in the Revised Draft Text".
- (g) A senior programme management officer will participate in the Joint Network Meeting of South Asia and Southeast Asia National Ozone Officers, and the Energy Efficiency Twinning Workshop, to be held in Guangzhou, China, from 20 to 24 May 2024.

## III. Knowledge management system

14. The development of the KMS continues making good progress in accordance with plans. The project management team is closely collaborating with developers and designers to ensure adherence to the project's delivery schedule and coordinating with the various Secretariat staff members involved in the different components of the system. A detailed description of progress made in the development of the knowledge management system can be found in annex I.

### IV. Administrative matters

### IV.1 Staffing and recruitment

- 15. The recruitment process for the position of Senior Programme Management Officer (P-5), whose incumbent retired in February 2024, is at the final selection stage.
- 16. The recruitment processes for the two P-3 positions of Programme Management Officers are underway, with one of them being at the final selection stage.
- 17. The process of selection for the position of Senior Meetings Services Assistant (G-7), was finalized with the selection of Ms. Xue He Yan, effective 1 February 2024.

- 18. A recruitment process has been initiated for the position of Programme Management Assistant (G-6), following the separation of the incumbent in March 2024. The job opening has been advertised on the UN careers website (<a href="https://careers.un.org/jobSearchDescription/230732?language=en">https://careers.un.org/jobSearchDescription/230732?language=en</a>) with a closing date of 7 May 2024.
- 19. The recruitment process and contractual arrangements for two consultants supporting energy efficiency; one consultant supporting the MCII model; two consultants supporting monitoring and evaluation; three individual contractors supporting the project review team; one individual contractor supporting document editing and proof reading; two individual contractors supporting translation coordination; and three interns were completed.

### IV.2 Staff development and training

- 20. The Secretariat convened its annual team retreat in Mont Tremblant, Quebec, from 25 to 26 March 2024, with participation of all staff members.
- 21. Secretariat staff undertook online mandatory United Nations training courses.
- 22. Three Secretariat staff members participated in the Umoja Integrated Planning and Management for MEAs organized by UNEP, from 4 to 8 March 2024, at the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in Montreal, Canada.

### IV.3 Other administrative matters

23. Financial support to the Chair of the Executive Committee for the 94<sup>th</sup> meeting, Ms. María Antonella Parodi, was provided by the Secretariat for her participation in the meeting. This support was provided with the agreement of the Committee members and on the understanding that the support is on an exceptional basis and without setting a precedent for future meetings.

# V. Cooperation with the Multilateral Fund implementing agencies and other organizations

24. Pursuant to decision 79/1(b), the Secretariat has included a full overview of the status of all discussions with MEAs and other relevant organizations in annex II to the present document.

### *Multilateral Fund implementing agencies*

- 25. In preparation for the paper submitted to the current meeting, prepared by the Secretariat at the request of the Executive Committee pursuant to decision 92/1, the Secretariat organised a brainstorming session to get inputs on how the Multilateral Fund might contribute to sustainable cooling, and on how HCFC phase-out and HFC phase-down activities have and can, in future, contribute to sustainable cooling and in which sectors. Representatives from UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO and the World Bank participated in this session, held online on 24 January 2024, and shared their views on different aspects relating to sustainable cooling.
- 26. A webinar on the submission of KIPs was organized by the Secretariat for the implementing and bilateral agencies. It took place on 29 February 2024, and was designed to share the experience gained by the Secretariat through the review of the first 24 KIPs and facilitate the finalization and submission of additional KIPs, as well as to share the agencies' experience in the preparation of KIPs, the challenges faced and the lessons learned, and to discuss possible ways to address common issues encountered during the preparation and review of KIPs. A total of 58 agency staff members participated in the webinar, which was appreciated and concluded with requests for holding further webinars in the future.

Green Climate Fund (GCF)/Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other funding institutions

- 27. In February 2024, the Secretariat shared information on the discussions held during the 93<sup>rd</sup> Executive Committee meeting on energy efficiency, with the GCF, the GEF, the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the African Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. Information relating to the Executive Committee decision on the operational framework on energy efficiency, and projects approved in the 93<sup>rd</sup> meeting under the pilot project funding window for energy efficiency, was also shared.
- 28. The Secretariat will continue to consult these institutions, share information and provide additional updates in line with paragraphs 200 and 201 of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/92/56, and based on the outcomes of discussions pursuant to decision 92/38 on an operational framework for energy efficiency.

Transparency International—Australia (TI-A)

- 29. In late March 2024, TI-A contacted the Fund Secretariat and the Ozone Secretariat regarding an assessment being undertaken by TI-A on Montreal Protocol processes, including the Multilateral Fund. According to the letters received by the two secretariats, the purpose of the transparency, accountability and integrity assessment is "to provide independent feedback on [your] best practices as well as areas for improvement to enhance and ensure optimum transparency, accountability and integrity standards and their effective implementation throughout [your] operations." Additional material shared with the two secretariats by TI-A indicated that the assessment is not an investigation and was not triggered by any allegations of conflicts of interest, corruption or mismanagement.
- 30. The two secretariats have been closely coordinating regarding this matter and have been in regular communication with the UNEP Corporate Services Division (CSD) legal unit. The secretariats, together with the legal unit, held a meeting with the leader of the assessment. The two secretariats shared with TI-A a compilation of publicly available information relating to transparency, accountability and integrity in the UN/UNEP, applicable to the Montreal Protocol processes, in response to the request for assistance to identify these documents, which are part of the general policies, rules and procedures of the UN Secretariat, that equally apply to the treaty and its financial mechanism. The Secretariats have agreed not to engage in commenting on the narratives of the report of the assessment but to provide corrections of factual errors and respond to questions, guiding TI-A to the appropriate publicly available information. TI-A has mentioned that the final report, which is expected to be available in late June, will provide a list of findings and recommendations addressed to "the appropriate decision-making authority."

#### Annex I

# PROGRESS REPORT ON THE CREATION OF A KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (decision 91/69)

### Introduction

- 1. The Executive Committee approved the creation of a new Knowledge Management System (decision 91/69) and requested in paragraph (c) that the Secretariat reports on the progress of implementation of the system until the completion of phases 1 and 2, described in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/91/70, as part of the Secretariat activities. This progress report is in response to this decision and provides updates on the report presented at the 93<sup>rd</sup> meeting. The new Knowledge Management System includes three phases:
  - Phase 1. Master database and revamped website
  - Phase 2. Core products
  - Phase 3. Agencies' portal and other enhancements
- 2. Phases 1 and 2 are being currently implemented whereas for phase 3 the Secretariat will submit an update of the plan and a request for funding after phases 1 and 2 had been completed (decision 91/69, paragraph (d)). By implementing phases 1 and 2, the background work for phase 3 is also being indirectly initiated.

### Status of implementation of phases 1 and 2

3. Tables 1 and 2 summarize the status of implementation for every task that was described in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/91/70.

Table 1: Status of implementation of phase 1

	Phase 1: Master database and website					
Tasks		Change	Rates of	Comments on progress		
		in	completion			
		priority	in %			
1.1	Define and prioritise more detailed user requirements (functional and non- functional)	Yes	40	Backend business processes and workflows have been mapped and documented. Stakeholders are being engaged to finalize the detailed front end flow requirements and development priorities.		
1.2	User processes (and advice on governance and administering and managing data)	Yes	0	Due to the complications in migration of the data, this activity needs to shift until all the data has been consolidated and will now occur mid-way through phase 2.		
1.3	Identify the technology and any customisations needed for the MLF	No	90	This item has a dependency on 1.1 and 1.2 which might bring a few additional customization requirements.		
1.4	Mapping of the old to the new data structures	Yes	100	Completed in phase 1		
1.5	Unify databases into a new master database (migration)	No	95	The completion of this deliverable has a dependency on 1.1 and 1.2 which might bring minor changes on the database structure.		
1.6	Implementation of a new technology - configuration (proxies,	No	90	This item has a dependency 1.3 which might bring minor changes to cross reference queries, analysis and filters which impact configuration.		

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	security assessment, new coding)			
1.7	Revamped website (including user interface design)	No	95	The content of the website has been finalized together with a few modifications to the design and user interaction. The website will be presented at the 94 <sup>th</sup> meeting. Completion of this item will be reached upon successful conclusion of 1.8.
1.8	Testing and acceptance	Yes	80	Testing of the website component continues to minimize the possibility of bugs and migration errors. Content management training sessions for the Secretariat have taken place.

**Table 2: Status of implementation of phase 2** 

Phase	e 2: Core products				
Task	S	Change Rates of completion priority* in %		Comments on progress	
2.1	Online reporting of country programme data	Yes	90	Country programme data portal will be presented at the 94 <sup>th</sup> meeting. Testing of the user interface continues, to prepare the portal for launch minimizing the possibility of bugs and migration errors.	
2.2	Online reporting of project completion reports	No	0	New forms are being defined and will be presented to the 94 <sup>th</sup> meeting by the Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer. The online reporting will be done after the finalization of the forms.	
2.3	Meeting portal	Yes	90	The portal will be presented at the 94 <sup>th</sup> meeting. All meeting documents have been migrated. Additional design and functionality elements have been added to enhance the in-meeting experience for stakeholders. Testing and verification on all migrated meeting documents continue.	
2.4	Country profiles	No	0	The priority has been to ensure the successful collation of the country program data which will populate the profiles. Following this development, the data is consolidated, categorized by country and ready for us to begin developing the profiles.	
2.5	"Handbook" / Electronic document management system	Yes	95	The handbook will be presented at the 94 <sup>th</sup> meeting. Development and design have been finalized. Tagging review and enhancement from the Secretariat continues to improve the search engine functionality.	
2.6 & 2.6a	2.6 has been revised and renamed to "MLF data Hub"	No	10	Collection of requirements for the data hub is in progress. This item has many dependencies around the data elements of phase 1.  The goal remains to create a state-of-the-art data center equipped with dashboards and visual tools that will significantly enhance the user experience and their interaction with MLF data.	
2.7	Pilot project for project review on IS projects	No	0	Not started yet, as per the project plan. This core product may need to be combined with the online	

				project submission and review in phase 3 to avoid any duplication in the design and development.
2.8	Testing and	No	50	Testing for country programme data, meeting portal
	acceptance			and handbook is close to finalization. Full testing
				will be completed at the end of phase 2.

## **Concluding remarks**

- 4. The Knowledge Management System is progressing well, and work continues as per the original schedule with many of the core products having moved forward.
- 5. The Secretariat has diligently conducted several rounds of testing on the main components, collaborating closely with developers to address issues and implement improvements. Notably, design enhancements have been made to the website, handbook, and meeting portal to provide users with a modern and streamlined experience. Migration of country programme data has been successfully completed, and efforts to enhance the submission process for new data have undergone rigorous testing.
- 6. As previously reported, the closely interlinked nature of phase 1 (database migration to the master database) and phase 2 (development of core products using the master database), and the natural evolution of the software development cycle facilitated the following nearly completed core products to be presented at the 94<sup>th</sup> meeting:
- Revamped modern website;
- Decisions of the Executive Committee in a powerful search engine, which will have a distinct name different from "decisions handbook";
- New enhanced meeting experience "meeting portal";
- Online reporting country programme data portal with streamlined workflow and data validation.
- 7. Finally, as the Secretariat diligently progresses towards the completion of phases 1 and 2 for the 95<sup>th</sup> meeting, phase 3 is kept on radar. The Secretariat continues to proactively align its development efforts to seamlessly integrate with the agency reporting portal and meet all application programming interface (API) requirements to ensure that readiness to transition into phase 3, following clearance by the Executive Committee.

## Annex II

## ADVICE AND/OR INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE SECRETARIAT OF THE MULTILATERAL FUND TO NON-MONTREAL PROTOCOL BODIES

Note: New information is in **bold** fonts

Secretariat advice/discussions held/interaction	Meeting
Adaption Fund	
Explanation of Multilateral Fund policies on interest earned. The information provided by the Secretariat can be found in document AFB/EFC.18/10 of the 18 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Ethics and Finance Committee at https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/AFB-EFC-18.10-Investment-income-doc.pdf.	76
Arab Forum for Environment and Development	
An article on the Multilateral Fund's experience in the Arab region for the 2018 Report of the Arab Forum for Environment and Development.	81
Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)	
The General Counsel and the Director General of the Operational Partnership Department visited the Secretariat to discuss about opportunities for collaboration. AIIB is a multilateral development bank established after the UNFCCC Paris Agreement and UN SDGs, whose core mission is to finance sustainable infrastructure.	92
Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (formerly, Pew Center on Climate Change)	
Documents UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/37/59, UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/38/54 & Add.1; text of decisions 37/62 and 38/63; Guidelines on funding of technology not in the public domain (Annex XIV of UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/38/70/rev.1); Observations on technology transfer license fees and royalties for different types of projects (liquid carbon dioxide, metered-dose inhalers, tobacco fluffing, HFC-32 for the refrigeration sector, supercritical CO2, the HCFC production sector).	75
Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC)	
The Secretariat provided relevant information of the Multilateral Fund relating to cooling initiatives and programmes.	88
Presentation on the Overview of Multilateral Fund support for implementation of the Kigali Amendment in the context of the Kigali Workstream Discussion.	86
Informal consultations with the CCAC Secretariat on a new initiative on efficient cooling that had been provisionally approved by the CCAC working group to help build high-level leadership and facilitate collaboration among stakeholders with a view to fostering enhanced energy efficiency in the cooling sector while countries implement the phase-down of HFC refrigerants under the Montreal Protocol.	83
Overview of approved HCFC demonstration projects and options for additional projects to demonstrate climate-friendly and energy-efficient alternative technologies to HCFCs (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/72/40). Briefing on Multilateral Fund-financed surveys of ODS alternatives; possible opportunities for CCAC in Countries with Economies in Transition (CEIT); lessons learned from the Multilateral Fund that might be applicable to the technical review process and funding cycle of CCAC projects.	75
Document 72/40, Overview of approved HCFC demonstration projects and options for additional projects to demonstrate climate-friendly and energy-efficient alternative technologies to HCFCs (decision 71/51(a)), which summarizes the results of Multilateral Fund HCFC demonstration projects approved so far.	74

Secretariat advice/discussions held/interaction	Meeting
Climate Technology Centre and Network	
Presentation on capacity building under the Multilateral Fund as resource material for the Sixth meeting of the Advisory Board. General information on the Multilateral Fund and background documents.	75
Cool Coalition Working Group	
The Secretariat participated in the consultations relating to the report on a Global Cooling Stocktake, prepared by the Cool Coalition. The Secretariat also provided comments on the draft report that covered different aspects relating to the adoption of HFC-free technologies, Montreal Protocol related activities and financing of sustainable cooling.	93
The Secretariat was invited by the Cool Coalition to join its National Cooling Action Plan (NCAP) working group that would support countries in developing NCAPs through capacity building of relevant partners and exchanging information by creating a knowledge repository of completed NCAPs. The Secretariat would participate in on-line meetings and consultations of the working group and provide inputs relating to NCAP development.	92
European Union / European Parliament	
During the 25 <sup>th</sup> MOP, the Chief Officer received a request from the European Parliament to have a bilateral discussion on issues related to the Multilateral Fund including the resources needed for the replenishment of the Multilateral Fund and proposals for additional contributions to fund climate benefits. Accordingly, the Chief Officer provided the two representatives of the European Parliament with a short briefing explaining the operation of the Multilateral Fund.	71
German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development	
Information on the achievements of the Multilateral Fund and a summary of approved projects implemented by Germany as a bilateral agency.	77
Global Environment Facility (GEF), Green Climate Fund (GCF), Regional Development Banks	s
The Secretariat shared information on the discussions held during the 92 <sup>nd</sup> Executive Committee meeting on energy efficiency with the GEF, the GCF, the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the African Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank in June 2023.	93
The Secretariat shared information with the GCF, the GEF, the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the African Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank on the discussions held during the 93 <sup>rd</sup> Executive Committee meeting on energy efficiency, and relating to the Executive Committee decision on the operational framework on energy efficiency, and projects approved in the 93 <sup>rd</sup> meeting under the pilot project funding window for energy efficiency.	94
Global Environment Facility (GEF)	
Review of one project: HFC project in Tajikistan	93
Consultations were held with GEF senior environmental specialists on issues relating to energy efficiency in the context of HFC phase-down.	92
On-line discussions dealing with issues relating to energy efficiency in the context of HFC phase-down and climate change / energy efficiency	91
The Secretariat participated in the workshop on "Delivering Multiple Global Environmental Benefits through the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste", organized by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel and was called on during discussion on identified linkages, especially regarding ozone depletion.	86

staffication of the Kigali Amendment in the countries with economies in transition and review of one oblan for Tajikistan.  Mormal on-line discussions between the Secretariat and staff of GEF on possibilities for further inclaboration on energy-efficiency matters.  Review of one project: Energy efficiency (EE) for air-conditioners in buildings for India.  Review of one project: Accelerating Adoption of Sustainable Thermal Comfort: Transition towards inergy Efficient and Climate Resilient Cities in India.  Review of four projects: Completion of the phase-out of HCFC consumption with the support of low-3WP technologies in Belarus, GEF project ID 6046; Kazakhstan, HCFC Phase-out in Kazakhstan through the promotion of zero-ODS low-GWP energy-efficient technologies, GEF project ID 6090; Complete HCFC phase-out in Tajikistan through the promotion of zero-ODS low-GWP energy-efficient technologies, GEF ID 6030; Complete HCFC Phase-out in Uzbekistan through the promotion of zero-ODS low-GWP energy-efficient technologies, GEF ID 6003.  Review of the project on the introduction of ODS alternatives in agriculture and in the post-harvest ector in Kazakhstan (GEF project ID 9184).  Toomments on the proposal for a methyl bromide project for Kazakhstan (GEF funding):  Provided ideas on the use of funds under GEF 6 for ODS phase-out in non-Article 5 CEIT countries.  Information on the discussions at recent Montreal Protocol meetings regarding proposals for an unendment to the Protocol.  Review of a project (Introduction of ODS alternatives in agriculture and in the post-harvest sector in Kazakhstan) against the Multilateral Fund's policies and guidelines.  Review of a project an invitation to attend the 45% GEF Council Meeting that would be held from 5 to 7 November 2013. In a further invitation letter to the new Chief Officer, the CEO and Chairperson of the GEF welcomed a renewal of the past cooperation in providing assistance to parties on meet their obligations under the Montreal Protocol and a nearesul of historic ties. In	Secretariat advice/discussions held/interaction	Meeting
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Information on the modalities for additional contributions to the Multilateral Fund.	Courtesy visit to the Ministry for the Economy and Finances of France. Issues discussed included <i>inter alia</i> bilateral co-operation by the Government of France, and the replenishment of the Multilateral Fund for the 2021-2023 triennium.	83
	Information on the modalities for additional contributions to the Multilateral Fund.	77

Secretariat advice/discussions held/interaction	Meeting
Green Climate Fund (GCF)	1
Discussions with Mr. Yannick Glemarec, Executive Director and the GCF team on issues relating to energy efficiency in the context of HFC phase down, in December 2022.	92
On-line discussions dealing with issues relating to energy efficiency in the context of HFC phase-down and climate change / energy efficiency	91
Informal on-line discussions between the Secretariat and staff of the GCF on possibilities for further collaboration, as the consultative meeting on development of GCF energy efficiency sectoral guidance scheduled for 27-28 February 2020 was cancelled due to COVID-19.	85
A representative of the GCF visited the Secretariat and held a number of meetings with the Secretariat staff that provided an opportunity for an exchange of information on how both funds operate and possibilities for further collaboration.	84
Informal discussions between the Chief Officer and the Deputy Executive Secretary of the GCF on matters of interests to both Funds, in the margins of the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly.	83
Meeting documents related the modalities for reporting the administrative costs of implementing agencies including the following documents: UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/26/67, UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/34/52 and, UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/38/59, UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/55/48, and UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/80/43	81
Conference call to provide information on the Multilateral Fund practices regarding concessional lending and incremental costs.	80
Provided link to documents relevant to the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel, Scientific Assessment Panel, and the Environmental Effects Assessment Panel on the Ozone Secretariat's website, and also an introduction to the Ozone Secretariat's Communications Officer.	
Documents were provided, including: the Executive Committee Primer; Multilateral Fund policy, procedures, guidelines and criteria; the presentation entitled "The Multilateral Fund: Governance, Business Model, Accomplishments, Challenges"; examples of pre-session documents for business planning, project proposals; monitoring and evaluation work programme and project completion reports; business plan templates; progress reporting guidelines; reports of the two evaluations on institutional strengthening; and the monitoring and evaluation work programme.	77
The Fund Secretariat's experience in establishing legal arrangements with implementing entities and establishing a progress reporting system for the Multilateral Fund.	76
Information on performance indicators developed for the Multilateral Fund; Information on the discussions at recent Montreal Protocol meetings regarding proposals for an amendment to the Protocol; Information on the Multilateral Fund's monitoring and accounting framework including Chapter XI of the Multilateral Fund policies, procedures, guidelines and criteria (monitoring and evaluation); Presentation on capacity building under the Multilateral Fund.	75
Presentation on the Multilateral Fund and a sample of key documents including Secretariat activities, status of the Fund, consolidated business plans and progress reports, a sample of project proposals and policy papers. Further details and discussions on the Multilateral Fund.	74
Overview of the objectives and operation of the Multilateral Fund, including its project review process, policy development, meeting process, and implementation of Executive Committee decisions.	72

Secretariat advice/discussions held/interaction	Meeting
The Interim Secretariat of the GCF wrote to the Multilateral Fund on 24 September 2013 with an invitation to attend the 5 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of the GCF as an observer, although the letter noted that observer status for the Multilateral Fund had not yet been approved. The Fund Secretariat could not attend the Board meeting, which took place from 8 to 10 October, due to preparations for the 71 <sup>st</sup> meeting. A further letter of 21 October 2013 informed the Fund Secretariat that the next Board meeting would take place in Indonesia from 19 to 21 February 2014, indicated that observer status for the Multilateral Fund had been approved by an amendment to decision B.04/15, and also requested the Fund Secretariat to nominate a contact person.	71
Grenoble School of Management	
Information on the policies and procedures of the Multilateral Fund and the process of project approval for a study on technology learning curves.	80
Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)	
Information on practices regarding financial support to meeting participants/delegates.	75
International Energy Agency (IEA)	
The Secretariat and the Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat met with a representative of the IEA. The Secretariat explained the work on energy efficiency in the context of the Kigali Amendment. The representative of the IEA indicated that his Organization had undertaken a compilation of policies and standards on energy efficiency in different countries and made it available to the Secretariat. The representative also shared a report on cooling prepared by the IEA.	83
Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations	
The Secretariat completed a questionnaire with regard to the review of environmentally sustainable policies and practices across organizations of the United Nations system.	86
An updated summary of the information on technical assistance and funding provided to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) under the Multilateral Fund, which had previously been provided in February 2015. Further clarifications were provided on 20 October and 7 November 2016.	77
Comments on the draft document "Review of Activities and Resources Devoted to Address Climate Change in the United Nations System Organizations;  Substantive information including a summary of technical assistance and funding provided to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) under the Multilateral Fund and comprehensive information on Multilateral Fund projects approved for each country.	74
The Secretariat completed a questionnaire with regard to the review of activities and resources devoted to address climate change.	73
Comments and factual corrections to information on the Multilateral Fund in the report "Post-Rio+20 review of environmental governance within the United Nations system".	72
With regard to the 2013 evaluation/review entitled "Post-Rio+20 review of environmental governance within the United Nations system, the Secretariat provided the Joint Inspection Unit with information about the Fund's structure, funding levels, number and characteristics of meetings, meeting participants, project approval process, support costs, Secretariat personnel levels, history of approvals from 2006-2013, implementation modalities, compliance, governance framework, strategic planning, synergies and coordination with other MEAs, scientific assessments, advocacy and outreach, administration, gender distribution and geographical balance of the Executive Committee and Secretariat.	70

Secretariat advice/discussions held/interaction	Meeting
Kigali Cooling Efficiency Program (K-CEP)	
Participation in the webinar on 28 January 2020 on the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Support Facility for Efficient, Climate-Friendly Cooling (NDC Support Facility) – a new initiative that provides funding and guidance to entities that support countries in integrating cooling solutions into the next round of their NDCs.  Upon a request by the Secretariat for clarification on whether the project proposals submitted would include safeguards to avoid uptake of energy-efficient cooling applications based on high-GWP refrigerants; K-CEP assured that low-GWP technologies would be promoted through the NDC Support Facility.	85
Upon a request to provide feedback to ITAD Ltd., an organisation that has been commissioned to help develop a better understanding of K-CEP role in promoting energy efficiency in the cooling sector, the Secretariat had a conference call with an ITAD staff member informing on the input provided by the Secretariat to K-CEP in the initial phase of its establishment and its understanding of the linkage of K-CEP's activities with the Montreal Protocol project activities, particularly relating to HFC phase-down projects.	84
Continued informal sharing of experience of the Multilateral Fund.	80
The Director and one other representative of K-CEP, responsible for coordinating the work of 19 philanthropic foundations on matters related to energy-efficiency and cooling with regard to implementation of the Kigali Amendment, visited the Secretariat on 26 January 2017 to learn more about the Multilateral Fund. K-CEP aims to allocate approximately US \$53 million from philanthropic foundations by the end of 2017 for targeted support through country programmes in a small number of countries and more general support to over 100 countries to improve energy efficiency.  Information provided included the Executive Committee Primer; a presentation that summarizes how the Multilateral Fund operates; Guidelines for submitting progress and financial reporting; Guide for preparation of project proposals; the templates for project completion reports; and document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/74/51 on the Review of institutional strengthening and the associated decision 74/51.	78
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory	
The Secretariat provided comments on a draft report on opportunities and risks of efficiency improvement and refrigerant transition in room air-conditioning.	80
Natural Resources Defense Council	
Multilateral Fund Climate Impact Indicator (MCII) including the tool (Excel file), the manual (PDF) and an explanation of the tool (Word file).	81
Minamata Convention on Mercury	
In July 2013, the Secretariat received an invitation from the Government of Japan to attend the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the adoption and signature of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, held from 9 to 11 October 2013 in Kumamoto and Minamata, Japan. However, the Secretariat was unable to attend.	71
Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN)	
In accordance with decision 91/1, the Secretariat sent a letter from the Chair of the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Committee, to the MOPAN Secretariat, enclosing the management response of the Executive Committee on the 2019 MOPAN Assessment of the Multilateral Fund, contained in Annex I to the report of the 91 <sup>st</sup> meeting.	92
The Secretariat prepared document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/88/2/Add.2 on the recommendations of the assessment report.	88

Secretariat advice/discussions held/interaction	Meeting
Following receipt of the assessment report of the Multilateral Fund, a virtual meeting is being organized for the MOPAN Secretariat to present the report to the Executive Committee and a bilateral discussion is scheduled between the two Secretariats on the assessment of the Multilateral Fund, the methodology used and potential flexibility of adapting it to the type of organization to be assessed in future.	86
The Secretariat reviewed the draft assessment report and made factual corrections and provided comments on it. Follow-up communication took place between the two Secretariats with regard to the timeline for the final report and possible ways of sharing key findings with the Executive Committee.	86
The Secretariat provided additional information and clarifications on matters related to the Multilateral Fund to the consultant responsible for the assessment of the Multilateral Fund by MOPAN. The Secretariat had further discussions with MOPAN Secretariat, which indicated that the draft assessment report was in its last stage of preparation and would be submitted to the Secretariat to review it before it is submitted to Member Governments.	85
The representatives of the Secretariat of MOAP and of the service provider that carries out the assessment, visited the Secretariat. The Chief Officer made a presentation on the Multilateral Fund, including its governance, business model and accomplishments. The representatives of MOPAN had a number of meetings with the Secretariat staff. The Secretariat was also informed about the meetings that the evaluators organized with all four implementing agencies of the Fund. The Secretariat provided the contact data of members of the Executive Committee, some of whom would be contacted to provide input to the assessment exercise.	84
The Secretariat attended a meeting at the Secretariat of MOPAN, where an introduction of the Fund was made. Discussions were held on <i>inter alia</i> the scope of the assessment to the stakeholders involved; major differences between the Multilateral Fund and other organizations being assessed, which would lead to a tailored assessment to ensure fairness; the schedule for an inception visit to the Fund Secretariat, and the possible need for the assessment team to attend an Executive Committee.	83
Letter received from MOPAN Secretariat informing that MOPAN's Steering Committee took the decision to assess the Multilateral Fund in its next assessment cycle.	82
Stimson Centre	
The Chief Officer spoke to researchers regarding the evolution and work of the Montreal Protocol and its funding mechanism.	93
Sustainable Energy for all (SE4All)	
The Secretariat prepared an article on the Multilateral Fund for the Chilling Prospects 2022 report.	90
Sustainable United Nations (SUN)	
The Secretariat made a presentation at the 31 <sup>st</sup> meeting of the United Nations Issues Management Group (IMG) on Environmental Sustainability Management, held at ICAO, Montreal on 11 October 2019. The Secretariat presented how the UN offices can collaborate with activities undertaken by the agencies on implementation of projects at national, regional and global levels that promote adoption of ozone friendly and HFC-free technologies. A representative of the Sustainable United Nations (SUN), an office that manages and supports the IMG on Environmental Sustainability Management, visited the Secretariat office and presented the work of this office to the staff.	84

Secretariat advice/discussions held/interaction	Meeting
Transparency International-Australia (TI-A)	
The Multilateral Fund Secretariat and the Ozone Secretariat, in response to equal letters received from TI-A, shared a note on a compilation of publicly available information relating to transparency, accountability and integrity in the UN/UNEP, applicable to the Montreal Protocol processes, further to the request for assistance to identify these documents, which are part of the general policies, rules and procedures of the UN Secretariat, that equally apply to the treaty and its financial mechanism.	94
United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS)	
The Secretariat discussed relevant recommendations with implementing and bilateral agencies.	90
The Secretariat prepared document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/88/2/Add.1 on the recommendations of the OIOS audit report.	88
The Secretariat provided information and documentation, responses to questions and clarification to facilitate an audit by the Office of Internal Oversight Services which aims to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the provision of services at the Secretariat to the Multilateral Fund covering the period from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2020.	86/87
Background information on the Multilateral Fund and other information including, <i>inter alia</i> , UNEP interim financial statements on the Multilateral Fund; report on contributions and disbursements; progress report; 2015 Monitoring and evaluation work programme; and the link to policy and procedures manual.	75
United Nations Environment Programme	
The Secretariat participated, in coordination with the Ozone Secretariat and together with Secretariats of Multilateral Environmental Agreements administered by UNEP, in consultations called for by the Director of the UNEP Law Division, on how the supplementary agenda item entitled "Cooperation with Multilateral Environment Agreements" could be best considered at UNEA-6.	92
Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment: The Chief Officer participated in the webinar, held online on 11 May 2023, organized by the INC, and presented the experience of the Multilateral Fund and lessons learnt since its inception.	92
Together with the Ozone Secretariat, the Multilateral Fund Secretariat provided the Chemicals and Health Branch, Economy Division of UNEP with comments on GCO-II report to the Chemicals and Health Branch including information related to: the accelerated phase-out of HCFCs, the Kigali Amendment regarding HFCs, the increased emissions of CFC-11 according to the publication by Montzka et al. in 2018; compliance with the Montreal Protocol's control measures and data reporting.	82
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	
The Secretariat continued online its collaboration with the technical support unit (TSU) of the Secretariat of the United Nations Climate Change Convention, further to the invitation of the Executive Secretary of the Convention, in support of the work of the Transitional Committee (TC) on the operationalization of the new funding arrangements and a fund for loss and damage, established by the COP to the UNFCCC at its 27th meeting.	93

Secretariat advice/discussions held/interaction	Meeting
The Secretariat was invited by the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, together with other UNs agencies, international financial institutions and multilateral development banks, as well as the operating entities of the financial mechanism of the Convention and the Paris Agreement, to collaborate with the technical support unit (TSU) of the Secretariat in supporting the work of the Transitional Committee (TC) on the operationalization of the new funding arrangements and a fund for loss and damage, established by UNFCCC COP 27. Upon invitation by the UNFCCC Secretariat, the Secretariat participated in the first meeting of the TC (Luxor, Egypt, 27-29 March 2023). All travel-related expenses were covered by the UNFCCC Secretariat.	92
Comments on the draft technical summary of the mitigation benefits of actions, initiatives and options to address non-carbon dioxide greenhouse gas emissions	74
The Secretariat received an invitation in early October 2013 to attend the 19 <sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and the 9 <sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol that would take place in Warsaw, Poland, from 11 to 22 November 2013.	
The Chief Officer informed the UNFCCC Secretariat that he was unable to attend due to preparations for the 71 <sup>st</sup> meeting. Noting that the UNFCCC Secretariat was invited to attend the 25 <sup>th</sup> MOP, he suggested an informal meeting to exploit potential opportunities for collaboration between the two Secretariats. The Executive Secretary of UNFCCC Secretariat responded that the Coordinator of the Mitigation, Data and Analysis Programme, who would be attending the MOP, would arrange to meet bilaterally with him.	71
The representatives of both Secretariats met and discussed informally ways in which the two Secretariats could collaborate in the future as the need arose.	
University of Bristol	
Provided a summary of the data contained in documents on HFC-23 prepared by the Secretariat, aggregated consumption of HFC-23 reported in surveys of ODS alternatives conducted in 119 Article 5 countries, and data it had derived from publicly available resources during the preparation of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/79/48.	83
World Trade Organization, Trade and Environment Division	
Update of the MEA Matrix for the WTO's Committee on Trade and Environment (https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/envir_e/envir_matrix_e.htm)	75

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