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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
Ninety-eighth Meeting
Montreal, 22–26 June 2026
Item 8(a) of the provisional agenda¹

OVERVIEW OF ISSUES IDENTIFIED DURING PROJECT REVIEW**Introduction**

1. This document consists of the following sections:
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 - II. Overview of projects and activities following the project review process
 - II.1 Projects submitted and subsequently withdrawn
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¹ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/98/1² UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/98/10/Add.1

I. Overview of projects and activities submitted by bilateral and implementing agencies

2. Table 1 presents a summary of requests that were submitted by bilateral and implementing agencies to the 98th meeting.

Table 1. Requests submitted by bilateral and implementing agencies

Projects and activities	No. of countries	No. of funding requests	Amounts requested (US \$)	Amounts in principle (US \$)
New stages of HCFC phase-out management plans (HPMPs)	9	19	12,744,538	34,815,789
Tranches of approved HPMPs	18	29	11,820,354	
Verification of compliance of selected Article 5 countries with their HPMP Agreements	8	8	267,600	
Verification of compliance of selected Article 5 countries with both their HPMP and Kigali HFC implementation plan (KIP) Agreements	8	8	401,400	
Tranches of approved HFC-23 emission control plans	2	2	524,121	
Stage I of KIPs	10	35	17,018,902	53,648,952
Tranches of approved KIPs	4	8	7,172,488	
Polyurethane (PU) foam sector plan to eliminate HFCs in pre-blended polyols under an approved stage I of the KIP	2	2	1,396,560	
Preparation of stage I of KIPs	3	5	656,600	
Verification of compliance of selected Article 5 countries with their KIP Agreements	34	34	1,145,400	
Renewal of institutional strengthening (IS) projects	23	23	6,006,749	
Additional activities to maintain energy efficiency in the servicing sector (decision 89/6)*	9	9	1,026,245	
Pilot energy efficiency projects (decision 91/65)	1	1	536,280	
Energy efficiency investment projects (decision 94/60)	4	4	39,911,069	
Energy-efficiency revolving fund (EERF) programme (decision 95/87)	2	2	29,960,000	
Global EERF project (decision 95/87)**		1	21,400,000	
Technical assistance for EERF (decision 95/87)	2	2	1,177,000	
Global technical assistance for EERF (decision 95/87)		1	1,232,640	
Preparation of pilot projects on energy efficiency (decision 91/65)	18	18	722,250	
Preparation of a regional pilot project on energy efficiency (decision 91/65)		1	80,250	
Preparation of energy efficiency investment projects (decision 94/60)	5	5	754,350	
Total		217	155,954,796	

* Requests for four countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cabo Verde, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and South Sudan) have been submitted as part of their HPMP tranche requests

** A global EERF project request was submitted for three countries (Colombia, Ghana and Jordan)

Note: Funding amounts include agency support costs

II. Overview of projects and activities following the project review process

3. Following the project review process, 10 funding requests for projects and activities totalling US \$7,363,531, including agency support costs, have been withdrawn, 131 requests totalling US \$14,361,969, including agency support costs, have been recommended for blanket approval, and 76 requests totalling US \$107,283,300, including agency support costs, have been forwarded for individual consideration. Together, the funding requests for projects and activities recommended for either blanket approval or individual consideration amount to US \$121,645,269, including agency support costs.

II.1 Projects submitted and subsequently withdrawn

4. Table 2 presents a summary of requests that were submitted by bilateral and implementing agencies to the 98th meeting and subsequently withdrawn.

Table 2. Requests submitted and subsequently withdrawn

Projects and activities	No. of countries	No. of funding requests	Amount requested (US \$)
Tranche of an approved HPMP	1	2	142,170
Stage I of KIP	2	3	236,170
Pilot projects on energy efficiency (decisions 94/60)	1	1	6,813,991
Preparation of pilot projects on energy efficiency (decision 91/65)	3	3	96,300
Preparation of a project to enhance energy efficiency in the context of HFC phase-down (decision 94/60)	1	1	74,900
Total		10	7,363,531

Note: Funding amounts include agency support costs

Tranche of an approved HCFC phase-out management plan (Qatar)

5. UNIDO, on behalf of the Government of Qatar, submitted a request for the third tranche of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP), in the amount of US \$129,000, plus agency support costs of US \$13,170. While some progress has been made in fulfilling the conditions specified in decision 88/54(e)(i), (ii) and (iii), not all conditions have been met, including the implementation of a mandatory certification scheme for refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) technicians and the implementation of mandatory good servicing practices for RAC technicians, such as record-keeping practices and pre-determined schedules for leakage checks by certified personnel for systems with charges above a certain limit. Accordingly, the Secretariat was unable to review the request for the present meeting and the project was withdrawn.

Stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan (Kenya)

6. The Government of Germany, on behalf of the Government of Kenya, submitted a proposal for stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan (KIP). The Secretariat noted discrepancies between the reported data and the survey data for the baseline years, which would lead to changes in strategy and activities once corrected. Following consultations, the Government of Germany notified the Secretariat that the Government of Kenya had initiated the process with the Ozone Secretariat requesting the revision of its HFC baseline, and would therefore withdraw the submission of stage I of the KIP and resubmit it to the 99th meeting to allow additional time to reconcile the data, revise the baseline with the Ozone Secretariat, and prepare a revised plan of activities and strategy in line with the corrected data.

Energy-efficiency investment project submitted pursuant to decision 94/60 (Nigeria)

7. UNIDO, on behalf of the Government of Nigeria, submitted a request for a project to enhance the energy efficiency of domestic refrigerators, chest freezers and residential air conditioners manufactured by six enterprises, in line with decision 94/60, in the amount of US \$6,368,216, plus agency support costs of US \$445,775. Notwithstanding constructive discussions and a careful review of the information provided, additional time was required to address issues that could not be resolved in the limited time available for project review, including the need to ensure the entry into force of the 2024 minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) for residential air-conditioning (AC) equipment and the completion of the revision and entry into force of MEPS for domestic refrigerators and chest freezers. Consequently, the project will be presented for the Executive Committee's consideration at the 99th meeting.

II.2 Projects recommended for blanket approval

8. Table 3 presents a summary of requests recommended for blanket approval. Document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/98/12, considered under agenda item 8(c), includes additional information on those requests, the Secretariat's recommendation for the consideration of the Executive Committee, and an annex containing a full list of projects recommended for blanket approval.

Table 3. Requests recommended for blanket approval

Projects and activities	No. of countries	No. of funding requests	Amounts recommended (US \$)
Tranches of approved HPMPs	15	23	3,697,782
Verification of compliance of selected Article 5 countries with their HPMP Agreements	8	8	267,600
Verification of compliance of selected Article 5 countries with both their HPMP and KIP Agreements	8	8	401,400
Tranches of approved HFC-23 emission control plans	2	2	317,347
Tranche of an approved KIP	1	2	163,409
Preparation of stage I of KIPs	3	5	795,700
Verification of compliance of selected Article 5 countries with their KIP Agreements	34	34	1,145,400
Additional activities to maintain energy efficiency in the servicing sector (decision 89/6)*	7	7	821,863
Renewal of IS projects	23	23	6,006,748
Preparation of pilot projects on energy efficiency (decision 91/65)	15	15	513,600
Preparation of a regional pilot project on energy efficiency (decision 91/65)	-	1	64,200
Preparation of energy efficiency investment projects (decision 94/60)	3	3	166,920
Total	-	131	14,361,969

*Activities for two countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Cabo Verde) have been submitted as part of their HPMP tranche requests
Note: Funding amounts include agency support costs

II.3 Verification of compliance of selected low-volume-consuming countries with their HCFC phase-out management plan and Kigali HFC implementation plan Agreements

9. In line with decisions 61/46(c) and 96/22, the Secretariat drew a sample of low-volume-consuming (LVC) Article 5 countries to verify their compliance with HPMP and KIP Agreements. The selection criteria included proximity of the next tranche of the HPMP or KIP (2027 or 2028), any previous verification completed at least two years prior to the 98th meeting and geographic distribution. The selected countries are listed in table 4. In line with decisions 92/21(c) and 96/22(d), relevant bilateral and implementing agencies have included the related costs of verification in their respective work programmes and in the document on bilateral cooperation submitted to the 98th meeting.

Table 4. LVC countries selected for verification of compliance with their HPMP and KIP Agreements

No.	Country	Lead implementing agency	Verification required for
1	Armenia	UNIDO	KIP (stage I)
2	Benin*	UNEP	KIP (stage I)
3	Bosnia and Herzegovina*	UNIDO	KIP (stage I)
4	Burkina Faso*	Government of Germany	KIP (stage I)
5	Chad*	UNEP	KIP (stage I)
6	Cook Islands (the) (PIC**)	UNEP	KIP (stage I)
7	Costa Rica	UNDP	HPMP (stage II) and KIP (stage I)
8	El Salvador	UNDP	KIP (stage I)
9	Eswatini (the Kingdom of)	UNEP	HPMP (stage II) and KIP (stage I)

No.	Country	Lead implementing agency	Verification required for
10	Ethiopia	UNEP	KIP (stage I)
11	Fiji	UNEP	KIP (stage I)
12	Gambia (the)	UNEP	HPMP (stage II) and KIP (stage I)
13	Georgia	UNDP	HPMP (stage II) and KIP (stage I)
14	Ghana*	UNDP	KIP (stage I)
15	Grenada	UNEP	KIP (stage I)
16	Guatemala	UNIDO	HPMP (stage II)
17	Guinea-Bissau	UNEP	KIP (stage I)
18	Honduras	UNIDO	HPMP (stage II)
19	Jamaica	UNDP	HPMP (stage II)
20	Kiribati (PIC)	UNEP	KIP (stage I)
21	Lao People's Democratic Republic	UNEP	HPMP (stage II) and KIP (stage I)
22	Lesotho	UNEP	HPMP (stage II) and KIP (stage I)
23	Liberia	Government of Germany	KIP (stage I)
24	Mali	UNEP	HPMP (stage II)
25	Marshall Islands (the) (PIC)	UNEP	KIP (stage I)
26	Mauritius	Government of Germany	KIP (stage I)
27	Micronesia (Federated States of) (PIC)	UNEP	KIP (stage I)
28	Mongolia	UNEP	KIP (stage I)
29	Montenegro	UNIDO	HPMP (stage II) and KIP (stage I)
30	Nauru (PIC)	UNEP	KIP (stage I)
31	Niger (the)	UNIDO	KIP (stage I)
32	Niue (PIC)	UNEP	KIP (stage I)
33	Palau (PIC)	UNEP	KIP (stage I)
34	Papua New Guinea	Government of Germany	HPMP
35	Paraguay	UNEP	HPMP (stage II)
36	Republic of Moldova	UNEP	KIP (stage I)
37	Rwanda	UNEP	HPMP (stage II) and KIP (stage I)
38	Saint Lucia	UNEP	KIP (stage I)
39	Samoa (PIC)	UNEP	KIP (stage I)
40	Seychelles	UNEP	KIP (stage I)
41	Sierra Leone	UNEP	KIP (stage I)
42	Solomon Islands	UNEP	KIP (stage I)
43	Togo*	UNEP	KIP (stage I)
44	Tonga (PIC)	UNEP	KIP (stage I)
45	Tuvalu (PIC)	UNEP	KIP (stage I)
46	Uganda	UNEP	HPMP (stage II)
47	Uruguay*	UNDP	KIP (stage I)
48	Vanuatu (PIC)	UNEP	KIP (stage I)
49	Zambia	UNEP	HPMP (stage II)
50	Zimbabwe	UNEP	KIP (stage I)

*Non-LVC countries funded as LVC ones

**Pacific island countries with collective KIP and HPMP Agreements

Recommendation

10. The Executive Committee may wish:

- (a) To note that relevant bilateral and implementing agencies have included in their 2026 work programmes, submitted to the 98th meeting, requests for funding the verification reports for HCFC phase-out management plans and Kigali HFC implementation plans for Armenia, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Chad, the Cook Islands, Costa Rica, El Salvador, the Kingdom of Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, the Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Jamaica, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic

Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Mali, the Marshall Islands, Mauritius, the Federated States of Micronesia, Mongolia, Montenegro, Nauru, the Niger, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, the Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Togo, Tonga, Tuvalu, Uganda, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Zambia and Zimbabwe; and

- (b) To consider the requests for funding associated with the verifications mentioned in subparagraph (a) above in the context of work programmes and bilateral cooperation submitted by each relevant implementing and bilateral agency under agenda item 8(c), Projects recommended for blanket approval.

II.4 Projects recommended for individual consideration

11. Table 5 presents a summary of requests submitted for individual consideration. More details on those projects and activities are contained in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/98/13, considered under agenda item 8(d).

Table 5. Requests recommended for individual consideration

Projects and activities	No. of countries	No. of funding requests	Amounts recommended (US \$)	Amounts in principle (US \$)
New stage of HPMPs	9	19	11,761,319	32,152,739
Tranches of approved HPMPs	2	4	7,980,402	
Additional activities to maintain energy efficiency in the servicing sector (decision 89/6)*	2	2	58,760	
Stage I of KIPs	9	32	16,877,267	42,067,330
Tranches of approved KIPs	3	6	7,009,079	
PU foam sector plan to eliminate HFCs in pre-blended polyols under an approved KIP stage I	2	2	620,569	
Pilot energy efficiency projects (decision 91/65)	1	1	481,072	
Energy efficiency investment projects (decision 94/60)	3	3	**8,964,873	
EERF programme (decision 95/87)	2	2	29,960,000	
Global EERF project (decision 95/87)		1	21,400,000	
Technical assistance for EERF (decision 95/87)	2	2	998,310	
Global technical assistance for EERF (decision 95/87)		1	1,134,200	
Preparation of energy efficiency investment projects (decision 94/60)	1	1	37,450	
Total		76	107,283,300	

*Requests for two countries (Saint Kitts and Nevis and South Sudan) were submitted as part of their HPMP stage II requests

** Excluding recommended amounts for the project for Argentina which is still under preparation

Note: Funding amounts include agency support costs

III. Issues identified during the project review process

III.1 Methodology used to calculate the climate impact of Kigali HFC implementation plans

12. The issue is presented in the addendum to the present document.

III.2 Funding withheld in cases of non-submission of the verification report with Kigali HFC implementation plan tranches

13. One of the preconditions for approval of funding for future tranches of stage I of KIPs under the Agreements between Article 5 countries and the Executive Committee is the submission of an independent verification report stating that the consumption targets have been met. All non-LVC countries are required to submit verification reports with each tranche request, while LVC countries are required to submit a

verification report with a selected tranche of stage I of their KIPs, in line with decision 96/22. A similar precondition applies to tranches of HPMPs.

14. At its 72nd meeting, the Executive Committee went from holding three to two meetings per year. The Committee noted the difficulties faced by bilateral and implementing agencies with tranche submissions due to the first meeting of the year in finalizing the verification of consumption for the preceding year, since the submission deadline fell before 1 May, when country programme data were reported. In order to ensure that the most recent verification reports were available while allowing projects to proceed in a timely manner, the Executive Committee decided:

- (a) To encourage lead bilateral and implementing agencies submitting HPMP tranche requests to the first meeting of the year to include a verification report of national consumption targets for the year immediately preceding the year during which the tranche was submitted; and
- (b) That, should the verification reports mentioned in subparagraph (a) above not be ready in time for the first meeting of the year, transfer of any approved funds for tranches to the bilateral and implementing agencies would occur only after receipt by the Secretariat of the verification reports confirming that, in the year immediately preceding the tranche request, the country had been in compliance with the Montreal Protocol and the Agreement between its Government and the Executive Committee.

15. At the 98th meeting, KIP tranche requests are being considered for four countries: Albania, Plurinational State of Bolivia,³ Ecuador and Mexico. UNIDO was required to submit verification reports as the lead implementing agency for Ecuador and Mexico (non-LVC countries) and for Albania (an LVC country), as funding for the verification of the second tranche of its KIP was approved at the 96th meeting. In the cases of Ecuador and Mexico, verification of HFC consumption for 2025 was included in the submission or provided during the project review process. In the case of Albania, however, the verification had not been completed at the time of issuance of the project evaluation document.

16. The Secretariat recognizes that similar situations may arise in future, where verification for the year immediately preceding submission of a tranche request may not be completed by the submission deadline or by the time of consideration by the Executive Committee. Consistent with decision 72/19, the Secretariat therefore recommended, in the case of Albania, that the transfer of any approved tranche funds to UNIDO and UNEP should occur only after the Secretariat had received the verification report confirming that Albania was in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. Given that the circumstances are similar to those applicable to HPMPs, the Secretariat further recommends that decision 72/19 be applied to KIP tranches submitted to the first meeting of the year, in order to provide countries with flexibility in the completion and submission of their verification reports.

17. The Executive Committee may wish to consider extending the application of decision 72/19 to tranche requests for the Kigali HFC implementation plans submitted to the first meeting of the year.

III.3 Issue of preparatory requests for projects related to energy efficiency pursuant to decision 91/65

18. Regarding project preparation requests for pilot energy efficiency projects in non-manufacturing in the context of HFC phase-down under decision 91/65, the Secretariat notes that projects are required to be submitted no later than the 100th meeting. In view of the short timeframe from now, the Executive Committee

³ The country has submitted the second tranche earlier than scheduled. The verification report will be submitted with the third tranche request.

may wish to consider whether preparation for pilot energy efficiency projects in non-manufacturing in the context of HFC phase-down under decision 91/65 could be submitted after the 98th meeting.

III.4 Energy-efficiency project under decision 94/60 for enterprises with conversion projects submitted before the adoption of the Kigali Amendment

19. The Government of Thailand has submitted a project pursuant to decision 94/60 for adopting energy-efficient technologies in six AC-manufacturing enterprises. Five of the six enterprises are participating in stage I of the KIP to convert their AC manufacturing from R-410A to HFC-32 in large-capacity units. The project under decision 94/60 predominantly addresses smaller AC units that were converted from HCFC-22 to HFC-32 under stage I of the HPMP, which was approved at the 68th meeting of the Executive Committee, prior to the adoption of the Kigali Amendment.

20. While the enterprises have not manufactured such equipment using R-410A, the Secretariat is nonetheless recommending, on an exceptional basis, that the enterprises be considered for funding under decision 94/60, given that the Government had originally proposed to convert the manufacturing sector to R-410A. Following discussions at the 66th, 67th and 68th meetings of the Executive Committee,⁴ it was agreed to change the refrigerant technology from R-410A to HFC-32. Since the Government of Thailand had initially planned to convert its manufacturing sector from HCFC-22 to a high-GWP HFC but, subsequent to deliberations with the Executive Committee, has later agreed to transition to a lower-GWP alternative, the Secretariat proposes that such enterprises should be considered for funding for projects to enhance energy efficiency in the context of HFC phase-down under decision 94/60. This approach recognizes the proactive role played by those enterprises in embracing more environmentally sound technologies ahead of the broader regulatory framework and affirms that such early and cooperative action should not operate to their disadvantage in accessing support under the present project.

IV. Reports on the implementation of decisions and follow-up on previous discussions relating to project review

IV.1 Institutional strengthening renewal requests

21. The Secretariat reviewed the terminal reports and requests for the extension of IS funding for 23 countries against relevant decisions. All requests were crosschecked against previous IS reports; progress reports on the implementation of country programmes (CP); data reported under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol; the latest reports on the implementation of HPMPs; implementing agencies' progress reports submitted to the 97th meeting; and relevant decisions on compliance adopted by the Parties to the Montreal Protocol. Twenty-one countries submitted the 2025 CP implementation data as at the date of issuance of the relevant work programme documents.⁵ All countries reported having achieved or partially achieved all applicable IS objectives. The Secretariat observed that there was a good level of consistency in the application of the performance indicators between the countries requesting IS funding and recommended all IS projects submitted to the 98th meeting for blanket approval.

IV.2 Funding withheld pending submission of verification reports or meeting specific conditions

22. At its 97th meeting, the Executive Committee approved the combined second and third tranches of stage II of Senegal's HPMP, on the understanding that funds would be transferred to UNIDO only after the Secretariat had received and reviewed a feasibility study on establishing a refrigerant recovery and reclamation system in the country, in line with decision 88/55(e). In April 2026, UNIDO submitted the study;

⁴ The project proposal was considered at the 66th, 67th and 68th Executive Committee meetings; see paragraphs 160-161 of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/66/54 and decision 66/49, paragraphs 104-107 of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/67/39 and decision 67/3, and paragraphs 161-163 of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/68/53 and decision 68/39.

⁵ As of 31 May 2026, CP implementation reports had not been received for Kenya and the Republic of Moldova.

upon review, the Secretariat requested clarification on issues including the expected volumes of refrigerant to be reclaimed, the system's business model, testing methods, and terminology. In response, UNIDO submitted the revised report, which concluded that refrigerant reclamation was not feasible in the country at the time and suggested to shift the focus to refrigerant recovery, recycling and reuse instead, noting that local technicians were better equipped for those practices and that available refrigerant volumes were insufficient for a viable reclamation operation. Accordingly, Senegal proposed the establishment of a national network of refrigerant recovery and recycling workshops, supported by stronger regulations and a central facility for refrigerant identification, cylinder cleaning, and storage, noting that reclamation might be reconsidered in the future, depending on the collected volumes and gained experience. The Secretariat agreed with this approach and requested the Treasurer, on 1 June 2026, to proceed with the disbursement of approved funds.

IV.3 Prices of controlled substances and alternatives

23. In line with decision 79/4(c), the Secretariat is presenting for information purposes a summary of the prices of controlled substances and the alternatives to be phased in for investment projects included as part of the KIPs for Brazil, Nigeria and Thailand, as submitted to the 98th meeting.

Brazil: Stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan – light commercial refrigeration and industrial refrigeration manufacturing sectors

24. Stage I of the KIP for Brazil included a project for the light commercial refrigeration manufacturing sector to convert 115 enterprises from HFC-134a and R-404A to R-290, with incremental operating costs (IOCs) agreed at zero, and three individual conversion projects for the industrial refrigeration sector to convert a variety of industrial refrigeration equipment (monoblocks, split units, chillers and racks) from HFC-134a, R-404A and R-410A to R-290, carbon dioxide and R-454B, with no IOCs requested.

Nigeria: Stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan – domestic refrigeration and room air-conditioning sectors

25. Stage I of the KIP for Nigeria included projects in the domestic refrigeration and room AC manufacturing sectors to convert several enterprises from HFC-134a and R-410A to R-600a and HFC-32, respectively, with IOCs agreed at zero.

Thailand: Stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan – room air-conditioning sector

26. Stage I of the KIP for Thailand included projects in the room AC sector to convert six enterprises from R-410A to HFC-32, including IOCs. The price of R-410A and HFC-32 was reported in the CP data report for 2025 at US \$7.77 and US \$8.57/kg, respectively. The price of refrigerants purchased by each enterprise covered under stage I of the KIP varies by commercial considerations and capacity of the manufacturing enterprises (e.g., R-410A price can range from around US \$7.50 to over US \$14/kg); therefore, the actual prices used for the calculation of incremental costs are different compared to the average price reported under the CP data report.