

Annex XXXI

VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON RENEWAL OF INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING PROJECTS SUBMITTED TO THE 93rd MEETING

Albania

1. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Albania (phase XI) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Albania had reported 2022 country programme data and Article 7 data to the Fund Secretariat and Ozone Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee further noted that Albania had taken steps to phase out HCFC consumption, including monitoring of HCFC trade through the national ODS regulatory framework and allocation of quotas, and that the national ozone unit had maintained close cooperation with the customs authorities in order to further improve the effectiveness of the ODS regulations and ensure implementation of policies issued by the National Ozone Committee. The Committee is, therefore, confident that in the next three years the Government of Albania will continue implementing activities under the HCFC phase-out management plan and will implement stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan to enable the country to comply with the Montreal Protocol.

Antigua and Barbuda

2. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Antigua and Barbuda (phase V) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Antigua and Barbuda had reported the country programme data and Article 7 data to the Fund and Ozone Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee also noted that the Government monitored the implementation of the licensing and quota system and monitored its borders to guard against illegal trade. The Committee welcomed that the Government established an Independent Oversight Advisory Committee which is expected to play a greater role in guiding and supporting the national ozone unit for the implementation of activities. The Committee is hopeful that the Government of Antigua and Barbuda will continue the implementation of the IS project with success and sustain HCFC phase-out achievements.

Benin

3. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Benin and commended the country for submitting Article 7 data and country programme data for 2021 and 2022 to the Ozone and Fund Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee also acknowledged Benin's significant strides in phasing out ODS consumption during the project period by enforcing ODS import controls through a licensing and quota system and providing training to customs officers and refrigeration technicians. The Committee appreciates Benin's efforts in reducing HCFC and HFC consumption and looks forward to the country's continued successful implementation of its HCFC phase-out management plan and IS project, aiming for a 67.5 per cent reduction in HCFC consumption by 1 January 2025 as mandated by the Montreal Protocol.

Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

4. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for the Plurinational State of Bolivia (phase XII) and noted with appreciation that the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia had reported country programme data and Article 7 data to the Fund and Ozone Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in

compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee further noted that the country had taken steps to phase out ODS consumption, including the implementation of HCFC import controls through the licensing and quota system, and training of customs officers and refrigeration technicians. The Committee also noted with appreciation the activities initiated to facilitate the implementation of the Kigali Amendment. The Committee acknowledged the effort required and the challenges faced by the Government of Plurinational State of Bolivia and is, therefore, hopeful that within the next three years, the Government will continue implementing stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan, the IS project, and progress with the preparation of the Kigali HFC implementation plan in an effective manner to achieve 65 per cent reduction in HCFC consumption by 1 January 2025 and to establish the foundation for the HFC phase-down under the Kigali Amendment.

Burkina Faso

5. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Burkina Faso (phase XV) and noted with appreciation that the Government had reported country programme data and Article 7 data to the Fund and Ozone Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee also acknowledged Burkina Faso's significant strides in phasing out ODS consumption during the project period by enforcing ODS import controls through a licensing and quota system and providing training to customs officers and refrigeration technicians. The Committee appreciated Burkina Faso's efforts in reducing HCFC and HFC consumption and looks forward to the country's continued successful implementation of its HCFC phase-out management plan and IS project, to meet the 67.5 per cent reduction in HCFC consumption by 1 January 2025.

Colombia

6. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Colombia (phase XIV) and noted with appreciation the fact that the Government reported 2021 and 2022 Article 7 data to the Ozone Secretariat and country programme data to the Fund Secretariat indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee noted that Colombia has taken steps to phase out ODS consumption; in particular, implementation of HCFC import controls through the licensing and quota system, and training of customs officers and refrigeration technicians. The Committee also noted with appreciation the activities initiated to facilitate the implementation of the Kigali Amendment. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Colombia and is therefore hopeful that, within the next three years, the country will continue implementation of the HCFC phase-out management plan, preparation of stage I of the Kigali implementation plan and implementation of IS project activities with success in order to achieve and sustain the 65 per cent reduction in HCFC consumption required since 1 January 2021 and the upcoming control targets in 2024 and 2025.

Cook Islands (the)

7. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Cook Islands (phase VII) and noted with appreciation that the Government of the Cook Islands had reported the country programme data and Article 7 data to the Fund and Ozone Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee noted that the Government implemented the recommendations from the verification of HCFC consumption to further strengthen the HFC trade control and sustained compliance with the Montreal Protocol HCFC phase-out obligations and maximum allowable consumption as agreed with the Committee. The Committee is hopeful that the Government of the Cook Islands will continue implementing the IS project with success and sustain HCFC phase-out achievements and initiate the HFC phase-down as stipulated in the Kigali Amendment.

Costa Rica

8. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Costa Rica (phase XV) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Costa Rica is complying with its reduction targets and reported 2021 and 2022 Article 7 data to the Ozone Secretariat and country programme data to the Fund Secretariat. The Committee further noted that the Government has taken steps to phase out ODS consumption; in particular, implementation of HCFC imports controls through the licensing and quota system, and training of customs officers and refrigeration technicians. The Committee also noted with appreciation the activities initiated for the implementation of the Kigali Amendment. The Committee acknowledged Costa Rica's efforts and is therefore hopeful that, within the next three years, Costa Rica will continue implementation of the HCFC phase-out management plan, preparation of the Kigali HFC implementation plan and implementation of the IS project activities with success to sustain the 65 per cent reduction in HCFC consumption required since 1 January 2021 and establishing the foundation for the implementation of the Kigali Amendment.

Dominica

9. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Dominica (phase VII) and expressed its appreciation to the Government of Dominica for reporting the country programme data and Article 7 data to the Fund and Ozone Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee acknowledged the challenges and difficulties that the country faced in its implementation due to the lingering effects of Hurricane Maria compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic and administrative challenges within the NOU and Government. The Committee appreciated the dedication of the new Ozone Officer and the reorganized national ozone unit as well as the work done to address the delays. The Committee encouraged the Government to build on the measures put in place to ensure that the country maintains momentum as it seeks to remain compliant with the Montreal Protocol and implement activities under stage I of the HCFC phase-out management plan and upcoming IS activities.

Gabon

10. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Gabon (phase XII) and noted with appreciation that the Government reported country programme data and Article 7 data to the Fund and Ozone Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee also acknowledged Gabon's significant strides in phasing out ODS consumption during the project period including by enforcing ODS import controls through a licensing and quota system and providing training to customs officers. The Committee appreciated Gabon's efforts in reducing HCFC and HFC consumption and looks forward to the country's continued successful implementation of its HCFC phase-out management plan and IS project, to meet the 67.5 per cent reduction in HCFC consumption by 1 January 2025, as mandated by the Montreal Protocol.

Guyana

11. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Guyana (phase IX) and expressed its appreciation to the Government of Guyana for reporting country programme data and Article 7 data to the Fund and Ozone Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee acknowledged the challenges and difficulties that the country faced in its implementation due to the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and administrative challenges within the NOU and Government. The Committee appreciated the dedication of the Ozone Officer and Ozone Assistant and the work done to achieve successful results. The Committee encouraged the Government to build upon the

measures put in place to ensure that the country maintains momentum as it seeks to remain compliant with the Montreal Protocol and implement activities under stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan and upcoming IS activities.

India

12. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for India (phase XIV). The Committee noted with appreciation India's ratification of the Kigali Amendment and its continued and diligent efforts in sustaining the phase-out of ODS, encompassing various policy, regulatory, technology transfer, and awareness initiatives. The Executive Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of India in demonstrating the country's compliance with the Montreal Protocol and is therefore hopeful that, within the next three years, the country will complete stage II of its HCFC phase-out management plan and begin implementation of stage III, as well as develop stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan, and successfully implement the IS project activities.

Iraq

13. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the institutional strengthening (IS) project renewal request for Iraq (phase VI) and noted with appreciation that the country had reported Article 7 data and country programme data for 2022 to the Ozone and Fund Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee noted that the ongoing coordination with stakeholders, government and private sectors should be enhanced to ensure their full engagement in implementing the ongoing Multilateral Fund-supported projects including the implementation of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) to achieve the 2025 reduction target as per the Montreal Protocol. The Committee appreciated the efforts of the Government of Iraq to facilitate the ratification of the Kigali Amendment. The Committee also noted that Iraq continued the effective operation of the HCFC quota and licensing system and operationalize the updated system that includes HFCs as required under Kigali Amendment to ensure sustainability of phase-out achieved and comply with future reduction targets. The Committee therefore is hopeful that, within the next three years, Iraq will continue with the implementation of its HPMP and IS project activities with success to prepare the country for further reduction in HCFC consumption under the Montreal Protocol and initiate the required activities under the Kigali Amendment.

Madagascar

14. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the institutional strengthening (IS) project renewal request for Madagascar (phase X) and noted with appreciation that the Government had reported country programme data and Article 7 data to the Fund and Ozone Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee acknowledged Madagascar's significant strides in phasing out ODS consumption during the project period through the enforcement of ODS import controls through a licensing and quota system and providing training to customs officers and refrigeration technicians. The Committee appreciated Madagascar's efforts in reducing HCFC consumption and looks forward to the country's continued successful implementation of its HCFC phase-out management plan and IS project, to meet a 67.5 per cent reduction in HCFC consumption by 1 January 2025, as mandated by the Montreal Protocol.

Malaysia

15. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Malaysia (phase XV) and expressed appreciation for the Government of Malaysia's diligent efforts in monitoring and regulating the phase-out of ODS and

preparations for HFC phase-down, including policy, regulatory, technology transfer, and awareness-raising initiatives. The Committee also noted Malaysia's timely submission of Article 7 and country programme data for 2021 and 2022 to the Ozone and Fund Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee further noted that despite the challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic, Malaysia remained committed to executing its ODS phase-out plan, ratified the Kigali Amendment, and initiated actions for the phase-down of HFCs. The Executive Committee looks forward to the country's continued engagement in Montreal Protocol activities over the next three years, including the completion of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan, development and implementation of stage III, and implementation of stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan, along with the successful implementation of IS project activities.

Mauritius

16. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Mauritius (phase VIII) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Mauritius had reported country programme data and Article 7 data to the Fund and Ozone Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee further noted that Mauritius had taken steps to phase out HCFC consumption including implementation of HCFC import controls through the licensing and quota system; maintaining close collaboration with the Customs office; and training of refrigeration technicians. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the country in establishing its HFC licensing system, and is therefore confident that, in the next three years, the Government of Mauritius will continue implementing HCFC phase-out activities and the IS project and will submit the Kigali HFC implementation plan to enable the country to comply with the obligations under the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment.

Micronesia (Federated States of)

17. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for the Federated States of Micronesia (phase IX) and noted with appreciation that the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia had reported country programme data and Article 7 data to the Fund and Ozone Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee noted that the country continued to implement the HCFC licensing system and is implementing the HCFC phase-out management plan, conducting information outreach and awareness-raising activities and participating in regional network meetings. The Committee is hopeful that the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia will continue the implementation of the IS project with success to sustain the momentum of HCFC phase-out and meet the future control measures of the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment.

Pakistan

18. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Pakistan (phase XII) and noted with appreciation the efforts of the Government to monitor and control ODS phase-out through various policy and regulatory activities along with awareness-raising activities. The Committee further noted that the Government of Pakistan ensured compliance with the Montreal Protocol and submitted Article 7 and country programme data in a timely manner; implemented stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP), submitted and received approval for stage III of the HPMP and prepared for the Kigali Amendment ratification and HFC phase-down. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Pakistan and is therefore hopeful that, within the next three years, the country will continue coordination with other national agencies and stakeholders in implementing policies and regulations to sustain ODS phase-out and continue Montreal Protocol activities including implementation of stage III of the HPMP, preparation of the Kigali HFC implementation plan and implementation of IS project with success.

Paraguay

19. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Paraguay (phase XII) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Paraguay had reported country programme data and Article 7 data to the Fund and Ozone Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee is pleased that the country has successfully trained refrigeration technicians on good refrigeration practices and safe handling of alternative substances, gained stakeholders' support through the steering committee, and is committed to the formulation of norms and standards for the safe handling of alternative refrigerants. The Committee also noted with appreciation the activities initiated to facilitate the implementation of the Kigali Amendment. The Committee acknowledged the effort required and the challenges faced by the Government of Paraguay, and is therefore hopeful that, within the next three years, the Government will continue implementing the HCFC phase-out management plan and IS project activities, and will prepare the Kigali HFC implementation plan to achieve 67.5 per cent reduction in HCFC consumption by 1 January 2025 and to establish the foundation for the HFC phase-down under the Kigali Amendment.

Saint Lucia

20. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Saint Lucia (phase XII) and expressed its appreciation to the Government of Saint Lucia for reporting country programme data and Article 7 data to the Fund and Ozone Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee acknowledged the progress made in the previous phase despite the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee appreciated the dedication of the National Ozone Officer and national ozone unit and the work done to maintain compliance. The Committee commended the Government for its continued and decisive measures taken to ensure that the country maintains momentum in the implementation of Montreal Protocol activities including under stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan and the upcoming activities for HFC phase-down.

Solomon Islands

21. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for the Solomon Islands (phase X) and noted with appreciation that the Government of the Solomon Islands had reported country programme data and Article 7 data to the Fund and Ozone Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee noted that the country continued to implement the HCFC licensing system and is implementing the HCFC phase-out management plan, conducting information outreach and awareness-raising activities and participating in regional network meetings. The Committee is hopeful that the Government of Solomon Islands will continue implementing the IS project with success to sustain the momentum of HCFC phase-out and meet the future control measures of the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment.

Somalia

22. The Executive Committee reviewed the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Somalia (phase VI) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Somalia had reported country programme data and Article 7 data to the Fund Secretariat and Ozone Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee also noted that Somalia has taken steps towards finalizing the review process of the ODS Regulations to include issues relating to the Kigali Amendment. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Somalia and is, therefore, confident that the country will continue its gradual reduction of HCFC consumption to

achieve the 67.5 per cent required under the Montreal Protocol by 1 January 2025 and complete phase-out by 1 January 2030. In addition, the Committee is hopeful that Somalia will submit the Kigali HFC implementation plan and will initiate the HFC phase-down in accordance with the Kigali Amendment.

Timor-Leste

23. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Timor-Leste (phase VII) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Timor-Leste had reported country programme data and Article 7 data to the Fund and Ozone Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee noted that the country is implementing the HCFC phase-out management plan and has progressed with the national consultations for the ratification of the Kigali Amendment, conducted information outreach and awareness-raising activities, and participated in regional network meetings. The Committee is hopeful that the Government of Timor-Leste will continue the implementation of the IS project with success to sustain the momentum of HCFC phase-out, facilitate the ratification of the Kigali Amendment, and meet the future control measures of the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment.

Togo

24. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Togo (phase XII) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Togo had reported country programme data and Article 7 data to the Fund and Ozone Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee also acknowledged Togo's significant strides in phasing out ODS and HFC consumption during the project period by enforcing ODS and HFC import controls through a licensing and quota system and providing training to customs officers and refrigeration technicians. The Committee noted with appreciation Togo's efforts in reducing HCFC and HFC consumption and looks forward to the country's continued successful implementation of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan and IS project to meet the 67.5 per cent reduction in HCFC consumption by 1 January 2025, as mandated by the Montreal Protocol and preparation for HFC phase-down in accordance with the Kigali Amendment.

Tunisia

25. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Tunisia (phase X) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Tunisia had reported country programme data and Article 7 data to the Fund Secretariat and Ozone Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee noted that Tunisia had taken steps to phase out HCFC consumption including implementation of strict monitoring of HCFC trade through the national ODS regulatory framework and allocation of quotas; and has initiated reporting of HFC consumption data. The Committee also noted that the national ozone unit had maintained close cooperation with the customs authorities and industry representatives. The Committee noted with appreciation the ratification of the Kigali Amendment in August of 2021. The Committee is, therefore, confident that in the next three years, the Government of Tunisia will continue implementing activities under stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan and will prepare and submit stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan to enable the country to comply with the Montreal Protocol.

Uruguay

26. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Uruguay (phase XV) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Uruguay reported 2021 and 2022 Article 7 data to the Ozone Secretariat and country programme data to the Fund Secretariat indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal

Protocol. The Committee further noted that the Government of Uruguay has taken steps to phase out ODS consumption, in particular, implementation of HCFC imports controls through the licensing and quota system, and training of customs officers and refrigeration technicians. The Committee also noted with appreciation the activities initiated to facilitate the implementation of the Kigali Amendment through the preparation of the Kigali HFC implementation plan (KIP). The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Uruguay in the implementation of the Montreal Protocol and is hopeful that, within the next three years, the country will continue implementation of the HCFC phase-out management plan, preparation of the KIP and implementation of IS project activities with success in order to comply with the reduction targets of the Montreal Protocol.

Yemen

27. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Yemen (phase IX) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Yemen had resumed activities and had reported country programme data and Article 7 data to the Fund and Ozone Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee noted that by adopting on-site focal points the national ozone unit was able to overcome security and movement difficulties on the ground and that the NOU monitors and controls imports, use and illegal trade of ODS. The Committee is hopeful that, the Government of Yemen will continue implementing the IS project with success and sustain HCFC phase-out achievements, promote the ratification of Kigali Amendment among government agencies and institutions and relevant sectors, as well as set up procedures for HFC monitoring, control and voluntary reporting.