MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL

Summary of the 96th meeting of the Executive Committee

This summary is intended to provide a brief overview of the decisions taken at the 96th meeting of the Executive Committee. The meeting report (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/66) can be found at https://multilateralfund.org/meetings/96/post-session

Introduction

The 96th meeting took place from **26 to 30 May 2025** at the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Montreal, Canada and was attended by the representatives of 14 Executive Committee member countries and participants co-opted from 32 other countries, implementing agencies (IAs), the Ozone Secretariat, and other observers. Mr. Alessandro Guiliano Peru of Italy presided as Chair of the Executive Committee during the meeting. The Deputy Executive Director of UNEP opened the meeting with a brief presentation.

At this meeting, the Committee took a total of 59 decisions, and approved project and work programme activities for 59 countries and one global programme with a value of US $38,076,531, including agency support costs for bilateral and IAs.

Secretariat activities

The Executive Committee took note, with appreciation, of the report on Secretariat activities contained in documents UNEP/Ozl.Pro/ExCom/96/2 and Add.1.

Financial matters

Status of contributions and disbursements[1] (decision 96/1)

As at 26 May 2025, the balance of the Fund stood at US $593,718,585 in cash and the cumulative fixed-exchange-rate-mechanism loss was approximately US $31 million. The Executive Committee urged all Parties to pay their contributions to the Multilateral Fund in full and as early as possible and requested the Chief Officer and the Treasurer to continue following up with countries that had outstanding contributions for one triennium or more, and to report back at the 97th meeting. The Committee also noted with appreciation that Malta had paid in full its outstanding contributions for the period 2017–2023 as well as its current triennium contribution for 2024 and 2025.

Report on balances and availability of resources[2] (decision 96/2)

IAs returned balances of US $926,271, including agency support costs, against completed projects to the Multilateral Fund. UNDP and UNIDO were requested to disburse or cancel committed funds that were not needed for completed projects, as well as commitments for projects completed over two years previously,

[1] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/3 and annex I of the final meeting report (UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/66)
[2] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/4

and to return the associated balances at the 97th meeting. UNIDO was requested to disburse or return to the 97th meeting the balances of projects completed “by decision of the Executive Committee”.

Country programme data and prospects for compliance[3] (decision 96/3)

Eighty-nine countries submitted their country programme (CP) data reports for the year 2024 (with 80 officially using the new online reporting system), including for seventy-three received after the issuance of the meeting document. The Executive Committee approved the revised format of sections D and E of CP data reports[4] and requested the Secretariat to update the practical manual for CP data reporting, after the 96th meeting to reflect these changes.

Evaluation

Potential management response to the external assessment of the evaluation function of the Multilateral Fund, including an evaluation policy for the Multilateral Fund [5](decision 96/4)

The Executive Committee noted the potential management response to the external assessment of the evaluation function of the Multilateral Fund, including an evaluation policy for the Multilateral Fund and approved both the management response[6] and the evaluation policy[7]. The Committee also requested the Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (SMEO) to prepare a concept note to describe possible scenarios for establishing a follow up system to track and report on the implementation of approved recommendations of evaluation reports; to implement the actions for which the Committee had expressed support in the management response; and to report in the annual report on the implementation of the evaluation work programme, on progress in the implementation of these actions. The Committee also requested the Secretariat to finalize the terms of reference of the Senior Evaluation Officer in line with the evaluation policy.

Terms of reference for the desk study for the evaluation of the contribution of HCFC phase-out management plans to the development of policies, regulations and national strategies to ensure compliance with the Montreal Protocol and the sustainability of achievements[8] (decision 96/5)

The Executive Committee approved the terms of reference as contained in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/7/Rev.1.

Terms of reference for the desk study for the evaluation of training, capacity-building and certification schemes in the refrigeration servicing sector under HCFC phase-out management plans [9] (decision 96/6)

The Executive Committee approved the terms of reference as contained in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/8/Rev.1.

[3] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/5
[4] Annex II of UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/66
[5] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/6
[6] Annex III of UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/66
[7] Annex IV of UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/66
[8] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/7/Rev.1
[9] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/8/Rev.1

Progress update on the desk study for the evaluation of the recovery, recycling and reclamation projects[10]

The Executive Committee noted the progress update provided on the desk study.

Progress update by UNEP OzonAction on the implementation of the road map contained in the final report on the evaluation of regional networks of national ozone officers[11]

Following an introduction to the relevant meeting document by the UNEP OzonAction representative, the Executive Committee noted with appreciation the progress update provided.

Programme implementation

Status report and reports on projects with specific reporting requirements[12] (decisions 96/7 to 96/17)

The Executive Committee noted that bilateral and implementing agencies would report to the 97th meeting on eight projects with implementation delays[13] and on four projects recommended for additional status reports[14], as part of the 2024 annual and financial progress report of the bilateral and implementing agencies.

The Committee also took note of or took decisions, to approve or follow up on specific issues, on the HCFC phase-out management plans (HPMPs) related to Argentina (on availability of low-global-warming-potential (GWP) alternatives and transitional use of high-GWP alternatives in the foam sector of stage II), Brazil (sixth and final tranche of stage II), India (fourth and final tranche of stage II), Indonesia (fourth and final tranche of stage II), Mexico (fifth and final tranche of stage II), and Pakistan (final progress on third and fourth tranches of stage II and progress on Cool Point conversion under stage III). For Iraq, progress on completion of stage I, national phase-out plan and CFC projects was noted. Kenya’s revised incentive scheme for the commercial refrigeration sector of stage II was approved. An exceptional extension to June 2025 was granted for Mali's stage I completion date.

Extensions for energy-efficiency projects under decision 89/6 were approved for Kyrgyzstan and Maldives. Nicaragua's request to cancel ongoing projects was noted, with UNIDO requested to clarify the status of its projects in the country. A change of beneficiary was approved for Honduras's pilot energy-efficiency project without additional costs. UNIDO was requested to return remaining balances from Jordan's HFC conversion project by July 2025.

2025 consolidated project completion report[15] (decision 96/18)

The 2025 consolidated project completion report (PCR) was noted, with agencies requested to submit outstanding PCRs timely, including relevant information on gender and lessons learned. All those involved in the preparation and implementation of multi-year agreements (MYAs) and individual projects were invited to consider the relevant lessons learned from PCRs when preparing and implementing future projects.

[10] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/9
[11] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/10
[12] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/11 and UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/12
[13] Annexes V and VI of UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/66
[14] Annex VII of UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/66
[15] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/13

Business planning

Update on the status of implementation of the 2025–2027 consolidated business plan of the Multilateral Fund [16] ***(decision 96/19)***

The Executive Committee noted that the total value of activities requested at the 96th meeting amounted to US $37,962,033 (including US $20,289,897 for HFC-related activities; US $1,713,080 for pilot projects for energy efficiency pursuant to decision 91/65; US $87,740 for energy-efficiency projects pursuant to decision 94/60; US $642,000 as submitted for the preparation of energy efficiency end-user projects using a revolving fund mechanism pursuant to decision 95/87; and US $1,124,000 for the preparation of national inventories of banks of waste controlled substances pursuant to decision 91/66), of which US $1,837,242 was associated with project proposals not included in the 2025 business plan.

Tranche submission delays[17] ***(decision 96/20)***

Twenty-two out of 63 activities related to tranches of HPMPs that were due for submission to the 96th meeting were submitted on time. The Committee noted that relevant bilateral and IAs had indicated that the late submission of the tranches of MYAs due for submission at the 96th meeting would have no impact, or was unlikely to have an impact, on compliance with the Montreal Protocol, and that there was no indication that any of the countries concerned were in non-compliance with the Montreal Protocol control measures. The Secretariat was requested to send letters to the relevant Governments regarding the decisions on tranche submission delays[18].

Project proposals

Overview of issues identified during project review[19]

Calculation of the climate impact of activities in Kigali HFC implementation plans

The Secretariat provided additional information on the updated version of the Multilateral Fund Climate Impact Indicator model and discussions ensued among Committee members in the plenary. Following discussions in a contact group, the Committee agreed to continue the discussion at the 97th meeting.

Applicability of the cut-off date for eligible HFC capacity agreed by decision 95/86(h) to projects related to energy efficiency (decision 96/21)

After discussion in a contact group, the Committee decided that funding related to energy efficiency for enterprises with HFC manufacturing capacity established prior to 1 January 2023 that had converted or committed to convert to lower global-warming-potential alternatives with their own resources would be considered on a case-by-case basis when such capacity was included as part of a sector plan that would phase-down HFCs in the sector concerned; and that requests for funding should demonstrate why enhanced minimum energy performance standards could not be achieved in the absence of funding for enterprises established after the applicable HFC cut-off date specified in decision XXVIII/2.

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[16] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/14
[17] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/15
[18] Annex VIII of UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/66
[19] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/16 and Add.1

Verification of HFC consumption for low-volume-consuming countries with approved stages of Kigali HFC implementation plans (decision 96/22)

The Executive Committee requested the Secretariat to provide to the Committee, at the first meeting of each year, starting in 2026, the list of for low-volume-consuming (LVC) countries that had scheduled a tranche of their Kigali HFC implementation plans (KIPs) during the following year and that had not previously received funding to undertake such verifications, thereby enabling the Executive Committee to approve the list for the purpose of verification of those countries' compliance with the related KIP Agreement. The Secretariat was also requested to include, in the list referred to above, those countries with an average HFC consumption in the servicing sector, in the baseline years, above 360 mt that had opted to be funded as LVC countries, in line with decision 92/36(c). Bilateral and implementing agencies acting as lead agencies for the respective agreements were requested to include the related costs of verification in their work programmes in the same year, and to submit the related verification in conjunction with a tranche request in the following year. The Committee decided to maintain the level of funds recommended for the verification of HFC consumption for LVC countries at the level of up to US $30,000, or US $45,000 when combined with verification of HCFC consumption.

Relevant bilateral and implementing agencies acting as lead agencies were requested to include in their bilateral cooperation documents and work programme amendments, respectively, to be submitted to the 97th meeting, as applicable, funding for verification reports for stage I of the KIPs for Albania, Congo, Cuba, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Mozambique, North Macedonia and Turkmenistan, for submission with their tranches in 2026, noting that Albania was also on the list for verification of HCFC consumption, with the report to be submitted with the request for the tranche of its HPMP in 2026.

Submission of new stages of HCFC phase-out management plans by low-volume-consuming countries to achieve reductions targets from past years (decision 96/23)

The Committee decided to encourage those LVC countries that had not yet submitted stage II of the HPMPs for their countries, for achievement of the 67.5 per cent reduction in 2025, to submit it at the 97th meeting.

Verification of compliance of selected low-volume-consuming countries with their HCFC phase-out management plan agreements (decision 96/24)

The Committee noted that relevant implementing agencies had included in their 2025 work programmes, submitted at the 96th meeting, requests for funding the verification reports for HPMPs for Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Belize, Bhutan, Burundi, the Congo, Haiti, the Republic of Moldova, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Zimbabwe; and decided to consider the requests for funding associated with the verifications mentioned above, in the context of work programmes submitted by each relevant implementing agency under agenda item 9(c), on projects recommended for blanket approval.

Bilateral cooperation*[20] *(decision 96/25)

The Executive Committee requested the Treasurer to offset the costs of the bilateral projects approved at the 96th meeting in the amount of US $410,125, including agency support costs, against the balance of the bilateral contribution of the Government of Germany for 2024-2026; and in the amount of US $33,900 (including agency support costs) against the balance of the bilateral contribution of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for 2024-2026.

[20] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/17

Approved projects (decisions 96/26 to 96/49)[21]

Funding of US $38,076,531, including agency support costs was approved for: renewals of institutional strengthening (IS) projects for 10 countries[22] (US $4,176,268); project preparations for new stages of HPMPs including investment projects for three countries[23] (US $179,000); enabling activities for HFC phase-down for Central African Republic (US $160,500); preparation of a global project to create an energy-efficiency revolving fund for end users in Colombia, Ghana and Jordan (US $214,000); preparation of a project to create an energy-efficiency revolving fund for end users for three countries[24] (US $321,000); preparation of national inventory of banks of waste controlled substances and development of a national plan for management of these substances for 12 countries[25] (US $1,124,000); preparation for a KIP investment project in the polyurethane (PU) foam manufacturing sector for Philippines (US $85,600); new stages II/III of HPMPs for four countries[26] (first tranche amounting to US $2,894,131); tranches of HPMPs for 14 countries[27] (US $5,941,043); stage I of the KIPs for nine countries[28] (first tranche amounting to US $18,759,905); a tranche of the HFC emission control project for Mexico (US $339,725); preparation of pilot projects to maintain and/or enhance the energy efficiency of replacement technologies and equipment in the context of HFC phase-down for six countries[29] (decisions 91/65 and 94/60) (US $212,590); pilot projects to maintain and/or enhance the energy efficiency of replacement technologies and equipment in the context of HFC phase-down for five countries[30] (decision 91/65) (US $1,582,880); additional activities to maintain energy efficiency for the servicing sector under decision 89/6(b) for seven countries[31] (US $793,437); verification report on the implementation of the HPMPs for 12 countries[32] (US $402,000); and phase II of the global project for the twinning of national ozone officers and national energy efficiency policymakers to support Kigali Amendment (US $890,452).

Matters related to the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol

Outstanding matters related to the guidelines for funding the phase-down of HFCs in Article 5 countries (paragraph 375 of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/95/94)[33] (decision 96/50)

Following discussions in a contact group, the Executive Committee decided that the unit of measurement for the starting point would be carbon dioxide-equivalent tonnes, on the understanding that the reductions from the starting point would be accounted for in accordance with the approach outlined in paragraphs 8 to 15 of UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/56. The Committee also decided that the quantities of HFCs with lower GWP phased in by enterprises under manufacturing conversions supported by the Fund would be eligible

[21] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/18 and UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/19
[22] Angola, Bangladesh, Brazil, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Maldives (additional funding), Mexico, Namibia, Papua New Guinea and Thailand
[23] Iraq, Kuwait and Turkmenistan.
[24] Grenada, Thailand and Türkiye.
[25] Barbados, Dominica, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, Iraq, Oman, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, South Africa, Suriname and United Republic of Tanzania.
[26] Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Haiti and Iran (Islamic Republic of).
[27] Botswana, Cameroon, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Honduras, Liberia, Libya, Morocco, Papua New Guinea, Seychelles, Turkey and Turkmenistan.
[28] Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Georgia, Guinea, Indonesia, Lebanon, Republic of Moldova, Morocco and Sri Lanka
[29] Argentina, Egypt, Ghana, Indonesia, North Macedonia and Rwanda.
[30] Chile, Cuba, Guatemala, North Macedonia and Paraguay.
[31] Barbados, Botswana, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Georgia, and Haiti.
[32] Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Belize, Bhutan, Burundi, the Congo, Haiti, the Republic of Moldova, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Zimbabwe.
[33] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/56

for funding, if necessary for the country concerned to meet the final HFC phase-down step, irrespective of whether the country had sufficient remaining consumption eligible for funding, in line with paragraph 18(e) of decision XXVIII/2 and the agreed eligibility requirements of the Multilateral Fund. In addition, the bilateral and implementing agencies concerned would identify and report, in each KIP project proposal, on any HFC consumption at ineligible enterprises, ineligible consumption and HFC consumption phased out in manufacturing enterprises without assistance from the Multilateral Fund. The Committee also noted that, for LVC countries with consumption in the servicing sector only, no starting point would be applied, as funding would be based on the modality represented by the table contained in decision 92/37. The Committee will consider the level of the starting point at the last Executive Committee meeting of 2029.

Update on the operationalization of the energy-efficiency revolving fund for end users (decision 95/87(h) and (i))[34] (decision 96/51)

The Secretariat introduced the item documents and made the Committee aware that experts on revolving funds, from UNDP, UNIDO and the World Bank, were present at the meeting. An informal session was held with those experts, enabling members to benefit from their experience. Following discussion in a contact group, the Committee recalled decision 95/87, subparagraphs (f) and (g), which established a funding window of US $40 million for two energy-efficiency end-user projects using a revolving-fund mechanism, on the understanding that it would not be operationalized until the Committee had agreed on the modalities for operationalizing the revolving-fund window, and adopted the framework and modalities for operationalizing the revolving-fund window as set out in part C of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/95/87, with the exception of annex I to that document, as it had been updated and, where relevant, revised, in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/57. The framework was adopted with the following understanding and modifications:

- Funding requests for projects should address the illustrative list of information set out in annex II to document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/95/87;
- An advisory board that included in its membership the national ozone unit, along with representatives of key stakeholders, should be established as described in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/57 (paragraphs 4 to 7);
- Funds loaned through the revolving fund should be fully repaid to the Multilateral Fund by the national financial institutions through the implementing agencies;
- At the end of the eight-year tenor of the revolving-fund window, the funds would be returned to the Multilateral Fund; and
- The Executive Committee could propose updates to the agreed methodology in the light of experience gained with revolving funds.

Additional analysis on the issue of HFCs contained in imported pre-blended polyols in the polyurethane foam sector in Article 5 countries (decision 95/88(b)[35] (decision 96/52)

Following the presentation of the document prepared by the Secretariat and ensuing discussions, the Committee decided that with regard to imports of HFCs contained in pre-blended polyols that had not been counted as consumption under Article 7 data reporting, to request Article 5 countries that wished to seek assistance for the phase-out of such imports: to include in the overarching strategy for their KIPs the amount and type of HFCs imported in pre-blended polyols for the years 2022–2024 as reported under the country programme implementation reports, the countries from which they were being imported, and

[34] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/57 and 58
[35] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/59

- For group 1 countries, an indicative list of all PU foam enterprises established prior to 1 January 2020 that used imported polyol systems, including the amount and type of HFCs contained therein;
- For group 2 countries, an indicative list of all PU foam enterprises established prior to 1 January 2024 that used imported polyol systems, including the amount and type of HFCs contained therein.

For countries with an approved KIP, the information listed above should be submitted with the next tranche request. In addition, countries should include in the KIPs, or in their next tranche request for those countries with an approved KIP, a sector plan for the complete phase-out of the use of HFCs contained in imported pre-blended polyols, covering the cost and funding schedule, on the understanding:

- That the quantities of HFCs contained in imported pre-blended polyols that were not included in the overarching strategy for the KIP, or the next tranche request for those countries with an approved KIP, would not be eligible for funding;
- That, in cases where the country decided not to request funding for the sector plan for the complete phase-out of the use of HFCs contained in imported pre-blended polyols owing to national circumstances, the country could, on an exceptional and case-by-case basis, submit a funding request for that sector plan during the implementation of stage I or a future stage of the KIP, on the understanding that the eligibility of the PU foam enterprises would be determined at the time of the submission of the project and that the maximum funding level would be based on the amount of HFCs contained in imported pre-blended polyol systems as defined above.

The Committee also decided that the maximum level of funding to be approved for each Article 5 country to phase out the import of HFCs contained in pre-blended polyols would be based on the average amount of HFCs contained in imported pre-blended polyols during the 2022–2024 period, on the understanding that that value was separate from the starting point for sustained reductions in HFC consumption and would be reflected separately from the starting point in the Agreement between the country and the Committee. For Article 5 countries with eligible enterprises manufacturing pre-blended polyols containing HFCs, they would be provided with assistance calculated on the basis of consumption of HFCs sold domestically for use by PU foam enterprises from 2022–2024, on the understanding that the export of HFCs contained in pre-blended polyols from 2022–2024 would be deducted from their starting point for aggregate reductions in HFC consumption at the time of submission of their KIP or in their next tranche request for those countries with an approved KIP.

The Committee requested Article 5 countries that exported HFCs in pre-blended polyols to provide information on their best available data on exports for the years 2022–2024 at the time of submission of the KIP, in their next tranche request for those countries with an approved KIP, or when requesting funding to phase out HFCs that were used in the PU foam sector. Article 5 countries using HFCs, either pure or contained in pre-blended polyols, in the PU foam sector, were requested to consider establishing ways of recording and monitoring the amounts of HFCs contained in pre-blended polyols imported and/or exported (where applicable) to support the ban on imports of pure HFCs, as well as HFCs contained in pre blended polyols, to be issued once all the foam enterprises had been converted, and to facilitate monitoring of those enterprises to sustain the HFC phase-out.

Updated report on the issue of alternatives in polyurethane foam manufacturing with a focus on small- and medium sized enterprises, in particular for spray and insulating foam applications (decision 94/58(c)) (decision 96/53)

Following the discussion on the document prepared by the Secretariat, the Committee noted the updated report on the issue of alternatives in PU foam manufacturing with a focus on small- and medium sized enterprises, in particular for spray and insulating foam applications, contained in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/60, and decided to consider the information contained in the document referred to above, while discussing the issue of alternatives in the PU foam manufacturing sector. The Committee requested the Secretariat to update the document for consideration at the 98th meeting.

Review of the format for progress and financial reporting including its narrative (decision 95/91(d)) (decisions 96/54 and 96/55)

Following the discussion on the document prepared by the Secretariat, the Committee noted the review of the format for progress and financial reporting including its narrative, as contained in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/61, and approved the revised format for progress and financial reporting including its narrative contained in annexes XXIX and XXX to the meeting report, noting that the new format would be implemented in 2026 for the reporting of the 2025 progress report.

Under the same agenda item, the representative of China introduced a draft decision submitted by Article 5 member countries relating to the need for implementing or bilateral agencies to submit the relevant quarterly progress reports to, and hold adequate discussions with, the national ozone unit to enable it to review and endorse the tranche request prior to submission to the Secretariat. Following a small group discussion, the Committee decided to request the bilateral and implementing agencies, taking into account national executing arrangements, to provide an update to national ozone units, on a regular basis and no less than quarterly, on the progress in the implementation of ongoing projects in their countries, including disbursements, and to indicate the support needed from the national ozone units for timely implementation of projects and submission of project proposals.

Options for a funding modality as referred to in paragraph 4 of decision XXXVI/1 to support a limited number of pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol (decision 95/97)[36] (decision 96/56)

Following the discussion on the document prepared by the Secretariat in a contact group, the Committee noted the paper presented, and requested the Secretariat, taking into account discussions on the matter during the 96th meeting, to prepare for the 98th meeting of the Executive Committee:

- Draft guidelines for the preparation of pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol in regions that the parties to the Montreal Protocol had identified as being able to enhance understanding of regional emissions of controlled substances;
- Draft guidelines for the implementation of pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol in regions that the parties to the Montreal Protocol had determined as being able to enhance understanding of regional emissions of controlled substances;
- A draft template Agreement between the Executive Committee and the Article 5 country concerned for pilot projects to establish a regional atmospheric monitoring station; and
- Information regarding the potential for the World Meteorological Organization to take on a role as implementing agency for pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol.

The Committee also decided to consider establishing a funding window at the 98th meeting for three pilot projects to enhance regional atmospheric monitoring of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol, taking into account the information that will be provided further to the above request.

[36] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/62

Summary and outcomes of the discussion in the half-day sessions held to date on strategic approaches to implementation of the Kigali Amendment and the contribution to sustainable cooling of activities supported by the Multilateral Fund (decision 95/96)[37] **(decision 96/57)**

Following the discussion in a contact group considering the documents prepared by the Secretariat, the Committee, taking into consideration the discussions at the previously held three half day sessions, requested the Secretariat, in consultation with bilateral and implementing agencies, to prepare a paper, for the consideration of the Committee at its 98th meeting, regarding strategic approaches for Article 5 countries relating to:

- Technical infrastructure, capacities, policy measures, regional cooperation, and data collection and management related to market dynamics and consumption trends in different applications and emerging sectors, related to transitioning to low-GWP refrigerants and blends, taking into account a holistic approach for sustained HFC phase-down, enhanced energy efficiency and promoting sustainable cooling; and
- The capacity of end users to adopt sustainable cooling technologies and promote innovation in the refrigeration and air-conditioning service sector, considering digital and artificial intelligence-assisted tools.

Draft report of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol to the Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Parties

The Committee authorized the Secretariat to finalize this report in the light of the discussions held and decisions taken at the 96th meeting and, following clearance by the Chair, to submit it to the Ozone Secretariat.

Report of the Sub-group on the Production Sector

The Sub-group on the Production Sector (Argentina, Canada (facilitator), China, Cuba, Italy, Lesotho, Sweden and the United States of America) met three times in the margins of the meeting and submitted the report of the Sub-group to the Executive Committee. The Committee took note of the report, contained in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/65/Rev.1, and agreed on the recommendations made on the following matter:

HCFC production phase-out management plan for China: Matters related to HFC-23 (decision 95/95) (decision 96/58)

The Executive Committee noted the update on matters related to HFC-23, submitted by the Government of China through the World Bank. The Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a report, within the scope of the HCFC production phase-out management plan (HPPMP), for the consideration of the Sub-group on the Production Sector at the 97th meeting of the Executive Committee, summarizing information from relevant recent scientific studies related to the matter of HFC-23 by-product emissions and taking into account the outcomes of the international workshop on HFC-23 at the scientific level to be held in China in 2025. The Committee also invited the Government of China, in collaboration with the World Bank, to implement a technical assistance project to study the economics and broader application of the HFC-23 transformation process to convert HFC-23 to HCFC-22 and HCFC-21, as described in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/SGP/2, and to provide a report on the outcome of that study to the 99th meeting.

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[37] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/96/63 and Add.1

Other matters

Technical and financial challenges experienced by industry in implementing previously approved Kigali HFC implementation plans

The Executive Committee took note of the suggestion that the issues of the technical and financial challenges experienced in relation to the implementation of previously approved KIPs and the extraction of lessons that could be of use to other Article 5 countries could be further discussed at the next inter-agency coordination meeting.

Challenges relating to the supply chain of alternatives and equipment/components faced by participating enterprises in Article 5 countries in transitioning to technologies with low/lower global-warming potential for Multilateral Fund approved projects (decision 96/59)

The Executive Committee decided to request the Secretariat, in consultation with the implementing and bilateral agencies, to prepare for its consideration at the 98th meeting a paper on the challenges on availability, price, technical specifications and other barriers, as relevant, experienced by Article 5 countries in implementing conversion projects in the refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat-pump sector due to supply-chain issues related to alternative refrigerants, parts and components, and equipment, as well as possible ways to address those challenges.

Attendance at the 96th meeting of the Executive Committee

Executive Committee member countries	Co-opted countries
Article 5	
Argentina	Brazil, Colombia, Paraguay, Uruguay
Bahrain	Cambodia, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon
China	India, Indonesia, Malaysia
Cuba	Grenada, Mexico
Kyrgyzstan	Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro
Lesotho	Botswana, Egypt, Namibia, Nigeria, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia
Togo	Cameroon, Tunisia
Non-Article 5	
Belgium	Netherlands
Canada	Australia
Italy	France, Germany, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Japan	
Lithuania	
Sweden	Finland, Norway
United States of America	