

Annex XIV

VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON RENEWAL OF INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING PROJECTS SUBMITTED TO THE 92nd MEETING

Argentina

1. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Argentina (phase XI) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Argentina 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 Executive Committee further noted that Argentina had taken steps to phase out HCFC consumption including implementation of HCFC import controls through the licensing and quota system, and close collaboration with customs and training of refrigeration technicians. The Executive Committee acknowledged with appreciation the country's ratification of the Kigali Amendment in November 2019 and the modification of the licensing system to include HFCs and is, therefore, confident that the Government of Argentina will continue implementing HCFC phase-out activities and the institutional strengthening project and will submit the Kigali HFC implementation plan in an effective manner to achieve compliance with the Montreal Protocol control measures.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

2. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Bosnia and Herzegovina (phase VIII) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina had reported country programme data to the Fund Secretariat and Article 7 data to the Ozone Secretariat, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee also noted with appreciation the ratification of the Kigali Amendment by Bosnia and Herzegovina on 26 November 2021. The Executive Committee acknowledged the efforts of Bosnia and Herzegovina and is, therefore, confident that in the next three years, the country will continue implementing activities including stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan and preparation of the Kigali HFC implementation plan, taking into account gender mainstreaming, to enable the country to comply with the Montreal Protocol targets.

Cambodia

3. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Cambodia (phase XII) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Cambodia 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 with appreciation that the Government of Cambodia had put in place the HFC licensing system following the country's ratification of the Kigali Amendment on 8 April 2021 and was collaborating with the General Department of Customs and Excise to interface the existing electronic ODS/HFC licensing system with the National Single Window System to strengthen monitoring, reporting, verification, and enforcement activities. The Executive Committee acknowledged the country's efforts to promote gender equality and anticipated gender mainstreaming would be continued in phase XII of the IS project. The Committee is therefore confident that, in the next three years, the Government of Cambodia will continue activities both at the project and policy levels, including submission of the Kigali HFC implementation plan, to enable the country to meet the control measures of the Montreal Protocol.

Chile

4. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Chile (phase XV) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Chile 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 Executive Committee further noted that the Government of Chile 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 Executive Committee also noted with appreciation the activities initiated to facilitate the implementation of the Kigali Amendment. The Executive Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Chile and is, therefore, hopeful that during the next three years, the Government of Chile will implement institutional strengthening activities, the HCFC phase-out management plan, and the Kigali HFC implementation plan in order to sustain the HCFC consumption phase-out already achieved and establish the foundation for the phase-down of HFCs.

Dominican Republic (the)

5. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for renewal of the institutional strengthening project (IS) for the Dominican Republic (phase XII) and noted with appreciation that the Government of the Dominican Republic 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 with appreciation that the country ratified the Kigali Amendment in April 2021. The Executive Committee further noted that the country has an operational HCFC/HFC import/export licensing and HCFC quota system in place, has updated its regulations for the sound management and final disposal of substances and equipment regulated under the Montreal Protocol, made substantial progress on the certification of RAC technicians and the installation of pilot centers for the collection and recovery of refrigerants as well as continuing with training technicians on good refrigeration practices and the safe handling of alternative substances. It has also carried out consultation meetings and raised public awareness. The Executive Committee is, therefore, confident that the Dominican Republic will continue implementing stage III of the HCFC phase-out management plan, the IS project, and progress with the Kigali HFC implementation plan in an effective manner to meet the HCFC phase-out and HFC phase-down targets.

Ecuador

6. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Ecuador (phase VIII) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Ecuador had reported country programme data to the Fund Secretariat and Article 7 data to the Ozone Secretariat, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee further noted that an operational import/export licensing system for controlled substances, including a quota system for HCFC and HFC, is in place. The country has trained refrigeration technicians on good refrigeration practices and safe handling of alternative substances, gained stakeholders support, and is committed to the adoption of relevant safety standards and raising public awareness. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Ecuador, and is, therefore, hopeful that, within the next three years, the Government of Ecuador will continue, with success, coordination with other national agencies and stakeholders in implementing policies and regulations and activities, incorporating gender mainstreaming, to sustain ODS phase-out and facilitate the HFC phase-down, to enable the country to comply with the Montreal Protocol targets.

Eritrea

7. The Executive Committee reviewed the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project (phase VI) for Eritrea and noted with appreciation that the Government of Eritrea 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 with appreciation the ratification of the Kigali Amendment by Eritrea on 7 February 2023 and the steps undertaken to meet the initial obligations under the Amendment. The Executive Committee also noted that the Government of Eritrea has taken further steps to phase out HCFC consumption, including the enforcement of the quota and licensing system and training of customs and enforcement officers as well as refrigeration and air-conditioning technicians. The Executive Committee is, therefore, confident that, the Government of Eritrea, in the next three years, will continue the implementation of its HCFC phase-out management plan to achieve the next control target of the Montreal Protocol and will initiate activities for HFC phase-down.

Eswatini (the Kingdom of)

8. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project (phase VIII) for Eswatini and noted with appreciation that the Government of Eswatini has 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 that the Government of Eswatini is implementing the HCFC and HFC import and export licensing and quota system; has carried out training for refrigeration technicians and customs officers; and developed and organized public awareness activities. The Executive Committee is, therefore, hopeful that, during the next three years, the Government of Eswatini will continue implementing activities to enable the country to comply with the obligations under the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment.

Gambia (the)

9. The Executive Committee reviewed the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project (phase XII) for the Gambia and noted with appreciation that the Government of Gambia had reported country programme data and Article 7 data for 2021 to the Fund and Ozone Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Executive Committee acknowledged with appreciation that the country has an HFC licensing system in place since January 2021. The Executive Committee encouraged the Government of the Gambia through the national ozone unit and inspectorate unit of the National Environment Agency to ensure the effectiveness of the licensing system, monitoring and reporting of controlled substances. The Executive Committee is therefore confident that, in the next three years, the Gambia will continue the gradual reduction of HCFC consumption and initiate activities for the HFC phase-down to achieve compliance with the next Montreal Protocol targets.

Georgia

10. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project (phase XII) for Georgia and noted with appreciation that the Government of Georgia had reported country programme implementation data and Article 7 data to the Fund and Ozone Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Executive Committee acknowledged that Georgia demonstrated its commitment to the gradual phase-out of HCFC consumption by meeting the 2020 control measure of the Montreal Protocol, and the further gradual reductions in HCFC imports and use. The Committee further noted the Government of Georgia's progress towards ratification of the Kigali Amendment. The Executive Committee is, therefore, hopeful that Georgia will achieve compliance with the control measures to reduce its HCFC consumption by 67.5 per cent by 2025 and ratify the Kigali Amendment in the near future.

Kenya

11. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Kenya (phase XIII) and noted with appreciation that Kenya 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 that the country had revised the national ODS regulations to include the HFC licensing system and that the revised regulations were awaiting approval by the Parliament of Kenya. The Committee further noted that the Government of Kenya has continued with the phase-out of ODS consumption through the enforcement of the HCFC licensing and quota system; training of technicians on the safe use of hydrocarbons; and embarking on public awareness programmes. The Executive Committee is, therefore, confident that the Government of Kenya will approve the revised regulations for controlled substances and implement activities, including HCFC phase-out and HFC phase-down activities, and consideration of gender issues to enable the country to comply with the Montreal Protocol targets.

Kiribati

12. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Kiribati (phase IX) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Kiribati 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 Executive Committee appreciated the Government of Kiribati's effort in promoting gender equality in all Multilateral Fund projects and anticipates that the promotion of gender equality and a gender friendly working environment will be continued in phase IX. The Executive Committee noted that the country continued to implement the HFC licensing system through the Ministerial Order and is implementing the HCFC phase-out management plan, conducting information outreach and awareness raising activities and participating in regional network meetings. The Executive Committee is hopeful that, the Government of Kiribati 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.

Kuwait

13. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Kuwait (phase IX) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Kuwait had reported country programme data and Article 7 data for 2021 to the Fund and Ozone Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee further noted with appreciation that Kuwait implemented an electronic licensing system and that there were no cases of illegal trade during phase VIII of the project. With the updated e-licensing system in place, the Executive Committee encourages the Government of Kuwait through its national ozone unit to work closely with stakeholders to ensure effectiveness of the licensing system and data monitoring and reporting of controlled substances. The Executive Committee acknowledged the efforts by the Government of Kuwait to pursue the implementation of the outcomes of the enabling activities and is confident that the country will continue its gradual reduction of HCFC consumption to achieve the next control target under the Montreal Protocol and will continue facilitating the ratification of the Kigali Amendment.

Lebanon

14. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Lebanon (phase XIII) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Lebanon 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

Executive Committee acknowledged the country's efforts in achieving and sustaining the agreed accelerated HCFC reduction targets through the continuous monitoring of the ODS quota and licensing system, implementation of stage II of the HPMP and oversight activities by the Government. The Executive Committee also noted with appreciation the concrete step taken by the Government to phase down HFCs through their inclusion in the licensing system, and is, therefore, hopeful that within the next three years, the Government of Lebanon will continue the implementation of its HCFC phase-out management plan and institutional strengthening project and commence implementation of the Kigali HFC implementation plan to achieve and sustain compliance with the Montreal Protocol obligations.

Liberia

15. The Executive Committee reviewed the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project (phase X) for Liberia and noted with appreciation that the Government of Liberia 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 Executive Committee also noted that Liberia has taken steps towards finalizing the review of the national ODS Regulations to take into account the provisions of the Kigali Amendment. The Executive Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Liberia and is, therefore, confident that the country will continue its gradual reduction of HCFC consumption to achieve the next control target under the Montreal Protocol and will initiate activities for HFC phase-down.

Mali

16. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project (IS) for Mali (phase X) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Mali had reported country programme data and Article 7 data to the Fund and Ozone Secretariat, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Executive Committee commended the national ozone unit for its efforts to implement activities under phase IX of the IS despite the challenges that faced the country. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Mali to phase out HCFC consumption, through the implementation of a HCFC licensing and quota system and training of customs officers and refrigeration technicians and is therefore hopeful that the Government of Mali will put into place a HFC licensing and continue implementation of activities with success to enable the country to achieve and sustain compliance with the Montreal Protocol.

Mongolia

17. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Mongolia (phase XIII) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Mongolia 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 with appreciation the ratification of the Kigali Amendment by Mongolia on 27 July 2022 and the amendment of relevant national laws. The Executive Committee noted that Mongolia is developing a robust online licensing system platform for both HCFC and HFCs and noted its efforts to enforce the HCFC licensing system, issue annual quotas, and timely submit country programme and Article 7 data reports. The Executive Committee is therefore confident that, in the next three years, Mongolia will continue activities both at the project and policy levels to meet the future targets of the Montreal Protocol.

Nicaragua

18. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Nicaragua (phase XI) and noted with appreciation that the

Government of Nicaragua 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 Executive Committee acknowledged that the country has updated its regulation for the control of substances under the Montreal Protocol to comply with the requirements of the Kigali Amendment, made substantial progress in the training of refrigeration technicians on good refrigeration practices and the environmental sound storage of refrigerants, and is committed to the formulation of norms and standards for the safe handling of alternative refrigerants. The Executive Committee is, therefore, confident that Nicaragua will continue implementing the IS project, stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan, and prepare the Kigali HFC implementation plan in an effective manner to meet the HCFC phase-out and HFC phase-down targets.

Niue

19. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Niue (phase IX) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Niue has complied with the initial obligations of the Kigali Amendment by establishing the HFC licensing system. The Executive Committee also noted that Niue reported country programme data and Article 7 data for 2021 to the Fund and Ozone Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Executive Committee appreciated the efforts of the Government of Niue in maintaining zero consumption of HCFCs since 2011 and in promoting gender equality in all Multilateral Fund projects, anticipating that the promotion of gender equality and gender-friendly working environment will be continued in phase IX. The Executive Committee acknowledged with appreciation that the Government of Niue requested less than the minimum level of funding to implement phase IX of the project through covering the salaries of two staff members of the national ozone unit. The Executive Committee is, therefore, hopeful that, within the next three years, the Government of Niue will finalize and launch the implementation of stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan and continue to implement the IS project activities with success to sustain zero HCFC consumption and maintain compliance with the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment.

North Macedonia

20. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for the North Macedonia (phase VIII) and noted with appreciation that the Government of North Macedonia had reported country programme data to the Fund Secretariat and Article 7 data to the Ozone Secretariat, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Executive Committee further noted that the country had taken steps to phase out HCFC consumption and prepare for the phase-down of HFC consumption including strict monitoring of HCFC and HFC trade through the regulatory framework and allocation of HCFC quotas, and that the national ozone unit maintained close cooperation with the customs authorities and state environmental inspectors to enhance the effectiveness of legislation on controlled substances. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of North Macedonia to implement stages I and II of the HCFC phase-out management plan and project preparation of the Kigali HFC implementation plan and raise public awareness including the gender mainstreaming policy of the Multilateral Fund. The Committee is, therefore, confident that in the next three years, the Government of North Macedonia will continue implementing activities to enable the country to comply with the Montreal Protocol targets.

Oman

21. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Oman (phase IX) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Oman had reported country programme data to the Fund Secretariat and Article 7 data to the Ozone Secretariat, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee further

noted that the country had taken steps to continue phasing out HCFC consumption including the strict monitoring of HCFC trade through the ODS regulatory framework and allocation of quotas, as well as through further improvement of the electronic database. The Committee also noted that the national ozone unit maintained close cooperation with the customs authorities to operate the e-licencing system. The Committee is, therefore, confident that in the next three years, the Government of Oman will make progress towards ratification of the Kigali Amendment and will continue implementing activities under stage III of the HCFC phase-out management plan to enable the country to comply with the Montreal Protocol targets.

Palau

22. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Palau (phase X) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Palau 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 Executive Committee appreciated the efforts of the Government of Palau to put in place the licensing system for HFCs and the continued enforcement of the ban on the import of HCFC-based equipment. The Executive Committee also acknowledged the Government of Palau's efforts to promote gender friendly working environments anticipating that gender mainstreaming will be continued in the next phase of the project. The Executive Committee further noted that Palau continued to implement the Single Window System, which has further strengthened the enforcement of the licensing. The Executive Committee is, therefore, confident that the Government of Palau will continue activities both at the project and policy levels to meet the future targets of the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment.

Philippines (the)

23. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for the Philippines (phase XIV) and noted with appreciation that the Government of the Philippines 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 Executive Committee acknowledged with appreciation that the Government of the Philippines ratified the Kigali Amendment on 3 November 2022 and put in place an HFC licensing system. The Committee noted that the country enforces its HCFC and HFC licensing and implements the HCFC quota system through the Online Permitting and Monitoring System (OPMS) Platform that has strengthened data monitoring and reporting of controlled substances. The Executive Committee also noted that the Philippines has integrated gender mainstreaming into the implementation of its Montreal Protocol activities. The Executive Committee is, therefore, hopeful that the Government of the Philippines will continue implementing activities both at the policy and project levels to enable the country to meet the Montreal Protocol targets.

Republic of Moldova (the)

24. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project of the Republic of Moldova (phase XII) and noted with appreciation that the Government of the Republic of Moldova 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 Executive Committee acknowledged that the Government of Moldova has established legislation to control the import of HCFCs through establishing an annual import quota for HCFCs and issuing import/export licenses for each shipment. The Committee is, therefore, confident that in the next three years, the Government of the Republic of Moldova will continue its activities both at the policy and project levels to enable the country to achieve the next control target under the Montreal Protocol and to finalize the process for ratification of the Kigali Amendment.

Rwanda

25. The Executive Committee reviewed the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project (phase X) for Rwanda and noted with appreciation that the Government of Rwanda 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 Executive Committee further noted that Rwanda has been operating an HFC licensing system since 1 January 2021 and has taken further steps to phase out its consumption of HCFCs, including the enforcement of the licensing and quota system and training customs and enforcement officers as well as the refrigeration and air-conditioning technicians. The Executive Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Rwanda and is therefore hopeful that, within the next three years, the country will continue the implementation of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan and the IS project to achieve and sustain at the next control target under the Montreal Protocol and will initiate the HFC phase-down in accordance with the Kigali Amendment.

Samoa

26. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the institutional strengthening project for Samoa (phase XII) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Samoa 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 is taking the necessary steps to meet the Montreal Protocol control measures related to HCFCs and initial obligations of the Kigali Amendment. The Executive Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Samoa in sustaining the phase-out of HCFC consumption, effectively implementing the HCFC licensing and quota system and the HFC licensing system and integrating gender mainstreaming and coordinating activities with the relevant stakeholders. The Executive Committee further noted the level of public awareness to inform stakeholders and the public about the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) and the obligations under the Kigali Amendment. The Executive Committee is hopeful that, in the next three years, the Government of Samoa will continue implementing stage II of the HPMP and prepare stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan to enable the country to meet its Montreal Protocol obligations including those under the Kigali Amendment.

Tonga

27. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Tonga (phase X) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Tonga had effectively implemented the HCFC and HFC licensing system and 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 Executive Committee expressed its sympathy for the natural disaster that devastated the country in 2022 and appreciates the efforts made by the Government of Tonga to review its strategy and work plan to ensure continuity in the implementation of the country's Montreal Protocol commitments. The Executive Committee further noted that Tonga had continued the strict enforcement of licensing system for HCFCs and the ban on the import of HCFC-based equipment and has sustained the phase-out its HCFC consumption ahead of the upcoming control measures. The Executive Committee also appreciated the Government of Tonga's effort in promoting gender friendly working environments and female participation. The Executive Committee is, therefore, confident that the Government of Tonga will continue activities both at the project and policy levels to meet the future targets of the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment.

Tuvalu

28. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the institutional strengthening project renewal request for Tuvalu (phase IX) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Tuvalu 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 Executive Committee further noted with appreciation that the country is taking the necessary steps to meet the Montreal Protocol control measures related to HCFCs and initial obligations under the Kigali Amendment. The Executive Committee appreciated the Government of Tuvalu's effort in promoting gender-friendly working environments and female participation in all Multilateral Fund supported projects. The Executive Committee also noted the country's active participation in regional network and Montreal Protocol meetings. The Executive Committee is hopeful that, in the next three years, the Government of Tuvalu will implement stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan and prepare stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan, to enable the country to comply with the consumption targets agreed with the Executive Committee and to meet its Montreal Protocol obligations.

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

29. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (phase XV) and noted with appreciation the fact that the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reported and country programme data and Article 7 data to the Fund and Ozone Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Executive 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 Executive Committee also noted with appreciation the activities initiated to facilitate the implementation of the Kigali Amendment. The Executive Committee acknowledged the effort required and the challenges faced by the Government of Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and is, therefore, hopeful that the next three years, the Government will continue implementation of the HCFC phase-out management plan, the preparation for the Kigali HFC implementation plan, and institutional strengthening project activities with success to achieve the agreed 88.8 per cent reduction in HCFC consumption by 1 January 2023 and to establish the foundation for phase-down under the Kigali Amendment.

Zambia

30. The Executive Committee reviewed the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project (phase IX) for Zambia and noted with appreciation that the Government of Zambia reported country programme data and Article 7 data for 2021 to the Fund and Ozone Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Executive Committee also noted the steps taken by the country to review the ODS regulations to control HFCs. The Committee acknowledged that Zambia continued to implement the HCFC import and export licensing and quota system; carried out training for refrigeration technicians and customs officers; and developed and organized public awareness activities. The Committee is therefore confident that, in the next three years, the Government of Zambia will continue to reduce HCFC consumption to meet the next control target under the Montreal Protocol and prepare the Kigali HFC implementation plan.

Zimbabwe

31. The Executive Committee reviewed the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project (phase XII) for Zimbabwe and noted with appreciation that the Government of Zimbabwe had reported country programme data and Article 7 data to the Fund and Ozone Secretariats, respectively. The Executive Committee acknowledged with appreciation that Zimbabwe had ratified the Kigali Amendment on 18 October 2022 and had revised the national ODS regulations to include HFCs. The Committee further noted that the Government of Zimbabwe has continued to train customs officers on monitoring and controlling trade and refrigeration and air-conditioning technicians on safe use of hydrocarbon refrigerants. The Committee is, therefore, confident that in the next three years the Government of Zimbabwe will

continue implementing HCFC phase-out activities in an effective manner to achieve the next control target under the Montreal Protocol and prepare the Kigali HFC implementation plan.