

Annex XLIX

VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON RENEWAL OF INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING PROJECTS SUBMITTED TO THE 98TH MEETING

Cambodia

1. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Cambodia (phase XIII) and noted with appreciation that the Government had submitted its 2025 country programme and Article 7 data, indicating continued compliance with the Montreal Protocol, including the HFC freeze under the Kigali Amendment. The Committee noted the continued enforcement of the HCFC and HFC licensing and quota system under the Sub-decree on ODS Management 2021, including the full linkage of the online licensing and quota system with the National Single Window System and the management of HFC quotas in CO₂-equivalent tonnes. The Committee also acknowledged progress in implementing the HCFC phase-out management plan, stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan, the energy-efficiency project and the national inventory of ODS banks. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Cambodia and is therefore hopeful that, within the next three years, the Government of Cambodia will continue the implementation of activities with success to maintain compliance with the control measures of the Montreal Protocol.

Chile

2. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Chile (phase XVI) and noted with appreciation that Chile continued to meet its obligations under the Montreal Protocol, including the submission of Article 7 and country programme data and the implementation of HCFC and HFC import controls through the licensing system. The Committee further noted the strengthening of the national regulatory framework, the steps taken to implement the HFC quota system, and the integration of the national ozone unit into the Ministry of the Environment's climate governance structure. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Chile in strengthening customs controls, including action on illegal trade, and advancing activities under the Kigali Amendment. The Committee is therefore hopeful that, during the next three years, Chile will continue implementing stage III of the HCFC phase-out management plan and stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan, and further strengthen the HFC quota system, in order to maintain compliance with the Montreal Protocol and achieve its reduction targets.

Ecuador

3. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Ecuador (phase IX) and noted with appreciation that Ecuador had continued to meet its reporting obligations under the Montreal Protocol, including the timely submission of Article 7 and country programme data, and that Ecuador remained in compliance with the control measures of the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment. The Committee noted progress in strengthening the regulatory and institutional framework, including the modernization of the electronic licensing and quota system for HCFCs, HFCs and pre-blended polyols, and the issuance of updated regulatory instruments to support implementation of the Kigali Amendment. It also acknowledged strengthened coordination with customs authorities and improved monitoring and verification of imports of controlled substances. The Committee noted remaining challenges related to controls on refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment, the need to further formalize inter-institutional coordination mechanisms, and the importance of strengthening institutional memory in the context of potential staff turnover. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Ecuador and is therefore hopeful that, during the next three years, Ecuador

will continue implementing its institutional strengthening project with success, including by expanding outreach beyond the RAC sector, strengthening circular economy and life-cycle management approaches, and integrating energy-efficiency considerations into its activities, in order to maintain compliance with the Montreal Protocol.

Eritrea

4. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Eritrea (phase VII) and noted with appreciation that Eritrea submitted Article 7 data for 2025, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee acknowledged that Eritrea has an operational licensing and quota system for HCFCs and HFCs. The Committee also acknowledged Eritrea's efforts to reduce HCFC consumption, prepare and secure approval of stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan, and strengthen monitoring of controlled substances, and is therefore hopeful that, within the next three years, the Government of Eritrea will continue the implementation of activities with success to maintain compliance with the control measures of the Montreal Protocol.

Eswatini

5. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Eswatini (phase IX) and noted with appreciation that Eswatini is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee welcomed the timely submission of 2025 country programme data and the establishment of a dedicated data team to support the continued submission of such data. The Committee also noted the gazetting of the ODS and HFC Regulations (2025) and implementation of the licensing and quota system. The Committee commended the Government of Eswatini for its efforts to reduce HCFC consumption and encouraged it to continue implementing stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan and stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Eswatini and is therefore hopeful that, within the next three years, the Government of Eswatini will continue the implementation of activities with success to maintain compliance with the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment.

Gambia (the)

6. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for the Gambia (phase XIII) and noted with appreciation that the Gambia had reported Article 7 data and country programme data for 2025 to the Ozone and Fund Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol phase-out schedule. The Committee noted that the Government of the Gambia implemented enforcement measures to control ODS imports through a licensing and quota system and encouraged the finalisation of the revised ODS regulations incorporating HFC control measures. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of the Gambia to reduce HCFC and HFC consumption and is therefore hopeful that, within the next three years, the Government of the Gambia will continue the implementation of activities with success to maintain compliance with the control measures of the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment.

Grenada

7. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Grenada (phase VIII) and noted with appreciation that Grenada submitted Article 7 and country programme data to the Ozone and Fund Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee noted the

Government's efforts to complete phase VII despite challenges, and the continued implementation of the licensing and quota systems for HCFCs and HFCs, the administrative ban on HCFC-based equipment, and progress on the revised Montreal Protocol Substances Bill to strengthen controls on refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment based on global-warming potential thresholds. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Grenada and is therefore hopeful that, within the next three years, the Government of Grenada will continue the implementation of activities with success to maintain compliance with the control measures of the Montreal Protocol.

Kenya

8. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Kenya (phase XIV) and noted with appreciation that Kenya submitted Article 7 and country programme data for 2024, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee noted that the revised Environmental Management and Coordination (Controlled Substances) Regulations were gazetted on 28 February 2025, incorporating the HFC licensing and quota system and an import ban on HCFC-based equipment. The Committee acknowledged that Kenya has established an operational licensing and quota system and implemented activities under the HCFC phase-out management plan. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Kenya and is therefore hopeful that, within the next three years, the Government will continue the implementation of activities with success to maintain compliance with the control measures of the Montreal Protocol

Lebanon

9. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Lebanon (phase XIV) and noted with appreciation the country's continued efforts to sustain compliance with its obligations under the Montreal Protocol, including the enforcement of licensing and quota systems to control HCFC consumption in line with its Agreement with the Executive Committee. The Committee further acknowledged Lebanon's commitment to maintaining progress in ODS phase-out despite significant national challenges, including economic constraints and security-related disruptions, while ensuring the continuity of key activities such as policy enforcement, capacity-building and stakeholder engagement. The Committee also noted the steps taken towards the implementation of the Kigali Amendment, including preparatory activities and coordination mechanisms to support the implementation of the Kigali HFC implementation plan. The Committee commended Lebanon for strengthening institutional coordination and awareness-raising efforts and is therefore hopeful that, during the next three years, Lebanon will continue advancing HFC phase-down, promoting energy efficiency in the cooling sector and sustaining compliance with the Montreal Protocol.

Liberia

10. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Liberia (phase XI) and noted with appreciation that Liberia had reported Article 7 data indicating compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee acknowledged the revision of the Montreal Protocol Controlled Substances Regulations to include Kigali Amendment provisions, the enforcement of HCFC and HFC licensing and quota system including the launch of an online system, and the implementation of activities under the HCFC phase-out management plan and the Kigali HFC implementation plan. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Liberia and is therefore hopeful that, within the next three years, the Government of Liberia will continue the implementation of activities with success to maintain compliance with the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment.

Mongolia

11. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Mongolia (phase XIV) and noted with appreciation that Mongolia submitted Article 7 data for 2024 to the Ozone Secretariat and country programme data for 2025 to the Fund Secretariat, indicating compliance with the Montreal Protocol HCFC phase-out schedule. The Committee noted that, following the approval of stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan at the 97th meeting and the conditions set out in decision 97/63, the Government had continued to strengthen HFC control measures, including by setting the 2026 HFC quota within the freeze level and launching the online electronic licensing system. The Committee also noted the continued enforcement of the licensing and quota system. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Mongolia and is therefore hopeful that, within the next three years, the Government of Mongolia will continue the implementation of activities with success to maintain compliance with the control measures of the Montreal Protocol, including its Kigali Amendment.

Montenegro

12. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Montenegro (phase III) and noted with appreciation that Montenegro had reported data under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol to the Ozone Secretariat and 2025 country programme data to the Fund Secretariat, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee noted that the Government of Montenegro implemented enforcement measures to control ODS imports, including an HCFC import ban effective 1 January 2025, and implemented an HFC licensing and quota system. The Committee further noted the adoption of the Law on Climate Change, which strengthens the regulatory framework for controlling ozone-depleting substances and fluorinated greenhouse gases, and acknowledged that the Government provided comprehensive training to customs officers and refrigeration technicians. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Montenegro and is therefore hopeful that, within the next three years, the Government of Montenegro will continue the implementation of activities with success to maintain compliance with the control measures of the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment.

Niue

13. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Niue (phase X) and noted with appreciation that Niue submitted Article 7 data for 2024 to the Ozone Secretariat and country programme data for 2024 and 2025 to the Fund Secretariat, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee acknowledged that the Government of Niue has maintained zero HCFC consumption since 2011 and implemented mandatory controls on HFCs through its national licensing and quota system. The Committee also noted that Niue has commenced implementation of stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan and stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan and acknowledged with appreciation that the Government requested less than the minimum level of funding for phase X of the institutional strengthening project. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Niue and is therefore hopeful that, within the next three years, the Government of Niue will continue the implementation of activities with success to maintain compliance with the control measures of the Montreal Protocol.

North Macedonia

14. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for North Macedonia (phase IX) and noted with appreciation that North

Macedonia had reported 2024 Article 7 data and 2025 country programme data to the Ozone and Fund Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country was in compliance with its obligations under the Montreal Protocol. The Committee further noted the efforts of North Macedonia to sustain the phase-out of HCFC consumption and initiate the phase-down of HFCs, including through the adoption, in 2024, of the Ordinance for Restricting the Import of HFCs and the implementation of an electronic licensing and quota system. The Committee also noted the development of regulatory measures, including draft rulebooks on reporting, leak detection systems and the management of controlled substances, as well as strengthened cooperation with customs and environmental inspection authorities. The Committee further noted North Macedonia's continued efforts to ensure accurate and timely data reporting through its monitoring and verification system, stakeholder coordination, including engagement with the refrigeration and air-conditioning sector and inter-institutional cooperation through the National Committee for Chemicals and Waste Management. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of North Macedonia and is therefore hopeful that, within the next three years, the Government of North Macedonia will continue the implementation of activities with success to maintain compliance with the control measures of the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment.

Palau

15. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Palau (phase XI) and noted with appreciation that Palau submitted Article 7 and country programme data for 2025 to the Ozone and Fund Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee acknowledged the Government's efforts in maintaining HCFC consumption well below the maximum allowable consumption, enforcing the ban on HCFC-based equipment, and implementing the HFC licensing and quota system, and noted the finalization of a draft regulation to introduce mandatory controls on HFC-based equipment. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Palau and is therefore hopeful that, within the next three years, the Government of Palau will continue the implementation of activities with success to maintain compliance with the control measures of the Montreal Protocol.

Republic of Moldova

16. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for the Republic of Moldova (phase XIII) and noted with appreciation that the Government of the Republic of Moldova had reported Article 7 and country programme data for 2024 to the Ozone and Fund Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Executive Committee acknowledged that the Government had strengthened its legislative framework to control HCFCs and HFCs, including through the ratification of the Kigali Amendment, the establishment of an HFC quota system, and the introduction of restrictions on certain products and equipment relying on high-GWP HFCs. The Committee also noted the continued implementation of stage III of the HCFC phase-out management plan, the planned implementation of stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan, and the pilot project to maintain and enhance the energy efficiency of replacement technologies and equipment in the context of the HFC phase-down. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of the Republic of Moldova and is therefore hopeful that, in the next three years, the Government of the Republic of Moldova will continue the implementation of activities with success to maintain compliance with the control measures of the Montreal Protocol.

Rwanda

17. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Rwanda (phase XI) and noted with appreciation that Rwanda

submitted Article 7 data for 2024 and country programme data for 2025, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee acknowledged that Rwanda continued to implement the HCFC and HFC licensing and quota system, supported by the upgraded electronic registry and activities under the HCFC phase-out implementation plan and Kigali HFC implementation plan. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Rwanda and is therefore hopeful that, within the next three years, the Government of Rwanda will continue the implementation of activities with success to maintain compliance with the control measures of the Montreal Protocol.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

18. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (phase IX) and noted with appreciation that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines submitted Article 7 and country programme data for 2025 to the Ozone and Fund Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country maintained zero HCFC consumption and reported consumption within its HFC consumption limit in 2025. The Committee noted that, following the exceedance of the country's HFC consumption limit in 2024, as reflected in Decision XXXVII/14 of the Thirty-Seventh Meeting of the Parties, the Government, with the support of UNEP, had taken measures to strengthen the HFC licensing and quota system and prepare the project proposal for stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and is therefore hopeful that, within the next three years, the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will continue the implementation of activities with success to maintain compliance with the control measures of the Montreal Protocol.

Samoa

19. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Samoa (phase XIII) and noted with appreciation that Samoa had submitted Article 7 data for 2024 to the Ozone Secretariat and country programme data for 2025 to the Fund Secretariat, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee acknowledged that Samoa continued to implement the HCFC and HFC licensing and quota systems and coordinated with relevant stakeholders on stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan, stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan and other Multilateral Fund-supported activities. The Committee also noted Samoa's efforts to strengthen data reporting, advance the Refrigerant Management Regulations and the Pacific Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System 2022. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Samoa and is therefore hopeful that, within the next three years, the Government of Samoa will continue the implementation of activities with success to maintain compliance with the control measures of the Montreal Protocol.

Sudan

20. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Sudan (phase XI) and noted with appreciation the submission of Article 7 and country programme data for 2022, 2023 and 2024 to the Ozone and Fund Secretariats, respectively, as well as the timely submission of 2025 country programme data, indicating that Sudan is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol HCFC phase-out schedule. The Committee acknowledged Sudan's continued efforts, despite the challenging national circumstances, to enforce the licensing and quota system and continue implementing activities under the HCFC phase-out management plan, and noted the progress made towards ratification of the Kigali Amendment. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Sudan and is therefore hopeful that, within the next three years, the Government of Sudan will ratify the Kigali Amendment and will continue the implementation of activities with success to maintain compliance with the control measures of the Montreal Protocol.

Tonga

21. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Tonga (phase XI) and noted with appreciation that Tonga submitted Article 7 data for 2024 to the Ozone Secretariat and country programme data for 2024 and 2025 to the Fund Secretariat, indicating that the country continues to comply with the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment. The Committee acknowledged the Government's efforts to maintain zero HCFC imports, implement mandatory controls on HFCs through the national licensing and quota system and enforce the ban on HCFC-based equipment. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Tonga and is therefore hopeful that, within the next three years, the Government of Tonga will continue the implementation of activities with success to maintain compliance with the control measures of the Montreal Protocol.

Tuvalu

22. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Tuvalu (phase X) and noted with appreciation that Tuvalu submitted Article 7 and country programme data for 2024 to the Ozone and Fund Secretariats, respectively, and that 2025 country programme data were submitted in advance of the deadline, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol, including its Kigali Amendment. The Committee acknowledged the Government's efforts in maintaining zero HCFC consumption, implementing the HCFC and HFC licensing and quota system, and gazetting the Ozone Layer Protection and Refrigerant Management Amendment Act in 2023. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Tuvalu and is therefore hopeful that, within the next three years, the Government of Tuvalu will continue the implementation of activities with success to maintain compliance with the control measures of the Montreal Protocol.

Zimbabwe

23. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Zimbabwe (phase XIII) and noted with appreciation that Zimbabwe submitted Article 7 and country programme data for 2025 to the Ozone and Fund Secretariats, respectively, in advance of the deadlines, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol, including the 2024 HFC freeze target under the Kigali Amendment. The Committee acknowledged the Government's efforts in implementing the electronic licensing and quota system integrated into the Zimbabwe Electronic Single Window, strengthening cooperation with the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority, and other activities under the HCFC phase-out management plan and the Kigali HFC implementation plan. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Zimbabwe and is therefore hopeful that, within the next three years, the Government of Zimbabwe will continue the implementation of activities with success to maintain compliance with the control measures of the Montreal Protocol.