

Annex XVIII

VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON RENEWAL OF INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING PROJECTS SUBMITTED TO THE 91st MEETING

Armenia

1. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Armenia (phase VIII) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Armenia 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 reviewed ODS regulations and improved control of HCFCs; finalized activities under stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan and coordinated preparation of stage III; and raised public awareness on the Montreal Protocol. The Committee is, therefore, confident that in the next two years, the Government of Armenia will continue implementing activities to enable the country to comply with the Montreal Protocol targets.

Belize

2. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Belize (phase XI) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Belize reported 2021 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 Committee acknowledged that the Government of Belize is on track with the HCFC phase-out schedule, that the country has a well-structured and operational electronic licensing and quota system for HCFC import, and that the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) continued to be implemented despite challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee also noted that the country is taking steps to ratify the Kigali Amendment. The Committee is, therefore, confident that during the next two years, the Government of Belize will continue activities both at the policy and project levels to ensure it complies with the next control measures of the Montreal Protocol and of the HPMP Agreement with the Executive Committee.

Botswana

3. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Botswana (phase VI) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Botswana reported country programme data and Article 7 data indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee noted the implementation of the licensing and quota system, public awareness-raising events and information dissemination, training of customs officers and refrigeration technicians, all of which have been instrumental in curbing HCFC consumption. The Committee acknowledged with appreciation that the country ratified the Kigali Amendment in September 2020. The Committee expressed the expectation that, in the next two years, the Government of Botswana will continue to implement HCFC phase-out activities with close cooperation between the national ozone unit and stakeholders in order to prepare the country to achieve the 67.5 per cent reduction in HCFC consumption required by 1 January 2025.

Brunei Darussalam

4. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Brunei Darussalam (phase VII) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Brunei Darussalam submitted the 2020 and 2021 Article 7 data and country programme data to the Ozone and Multilateral Fund Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in

compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee acknowledged that the country maintains a robust licensing and quota system for HCFC trade control and that the HFC licensing system has continuously been operational while waiting for the finalisation of the amendment to the existing regulation to include HFCs. The Committee also noted the country's active participation in the regional network and its progress made towards ratification of the Kigali Amendment. The Committee is therefore hopeful that, during the next two years, the Government of Brunei Darussalam will continue implementation activities to achieve the next targets of the Montreal Protocol, while ensuring gender mainstreaming in implementing the Montreal Protocol activities.

Côte d'Ivoire

5. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Côte d'Ivoire (phase X) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Côte d'Ivoire 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 Committee further noted that the Government of Côte d'Ivoire took steps to phase out consumption of HCFCs, including the implementation of ODS import controls through a licensing and quota system and training of customs officers and refrigeration technicians. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to reduce HCFC consumption and is therefore hopeful that, within the next two years, the Government will continue implementation of activities with success to enable the country to achieve and sustain compliance with the Montreal Protocol.

Djibouti

6. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Djibouti (phase VIII) and noted with appreciation that Djibouti reported 2020 and 2021 data to the Ozone Secretariat indicating that the country is in compliance with Montreal Protocol. The Committee further noted that the Government of Djibouti has taken significant steps to phase out its consumption of HCFCs. The Committee acknowledged with appreciation the country's ratification of the Kigali Amendment in July 2022. The Committee is therefore hopeful that, in the next two years, Djibouti will continue with the implementation of HCFC phase-out activities and initiate activities for HFC phase-down.

Egypt

7. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Egypt (phase XIV) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Egypt had reported 2020 and 2021 data under country programme implementation reports and under Article 7 to the Fund Secretariat and Ozone Secretariat, respectively, 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 implementation of strict monitoring of HCFC trade through the ODS regulatory framework and allocation of quotas, as well as through further improvement of the electronic database. Close cooperation was maintained with the customs authorities in order to further improve the effectiveness of the ODS regulations and ensure implementation of policies issued by the National Ozone Committee. The Committee also noted that the project for enabling activities for HFC phase-down project was completed and is, therefore, hopeful that the Government of Egypt, in addition to continuing its implementation of HCFC phase-out activities with success, will ratify the Kigali Amendment soon.

El Salvador

8. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for El Salvador (phase IX) and noted with appreciation that the country has complied with its Article 7 data reporting and HCFC phase-out obligations under the Montreal Protocol and that an operational ODS import/export licensing and HCFC quota system is in place. The Committee further noted that the Government of El Salvador submitted country programme implementation data to the Fund Secretariat in a timely manner, and has successfully trained refrigeration technicians, gained stakeholders' support through the organization of coordination meetings, and raised the public awareness on ozone layer protection. The Committee acknowledged with appreciation the country's ratification of the Kigali Amendment in September 2021 and is therefore confident that the Government of El Salvador will continue implementing HCFC phase-out activities and IS project and submit the Kigali HFC implementation plan in an effective manner to meet the HCFC phase out and HFC phase-down targets.

Fiji

9. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Fiji (phase XIII) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Fiji submitted 2020 and 2021 Article 7 data and country programme implementation data to the Ozone and Fund Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee noted that Fiji has an operational HCFC licensing and quota system and that the HCFC phase-out management plan has been implemented in an efficient and timely manner. The Committee also noted with appreciation that the Government of Fiji, since its ratification of the Kigali Amendment on 16 June 2020 has put in place mandatory controls of HFCs since 1 January 2021. The Committee further noted the country's continuous engagement of key stakeholders in the implementation of the Montreal Protocol at the national level, the organization of awareness-raising activities and the World Ozone Day celebrations, as well as active participation in regional networks. The Committee is, therefore, hopeful that in the next two years the Government of Fiji will continue implementing activities, taking into account gender mainstreaming, to comply with the Montreal Protocol obligations.

Ghana

10. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Ghana (phase XV) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Ghana reported 2020 and 2021 data to the Ozone and Fund Secretariats indicating that the country achieved its HCFC reduction targets. The Committee noted the country's continued efforts in enforcing control measures to sustain the ODS phase-out. The Committee also noted the country's commitments in providing the highest standards of technical assistance to local stakeholders for the completion of the activities under stage I of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP), and the continued coordination and oversight for the implementation of stage II of the HPMP that is in progress. The Executive Committee commended the Government of Ghana for its efforts in advancing preparation of the Kigali HFC implementation plan, and is, therefore, hopeful that during the next two years, the country will continue activities at both the policy and project levels to enable it to comply with the next control measures of the Montreal Protocol.

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

11. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Iran (phase XIV) and noted with appreciation that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran reported 2020 and 2021 data to the Ozone and Fund Secretariats indicating that the country achieved its HCFC reduction targets. The Committee also noted the country's continued efforts in enforcing control measures to sustain ODS phase-out, with an update of rules and regulations and

an efficient HCFC licensing and quota system. The Executive Committee commended the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for its efforts in continuing implementation of the HCFC phase-out management plan and in recommending acceleration of ongoing internal consultations for ratification of the Kigali Amendment, and is, therefore, hopeful that the country will continue activities at both the policy and project levels to enable it to comply with the next control measures of the Montreal Protocol as well as the ratification of the Kigali Amendment.

Kyrgyzstan

12. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Kyrgyzstan (phase XI) and noted with appreciation that the country has reported Article 7 data and country programme data to the Ozone and Fund Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country has completed its accelerated complete phase-out of HCFCs, well ahead of the Montreal Protocol control schedule. The Committee is therefore confident that, in the next two years, the Government of Kyrgyzstan will sustain the phase-out achieved and initiate the preparation and implementation of the Kigali HFC implementation plan with success.

Lao People's Democratic Republic (the)

13. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Lao People's Democratic Republic (phase XI) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Lao People's Democratic Republic has submitted 2020 and 2021 Article 7 data and country programme implementation data to the Ozone and Fund Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee acknowledged that the country put into place a HFC licensing system since 1 January 2021. The Committee further noted the change in national focal point to deliver the mandate of the national ozone unit and therefore urges UNEP to continue supporting the country during the transition period to ensure continued operation of the NOU and other Multilateral Fund-funded activities to enable the country to meet the targets of the Montreal Protocol.

Libya

14. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Libya (phase VII) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Libya had reported 2020 and 2021 country programme data and Article 7 data to the Fund Secretariat and Ozone Secretariat, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the plan of action to return to compliance with the Montreal Protocol as set out in decision XXVII/11. The Committee noted that the national ozone unit was fully staffed, despite the current political and security situation in the country, and that annual consumption quotas were established and monitored on a regular basis. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Libya to complete stage I of the HCFC phase-out management plan and the project for enabling activities for HFC phase-down. The Committee is, therefore, hopeful that the Government of Libya will continue implementation of stage II of the HPMP to maintain the consumption within the controlled limits set in the Agreement with the Executive Committee and remain in compliance with the Montreal Protocol and with its commitments in decision XXVII/11.

Mauritania

15. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Mauritania (phase VIII) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Mauritania reported 2021 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 Committee further noted that the Government of Mauritania took steps to phase out consumption of HCFCs, including the implementation of ODS import controls through a licensing and quota system and training of customs officers and refrigeration technicians. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Mauritania to reduce HCFC consumption and is therefore hopeful that, within the next two years, the Government will continue implementation of activities with success to enable the country to achieve and sustain the compliance with the Montreal Protocol.

Mexico

16. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Mexico (phase XVI) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Mexico 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 that within the framework of the IS project, the country achieved to strengthen the capacity of its national ozone unit towards HCFC control and preparation for the implementation of the Kigali Amendment; to be an active member of the regional ozone network for Latin America; to support countries of the region by dissemination of its achievements through the organization of workshops and technical visits. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Mexico to implement stages I and II of the HCFC phase-out management plan and is, therefore, hopeful that, the country will submit the final activities for the complete phase-out of HCFCs, both in the consumption and production sectors, and initiate activities for HFC phase-down.

Mozambique

17. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Mozambique (phase X) and noted that the Government of Mozambique reported Article 7 data and country programme data to the Ozone and Fund Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee further noted that the Government of Mozambique took steps to phase out its ODS consumption, including the implementation of ODS import controls through a licensing and quota system, and the training of customs officers and refrigeration technicians. The Committee is therefore hopeful that, in the next two years, the Government of Mozambique will continue activities at the policy and project levels to enable the country to meet its Montreal Protocol obligations.

Nigeria

18. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Nigeria (phase XII) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Nigeria reported 2020 and 2021 data to the Ozone and Fund Secretariats indicating that the country achieved its HCFC reduction targets. The Committee noted the country's commitments in maintaining the highest standards of technical assistance for local stakeholders and in continuing coordination and oversight for the implementation of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) which is in progress. The Committee also noted the country has developed a national cooling action plan. The Committee commended the Government of Nigeria for its efforts in advancing preparation of stage III of the HPMP and the Kigali HFC implementation plan, and is, therefore, hopeful that the country will continue the implementation of these activities with success to achieve and sustain compliance with the Montreal Protocol.

Peru

19. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Peru (phase VI) and noted with appreciation that the Government

of Peru reported Article 7 data 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 that the country has an operational ODS import/export licensing and HCFC quota system in place, worked to strengthen the capacities of customs authorities, gained stakeholders' support through the organization of coordination meetings, participated at regional and global workshops, and raised the public awareness on ozone layer protection. The Committee acknowledged with appreciation that Peru ratified the Kigali Amendment on 7 August 2019 and is therefore confident that the Government of Peru will continue implementing HCFC phase-out activities and IS project, and initiate preparation and implementation of the Kigali HFC implementation plan in an effective manner to meet the HCFC phase-out and HFC phase-down targets.

Seychelles

20. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for the Seychelles (phase X) and noted that the Government of Seychelles had reported 2020 and 2021 data under Article 7 and country programme implementation reports to the Ozone and Fund Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee acknowledged the actions taken by the country to ban imports of HCFCs and is hopeful that, over the next two years, the Seychelles will sustain the total HCFC phase-out in advance of the Montreal Protocol reduction schedule and initiate the HFC phase-down as stipulated in the Kigali Amendment.

Sierra Leone

21. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Sierra Leone (phase IX) and noted that the Government of Sierra Leone reported 2021 Article 7 data and country programme data to the Ozone and Fund Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee further noted that the Government of Sierra Leone has taken steps to phase out its HCFC consumption, including the implementation of import controls through a licensing and quota system, and the training of Customs officers and refrigeration technicians. The Committee is therefore hopeful that, in the next two years, the Government of Sierra Leone will continue activities at the policy and project levels to enable the country to meet its Montreal Protocol obligations.

Sri Lanka

22. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Sri Lanka (phase XIV) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Sri Lanka reported 2020 and 2021 data to the Ozone and Fund Secretariats indicating that the country achieved its HCFC reduction targets. The Committee noted the efforts of the Government of Sri Lanka in monitoring and controlling ODS phase-out through various policy and regulatory activities, along with awareness-raising activities. The Committee further noted that, despite the difficult situation faced by the country in 2021 and 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic situation, the Government of Sri Lanka ensured implementation in accordance with the plan to phase out ODS consumption, including completion of stage I of its HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP), initiation of stage II of the HPMP and preparation for the HFC phase-down. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Sri Lanka, and is, therefore, hopeful that, within the next two years, the Government of Sri Lanka will continue, with success, coordination with other national agencies and stakeholders in implementing policies and regulations to sustain ODS phase-out and facilitate HFC phase-down, and development and implementation of Montreal Protocol activities, including stage II of the HPMP, the Kigali HFC implementation plan and institutional strengthening project.

Türkiye

23. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Türkiye (phase X) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Türkiye reported 2020 and 2021 data under country programme implementation reports and under Article 7 to the Fund and Ozone Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee further noted that the country had taken steps to phase out HCFC consumption including implementation of 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 noted with appreciation the ratification of the Kigali Amendment by Türkiye on 10 November 2021 and is, therefore, confident that the Government of Türkiye, in addition to continuing its implementation of HCFC phase-out activities, will initiate activities for HFC phase-down including submission of stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan.

United Republic of Tanzania (the)

24. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for renewal of the institutional strengthening project for the United Republic of Tanzania and noted with appreciation that the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania reported Article 7 data and country programme data indicating that the country is on track to meet the Montreal Protocol control measures related to HCFCs. The Committee also noted the Government's commitment to continue long-term monitoring, reporting and verification of ODS that have been phased out. The Committee is therefore confident that the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania will continue implementing HCFC phase-out activities successfully in order to achieve the 67.5 per cent reduction in HCFC consumption by 1 January 2025.

Viet Nam

25. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Viet Nam (phase XIV) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Viet Nam reported Article 7 data and country programme implementation data to the Ozone and Fund Secretariats, respectively, indicating the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee acknowledged that the country enforced a well-structured licensing and quota system for HCFC import/export and established its licensing system for HFC import/export with plans to implement HFC quota system from 1 January 2024. The Committee is therefore confident that the Government of Viet Nam will continue activities both at the project and policy levels to enable the country to meet the Montreal Protocol targets.