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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
Ninety-eighth Meeting
Montreal, 22–26 June 2026
Item 8(c) of the provisional agenda[1]

PROJECT PROPOSAL: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

This document consists of the comments and recommendation of the Secretariat on the following project proposal:

Phase-out

• HCFC phase-out management plan (stage III, third tranche)	UNDP and UNEP	Blanket approval

[1] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/98/1

PROJECT EVALUATION SHEET – MULTI-YEAR PROJECTS

Dominican Republic

PROJECT TITLE	AGENCY	MEETING APPROVED	CONTROL MEASURE
HCFC phase-out plan (stage III)	UNDP (lead), UNEP	86th	100% phase-out by 2030

ARTICLE 7 DATA (Annex C, Group I)	Year: 2024	28.28 ODP tonnes

COUNTRY PROGRAMME SECTORAL DATA (ODP tonnes)							Year: 2025
Substance	Aerosol	Foam	Firefighting	Refrigeration		Solvent	Total sector consumption
				Manufacturing	Servicing		
HCFC-22					15.90		15.90
HCFC-123					0.03		0.03

CONSUMPTION DATA (ODP tonnes)			
2009–2010 baseline:	51.20	Starting point for sustained aggregate reductions:	70.71
CONSUMPTION ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING			
Already approved:	70.71	Remaining:	0.00

ENDORSED BUSINESS PLAN		2026	2027	2028	Total
UNDP	ODS phase-out (ODP tonnes)	6.32	0.00	0.00	6.32
	Funding (US $)	645,215	0	0	645,215
UNEP	ODS phase-out (ODP tonnes)	0.73	0.00	0.00	0.73
	Funding (US $)	78,507	0	0	78,507

PROJECT DATA			2020	2021-2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	Total
Consumption (ODP tonnes)	Montreal Protocol limits		33.28	33.28	33.28	33.28	16.64	16.64	16.64	16.64	16.64	0	n/a
	Maximum allowable		30.72	30.72	30.72	30.72	16.64	16.64	16.64	1.28	1.28	0	n/a
Amounts approved in principle (US $)	UNDP	Project costs	603,005	0	964,808	0	0	603,005	0	0	241,202	0	2,412,020
		Support costs	42,210	0	67,537	0	0	42,210	0	0	16,884	0	168,841
	UNEP	Project costs	69,475	0	111,160	0	0	69,475	0	0	27,790	0	277,900
		Support costs	9,032	0	14,451	0	0	9,032	0	0	3,613	0	36,127
Funds approved by ExCom (US $)		Project costs	672,480	0	1,075,968	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,748,448
		Support costs	51,242	0	81,987	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	133,229
Total funds recommended for approval at this meeting (US $)		Project costs						672,480					672,480
		Support costs						51,242					51,242

Secretariat's recommendation:	Blanket approval

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. On behalf of the Government of Dominican Republic, UNDP as the lead implementing agency has submitted a request for funding for the third tranche of stage III of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP), at a total cost of US $723,722, consisting of US $603,005, plus agency support costs of US $42,210, for UNDP and US $69,475, plus agency support costs of US $9,032, for UNEP.[2] The submission includes a progress report on the implementation of the second tranche and the tranche implementation plan for 2026 to 2029.

Report on HCFC consumption

2. The Government of Dominican Republic reported a consumption of 15.93 ODP tonnes of HCFCs in 2025 under the country programme (CP) implementation report, which is 69 per cent below the country's HCFC baseline for compliance. The Article 7 data for 2025 has not been reported yet. The 2021–2025 HCFC consumption is shown in table 1.

Table 1. HCFC consumption in the Dominican Republic (2021-2025 Article 7 data)

HCFC	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*	Baseline
Metric tonnes (mt)						
HCFC-22	219.12	511.39	442.44	513.39	289.12	916.53
HCFC-123	0.23	0.18	0.82	2.00	1.3	9.68
HCFC-141b	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.43
(Subtotal / Total) (mt)	**219.35**	**511.57**	**443.26**	**515.39**	**290.42**	**931.64**
HCFC-141b in imported pre-blended polyols*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	177.36**
ODP tonnes						
HCFC-22	12.06	28.13	24.33	28.24	15.90	50.41
HCFC-123	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.04	0.03	0.19
HCFC-141b	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.60
(Subtotal / Total) (ODP tonnes)	**12.06**	**28.13**	**24.35**	**28.28**	**15.93**	**51.20**
HCFC-141b in imported pre-blended polyols*	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.51**

* CP data.
** Average consumption between 2007 and 2009.

3. While there is an overall decreasing trend in HCFC consumption in the country since 2018, there was a steep decline in 2021, when demand for refrigerants fell due to the COVID-19 pandemic, followed by economic recovery in 2022, particularly in the tourism sector. During 2024, there was an increase compared to 2023 due to stockpiling by importers, considering the quota reduction scheduled for 2025. Control measures on imports of HCFC-22-based RAC equipment and HPMP servicing activities have contributed to the overall reduction in HCFC consumption. Bans on the import of HCFC-141b in bulk and in pre-blended polyols have been in place since 1 January 2017, after the foam enterprise conversions, further contributing to the reduced consumption. All HCFC-22 and HCFC-123 consumed were used for maintenance and servicing, including commercial refrigeration systems (e.g., cold rooms and supermarket display cases) and residential and commercial air-conditioning (AC) units.

Country programme implementation report

4. The HCFC consumption data provided by the Government of Dominican Republic in its CP implementation report for 2024 is consistent with the data reported under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol.

[2] As per the letter of 10 April 2026 from the Ministry of Environment of the Dominican Republic to UNDP.

Progress report on the implementation of the second tranche of stage III of the HCFC phase-out management plan

Legal framework

5. A resolution issued in January 2024 established regulations for the management and disposal of regulated substances and equipment (MA-VGA-RT-002-2024). In June 2024, a joint circular between the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and the General Directorate of Public Procurement was issued which established mandatory environmental criteria for the technical specifications and bidding documents used in the public sector's procurement of components, distribution systems, and AC equipment.

6. Seven workshops were held for 154 customs clearance officers (including 66 women). One training workshop was conducted for 65 brokers/importers (including 19 women) on compliance with environmental regulations and procedures for controlling imports of Montreal Protocol-controlled substances and equipment, as well as the Environmental Impact Assessment process. Monthly coordination meetings are held with the General Directorate of Customs (DGA) on training, improvements to the import/export licensing and quota system, and enforcement.

Refrigeration servicing sector

7. The following activities were implemented during the second tranche of stage III of the HPMP:

(a) *Certification system for technicians in the RAC sector:* Decree No. 360-15 established the certification of RAC technicians in the country, with two resolutions (No. 0006-2024 and No. 0027-2025, dated 24 April 2025) issued by the National Council for the Licensing of Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Technicians (CONALTRAA) to support the licensing system. The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources signed agreements with the Dominican Association of Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Technicians (ADOMTRA) to strengthen institutional capacity and another with the National Institute for Technical and Vocational Training (INFOTEP) to leverage training facilities for the national licensing system. During the second tranche, 381 technicians (including seven women) of the 500 planned, were certified and granted licenses (for a total of 1,052 certified technicians under stage III); of the nine planned sectoral workshops, 10 were held to strengthen the technician certification system; and 45 awareness workshops were conducted;

(b) *Safety standards/guidelines for flammable refrigerants:* In February 2025, safety standard NORDOM 925 was issued for the safe use of hydrocarbon (HC)-based refrigerators and air conditioners, and six awareness workshops were conducted for technicians, importers, and end users on the standards and guidelines. Of the 10 planned awareness workshops, six were conducted for technicians, importers, and end users on standards and guidelines;

(c) *Training for application of good refrigeration practices and safety in handling flammable refrigerants:* Of the 40 planned training sessions on safe handling procedures for HCs, 38 were conducted; of the 700 planned RAC technicians to be trained in good refrigeration practices and procedures for the use of HC refrigerants, 428 (including six women) were trained; of the 250 planned RAC toolkits,[3] 381 were delivered to incentivize the certification of RAC technicians; information technology equipment[4] was delivered to strengthen the awareness and orientation process for RAC technicians seeking certification and

[3] Includes vacuum pump, manifold gauge, leak detector, lab coat, and safety gloves.
[4] Included tablets, laptops, and printers

CONALTRAA licensing; training on the safe handling of HCs was integrated into INFOTEP's training curriculum for RAC technicians;

(d) *Strengthening of formal education facilities and technical institutes for training in good refrigeration practices:* With regard to the provision of training materials, 2,000 manuals on good refrigeration practices were printed for trainings; 26 toolkits with HC modules were delivered to technical institutes, vocational schools, and INFOTEP regional centres out of the 38 planned for the whole stage. A purchase order was issued for the acquisition of equipment to strengthen formal technical education institutes for RAC sector training;

(e) *Management of low/zero-GWP gases as refrigerants in industrial, commercial, and domestic sectors:* Of the 20 planned, 176 RAC instructors and teachers (including 17 women) were trained through three refresher workshops on good practices for handling flammable/toxic refrigerants; and a purchase order was issued for the acquisition of equipment using ozone- and climate-friendly alternatives;

(f) *Strengthening the refrigerant recovery and recycling (R&R) network:* All four of the planned R&R centres were established with the provision of tools and equipment, and recovery activities were carried out; INFOTEP was strengthened as an R&R centre with two 1,000-lb cylinders, reinforcing its role as a refrigerant reception point; equipment was procured and delivered, including 298 recovery machines and 300-lb storage cylinders, as well as 30 scales, 30 vacuum pumps, and 50 flaring tool sets to increase the national R&R capacity at six other R&R centres, thus fulfilling plans to strengthen seven R&R centres; and visits to the R&R centres were conducted to evaluate the operational and equipment and tool needs;

(g) *Technical assistance for end users:* Four workshops on HCFC alternatives and CO_2 technology were held for end users, including two for Grupo Ramos[5] and related enterprises; one during RefriAméricas 2025, for 87 participants from the general public; and one for public education teachers with 30 participants (including 9 women). As part of technical assistance to end users, a field trip to Chile was organized for six representatives from Grupo Ramos and INFOTEP to learn about the retail sector's use of transcritical CO_2 for commercial refrigeration systems; and

(h) *Awareness-building campaigns:* Of the 20 planned, 15 workshops for target groups were held, including a recognition ceremony for women in the RAC sector; awareness-raising continued on the HCFC phase-out through the distribution of outreach materials such as the manuals on good servicing practices and guidelines on the safe use of HCFCs; and the design of the campaign to promote control measures and HCFC phase-out is currently under development.

Project implementation and monitoring

8. The project management unit (PMU) oversees the completion of all project activities within the framework of the HPMP. Of the US $97,815 approved for project monitoring activities under the second tranche, US $97,716 was disbursed for local consultants (US $72,000), operational costs (US $9,500), stakeholder workshops (US $8,000), verification reports (US $7,500) and other expenses (US $716).

[5] Grupo Ramos is the leading retail company in the Dominican Republic, operating various store formats such as supermarkets, discount stores, and shopping centers.

Level of fund disbursement

9. As of April 2026, of the US $1,748,448 approved so far, US $949,809 had been disbursed (US $847,306 for UNDP and US $102,503 for UNEP), as shown in table 2. The balance of US $798,639 will be disbursed during the implementation of the third tranche.

Table 2. Financial report of stage III of the HPMP for the Dominican Republic (US $)

Agency	First tranche		Second tranche		Total		
	Approved	Disbursed	Approved	Disbursed	Approved	Disbursed	Balance
UNDP	603,005	603,005	964,808	244,301	1,567,813	847,306	720,507
UNEP	69,475	69,475	111,160	33,028	180,635	102,503	78,132
Total	**672,480**	**672,480**	**1,075,968**	**277,329**	**1,748,448**	**949,809**	**798,639**
Disbursement rate (%)	**100**		**25.8**		**54.3**		

Implementation plan for the third tranche of stage III of the HCFC phase-out management plan

10. The following activities will be implemented between July 2026 and December 2029:

(a) *Certification system for technicians in the RAC sector*: Continue the review and update of CONALTRAA's regulations to strengthen the assessment system for RAC technician certification and to support CONALTRAA in the implementation of the certification and licensing programme; carry out five sectoral workshops and national awareness campaigns to promote the RAC technician certification and mandatory licensing programme, including distribution of the CONALTRAA regulations; certify 250 technicians (plus remaining 119 from previous tranche) on good refrigeration servicing practices for HCs, CO_2 and ammonia; (UNEP) (US $51,975 plus US $67,770 from the previous tranche);

(b) *Safety standards/guidelines for flammable refrigerants*: Design, print and distribute 250 informational products on safety standards and guidelines; continue the production and distribution of 400 copies of the standard; hold the remaining four awareness workshops for technicians, importers, and end users on standards and guidelines (UNEP) (US $17,500 plus US $10,362 from the previous tranche);

(c) *Training for application of good refrigeration practices and safety in handling flammable refrigerants*: Conduct 18 training courses for a total of 450 RAC technicians (plus 19 workshops and 272 RAC technicians remaining from the previous tranche) on good refrigeration practices and procedures for the use of HCs, CO_2, ammonia, etc. and variable refrigerant flow systems; organize three study tours for trainers and technicians to strengthen technical capacities in alternative refrigerants (UNDP) (US $126,885 plus US $168,392 from the previous tranche);

(d) *Strengthening of formal education facilities and technical institutes for training in good refrigeration practices:* Strengthen four INFOTEP centres and four Ministry of Education supported centres; continue the distribution of manuals on good refrigeration practices for training in the RAC sector; continue distributing the acquired equipment among INFOTEP, professional training schools, and vocational schools (UNDP) (US $90,083 plus US $128,944 from previous tranche);

(e) *Management of low/zero-GWP gases as refrigerants in industrial, commercial, and domestic sectors*: Procure and install one CO_2 training module in a training centre; and continue distributing the acquired equipment for the management of low/zero-GWP

refrigerants in the industrial, commercial, and domestic RAC sector (UNDP) (US $120,000 plus US $146,834 from the previous tranche);

(f) *Strengthening the refrigerant R&R network:* Strengthen the R&R network with tools and equipment for 10 existing R&R centres;[6] one study tour; income generation to increase technician participation in the network; and monitoring (UNDP) (US $65,476 plus US $87,042 from the previous tranche);

(g) *Technical assistance for end users*: Identify participants in the technical assistance project and sign at least one new agreement to adopt low-GWP technologies for RAC systems and deliver two in-depth trainings on CO_2 for at least 20 engineers and technicians from end users; organize one field trip for eight key decision makers and engineers; continue training on HCFC alternatives for the adoption of non-ODS, low-GWP technologies targeting end users; continue development of a technical assistance project on the use of ammonia for commercial refrigeration in a commercial facility, including visits to end users to identify potential candidates for the technical assistance project (UNDP) (US $102,128 plus US $148,088 from the previous tranche);

(h) *Awareness-building campaigns*: One awareness campaign on climate-friendly alternatives to HCFCs; one awareness campaign to encourage women to enter the RAC field, including the creation and distribution of promotional materials; two workshops for the hospitality sector; and continued launch of the campaign to promote control measures and HCFC phase-out (UNDP) (US $37,298 plus US $41,107 from the previous tranche);

(i) *Project monitoring:* (UNDP) (US $61,135 and US $99 from the previous tranche) Monitoring of the individual projects of stage III of the HPMP, the preparation of work plans, progress reports, one verification report and three stakeholder meetings, covering local consultants (US $45,000), operational costs (US $2,234), stakeholder workshops (US $6,000), and verification reports (US $8,000).

SECRETARIAT'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION

COMMENTS

Report on HCFC consumption and verification

11. The third tranche of stage III of the HPMP requires the submission of a verification report of HCFC consumption for 2023–2025. As this tranche request is being submitted to the first meeting of the Executive Committee and noting that the 2025 consumption reported under CP data is 69 per cent below the baseline and 1.4 per cent below the country's maximum eligible consumption under its Agreement with the Executive Committee, the Secretariat is recommending approval of this funding tranche request in line with decision 72/19, on the understanding that:

(a) The Treasurer would be requested to transfer the approved funds to UNDP and UNEP only after receipt by the Secretariat of the verification report confirming that the country was in compliance;

(b) UNDP has committed to submit the verification report at the earliest by June 2026, and no later than 12 weeks prior to the 99th meeting;

[6] Including recovery cylinders, nitrogen cylinders, small recovery machines, refrigerant identifiers/analysers, etc.

(c) The recommendations included in the verification report would be addressed during the implementation of the third tranche and that the actions implemented towards that end would be included in the progress report of the third tranche of stage III of the HPMP to be submitted with the country's fourth tranche request; and

(d) In the unlikely event of non-compliance with the Agreement between the Government of the Dominican Republic and the Executive Committee, relevant actions would be taken by the Executive Committee.

Progress report on the implementation of the second tranche of stage III of the HCFC phase-out management plan

Legal framework

12. The Government of the Dominican Republic has issued HCFC import quotas for 2026 in accordance with the Montreal Protocol control targets.

Refrigeration servicing sector

13. The Secretariat inquired about why the initial goal of 250 toolkits was exceeded by 131 toolkits, and UNDP explained that while these kits, comprising vacuum pumps, hoses, manometers, and leak detectors, were simpler than initially envisioned, the adjustment allowed UNDP to significantly increase the number of technicians benefiting from the project.

Implementation plan for the third tranche of stage III of the HCFC phase-out management plan

14. The Secretariat inquired about the addition of a field trip and study tours to the activities, and UNDP explained that the study tour for the R&R network would likely take place in Colombia and Chile, and that its inclusion responds to a critical need identified through recent on-site monitoring and the results of the national inventory of ODS banks conducted in the country. It was identified that R&R centres needed first-hand experience of practices and business models. The objective is to strengthen the technical and operational capacities of the R&R network in the country through the exchange of international experiences. The aim is to assimilate successful models and incentive schemes that ensure the sustainability of the infrastructure and mastery of high-purity regeneration processes to manage not only current HCFCs but also future HFCs. As part of training in good practices and the safe handling of low/zero-GWP refrigerants, study tours are proposed to take place in Chile, Colombia, and Germany[7] for trainers and key technicians to learn about successful experiences in implementing and operating alternative systems, as well as excellence programmes for training technical instructors on HC and CO_2 refrigerants. The study tour under the technical assistance for end users is intended for key decision makers and engineers to eliminate barriers to ODP-free and low-GWP transition in the end-user sector and will be conducted in Chile or Colombia as those countries have significant experience in the adoption of CO_2 in the supermarket sector and to ensure the technical value of this study tour. Furthermore, the activity will generate a technical feasibility report and recommendations for end users, which will serve as an official guide to direct private sector investments toward sustainable alternatives.

15. The Secretariat also enquired about the targets of the technician certification scheme, and it was agreed to revise the third tranche certification target to 900 technicians instead of 250, the fourth tranche target to 600 technicians, and the total number of technicians for the stage from 4,000 to 2,500. Challenges in implementation, including a comprehensive reform of CONALTRAA's procedures to ensure greater clarity and consistency with the national regulations and international commitments, and findings from implementation indicating that the new practical assessment mechanism requires more time per technician,

[7] Under the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) initiative *Cool Training*.

as well as limitations in CONALTRAA's internal administrative processes, have significantly reduced the implementation speed of mandatory technician certifications.

Gender policy implementation

16. In line with decisions 84/92(d) and 90/48(c), the National Ozone Layer Protection Programme (PRONAOZ) has continued actions to support monitoring, reporting, and awareness-raising on gender-related issues in the RAC sector and to encourage the entry of women into the RAC workforce. During the second tranche, 43 per cent of participants in the customs training workshops were women, while 4 per cent and 2 per cent of the participants in RAC instructor training and RAC technician training, respectively, were women. The participation of 360 women and 2,286 men was recorded across all aspects of the implementation, representing a 13.6 per cent participation rate by women. During the third tranche, activities will continue, including collecting and reporting data to produce sex-disaggregated indicators and incorporating relevant aspects into the recruitment of new consultants and staff of the NOU.

Sustainability of the HCFC phase-out and assessment of risks

17. The sustainability of the HPMP activities is assured by permanently integrating good refrigeration practices and safety standards, especially for handling flammable refrigerants, into INFOTEP's official training curriculum. This guarantees the continuous education of RAC technicians and supports the national certification process overseen by CONALTRAA, which is further reinforced through targeted awareness-raising among key stakeholders and technician associations such as ADOMTRA and ATEPREASA.[8] At the regulatory and enforcement level, the Government of the Dominican Republic is ensuring sustainability by maintaining ongoing capacity building for customs officers from the DGA to enforce controls and combat illicit trafficking.

Conclusion

18. The 2025 consumption of 15.93 ODP tonnes is 1.4 per cent below both the Montreal Protocol consumption limits and the maximum allowable consumption (16.64 ODP tonnes) of the country under its Agreement with the Executive Committee. A number of activities have been completed during the second tranche of stage III, including a large number of technicians trained and equipment distributed; legislation has been put in place to modify and strengthen the technical framework for the reduction and monitoring of substances and equipment regulated by the Montreal Protocol. Two resolutions on the technician certification scheme were enacted to grant RAC technician licenses and publish safety requirements, and a joint circular was issued to encourage public procurement of ODP and low-GWP RAC equipment. Awareness activities were implemented for end users, technicians and the public. The disbursement rates of the first and second tranches are 100 per cent and 25.8 per cent, respectively. Activities planned for the third tranche will continue the training and provision of equipment to service technicians to support the technician certification system and will continue to focus on the implementation of the pilot project in two supermarkets. UNDP has committed to submit the verification report for 2023 to 2025 at the earliest by June 2026 and the Secretariat recommends, inter alia, that the Treasurer would be requested to transfer approved funds to UNDP and UNEP only after receipt by the Secretariat of the verification report confirming that the country was in compliance for that period.

RECOMMENDATION

19. The Fund Secretariat recommends that the Executive Committee note the progress report on the implementation of the second tranche of stage III of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) for the Dominican Republic, and further recommends blanket approval of the third tranche of stage III of the HPMP and the corresponding 2026–2029 tranche implementation plan for the Dominican Republic at the funding

[8] Association of Professional Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Technicians of Santiago and Affiliates.

levels shown in the table below, on the understanding that the approved funds will not be transferred to UNDP and UNEP until the Secretariat has reviewed the verification report for HCFC consumption for 2023 to 2025 and confirmed that the Dominican Republic was in compliance with the Montreal Protocol and the Agreement between the Government and the Executive Committee.

	Project title	Project funding (US $)	Support costs (US $)	Implementing agency
(a)	HCFC phase-out management plan (stage III, third tranche)	603,005	42,210	UNDP
(b)	HCFC phase-out management plan (stage III, third tranche)	69,475	9,032	UNEP