

Annex XVI

VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON RENEWAL OF INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING PROJECTS SUBMITTED TO THE 96TH MEETING

Angola

1. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Angola and noted with appreciation that Angola has reported 2023 country programme data to the Fund Secretariat and data under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol to the Ozone Secretariat, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee noted the Government of Angola's effort in maintaining efficient cooperation with national stakeholders and conducting awareness-raising activities, including during World Ozone Days. The Committee also noted the country's active participation in regional network and Montreal Protocol meetings. The Executive Committee is therefore hopeful that the upcoming phase will assist Angola in complying with the Montreal Protocol obligations while ensuring gender mainstreaming into implementation of the Montreal Protocol activities.

Bangladesh

2. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Bangladesh (phase XI) and noted with appreciation that Bangladesh reported Article 7 and country programme data for 2022 and 2023 to the Ozone and Fund Secretariats, respectively indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee also noted the country's continued effort in enforcement of control measures to sustain ODS phase-out including the update of rules and regulations and an efficient HCFC licensing and quota system. The Committee also noted Bangladesh's proactive approach in ratifying the Kigali Amendment and commended the country's early actions towards phasing down HFCs. The Committee noted Bangladesh's ongoing efforts in ODS phase-out, HFC phase-down, capacity building, and policy enforcement through the support of the IS project and encouraged Bangladesh to continue strengthening data reporting systems and enhancing industry readiness for alternative technologies.

Brazil

3. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Brazil (phase X) and noted with appreciation that Brazil reported Article 7 and country programme data for 2022 and 2023 to the Ozone and Fund Secretariats, respectively indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee further noted that Brazil has taken steps to phase out HCFC-141b consumption in the foam sector. The Committee acknowledged the efforts taken so far and is therefore hopeful that, within the next three years, the Government of Brazil will continue implementation of stages II and III of the HPMP and IS project activities with success in order to achieve the reduction targets for HCFC and HFC consumption.

El Salvador

4. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for El Salvador. The Committee noted El Salvador's continued commitment to implementing the Montreal Protocol, including its proactive efforts in public awareness, engagement with key stakeholders, and coordination with national authorities and customs. The Committee also noted significant achievements, including the establishment of the HFC licensing and quota system, the strengthening of customs capacities through specialized training, and the active promotion of good refrigeration practices through national workshops. The Committee also noted the integration of gender considerations, including the development of the Gender Inclusion Roadmap and dedicated dialogue

sessions with women in the refrigeration and air-conditioning sector. The Committee further noted that, although challenges related to data accuracy and customs coordination were encountered, which resulted in exceeding the consumption threshold committed to under the Montreal Protocol, El Salvador demonstrated strong commitment to corrective action. The Committee also acknowledged El Salvador's continued efforts to strengthen its participation in regional and international meetings and its openness to engage in South-South cooperation as relevant opportunities arise.

Ethiopia

5. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Ethiopia and noted with appreciation that Ethiopia has reported 2023 and 2024 country programme data to the Fund Secretariat and data under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol to the Ozone Secretariat, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee acknowledged that Ethiopia continued to implement its HCFC import and export licensing and quota systems; carried out training for refrigeration technicians and customs officers; developed and organized public awareness activities. The Executive Committee is, therefore, confident that the Government of Ethiopia will continue implementing activities to enable the country to comply with its obligations under the Montreal Protocol.

Mexico

6. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Mexico (phase XVII) and noted with appreciation that reported Article 7 and country programme data for 2023 and 2024 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 Mexico reported HFC data and froze its consumption at the baseline level. The Committee further noted that Mexico implemented a strict monitoring system for the consumption of controlled substances, organized regular meetings with authorities involved in the steering of the control system, and has coordinated the necessary activities with all stakeholders involved. The Committee noted that awareness-raising activities have also been organized, including the one marking World Ozone Day every year, and several events in centres for the training of refrigeration and air-conditioning technicians highlighting the importance of developing skills necessary for the adequate management of alternatives to HCFCs and HFCs. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Mexico and is therefore hopeful that, within the next three years, the Government of Mexico will continue the implementation of activities supported by the Multilateral Fund with success to maintain compliance with the control measures of the Montreal Protocol.

Namibia

7. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Namibia and noted with appreciation that the country has complied with its data reporting obligations and Montreal Protocol phase-out and phase-down requirements. The Committee noted the Government of Namibia's effort in maintaining efficient cooperation with national stakeholders and conducting awareness-raising activities, including during World Ozone Days. The Executive Committee also noted the country's active participation in regional network and Montreal Protocol meetings. The Executive Committee is therefore hopeful that the upcoming phase will assist Namibia in complying with the Montreal Protocol obligations while ensuring gender mainstreaming into implementation of the Montreal Protocol activities.

Papua New Guinea

8. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Papua New Guinea (phase V) and noted with appreciation that the

Government of Papua New Guinea reported 2022 and 2023 data to the Ozone and Fund Secretariats indicating that the country achieved its HCFC reduction targets. The Committee noted the efforts of the national ozone unit of Papua New Guinea to facilitate engagement with key stakeholder groups to increase national collaboration and awareness on the country's Montreal Protocol obligations and to strengthen collection and reporting of data on controlled substances. The Committee is, therefore, hopeful that in the next three years the Government of Papua New Guinea will continue to achieve and sustain compliance with the control measures of the Montreal Protocol.

Thailand

9. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Thailand and noted with appreciation the efforts made to prepare for, and ratify the Kigali Amendment in April 2024, as well as to institute regulatory measures to control imports and prohibit the establishment of new, or expansion of existing HFC-based manufacturing facilities. The Committee also noted Thailand's continued efforts to comply with advanced HCFC phase-out obligations under stage II of its HCFC phase-out management plan, and its commitment to effective implementation of IS-related activities including analyzing and monitoring import data on controlled substances, coordinating action on HCFC consumption reduction in remaining sectors of use, and raising public awareness on ozone and climate protection through the Montreal Protocol. The Committee is therefore confident that over the next three years, the Government of Thailand will be fully successful in achieving and maintaining the 67.5 per cent reduction in HCFC consumption as well as the HFC consumption freeze level.