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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
Ninety-ninth Meeting
Montreal, 7–11 December 2026
Item 9(c) of the provisional agenda[1]

PROJECT PROPOSAL: NIGER (THE)

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

Energy efficiency

• Additional activities to maintain energy efficiency for the servicing sector under decision 89/6(b)	UNIDO	Blanket approval

[1] UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/99/1

Pre-session documents of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol are without prejudice to any decision that the Executive Committee might take following issuance of the document.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Background

1. Stage II of the Niger's HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) was approved at the 90th meeting,[2] to completely phase out HCFC consumption by 2030, at a total cost of US $1,040,000, plus agency support costs. As per the Agreement between the Government of the Niger and the Executive Committee, the third tranche of the HPMP is scheduled to be submitted to the first meeting in 2027.

2. On behalf of the Government of the Niger, UNIDO, as the lead implementing agency, has submitted a request for funding additional activities to strengthen energy efficiency in the refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) servicing sector and to promote the use of energy-efficient, low-global-warming-potential (GWP) refrigerants in line with decisions 89/6(b) and 92/22,[3] in the amount of US $120,000, plus agency support costs of US $8,400.[4] The submission includes a description of specific activities, targets, and an implementation plan from December 2026 to December 2028.

Report on HCFC consumption

3. The Government of the Niger reported a consumption of 4.71 ODP tonnes of HCFCs in 2025, which is 70.5 per cent below the HCFC baseline for compliance. The 2021–2025 HCFC consumption is shown in table 1.

Table 1. HCFC consumption in 2021–2025 in the Niger (Article 7 data)

HCFC-22	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Baseline
Metric tonnes (mt)	164.7	135.8	101.9	91.2	85.7	290.5
ODP tonnes	9.06	7.47	5.60	5.01	4.71	15.98

4. The consumption of HCFCs in the Niger has been steadily decreasing, and in 2025 the reported HCFC consumption was below the reduction control target under the Montreal Protocol. As reported at the 98th meeting, this decrease is attributed to the implementation of the activities under the HPMP, such as the enforcement of a licensing and quota system, the training of customs officers and technicians, and the penetration of alternatives in the refrigeration servicing sector.

Country programme implementation report

5. The Government of the Niger reported HCFC sector consumption data under the 2025 country programme (CP) implementation report that is consistent with the data reported under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol.

Project description

Policy, regulatory and institutional framework

6. The Niger has not yet adopted binding national requirements on the energy performance of refrigerators and air conditioners. There are currently no mandatory energy labels, certification systems, testing facilities, or market surveillance mechanisms for appliance energy performance. However,

[2] Decision 90/42

[3] Decision 92/22 allows for the submission of requests for activities referred to in decision 89/6(b) separately from HCFC phase-out management plan tranche requests, including a revised Agreement between the Government of the Article 5 country concerned and the Executive Committee, on the understanding that those activities were integrated into the ongoing tranche implementation plans.

[4] As per the letter of 21 September 2026 from the Ministry of Environment, Water Resources and Sanitation of the Niger to UNIDO.

energy-efficient RAC technologies are already available and commercially viable in the country. Energy efficiency is particularly relevant in the context of the Niger, where cooling needs are high for much of the year, electricity supply remains constrained and heavily dependent on imports, and household appliance ownership is growing rapidly. The Nigerien Agency for Standardization, Metrology and Certification (ANMC), established in 2019, is mandated to develop and manage national standards and to coordinate certification and metrology.

7. The Niger is a member of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU). Under the WAEMU Directive No. 04/2020/CM/UEMOA member states are required to establish energy labelling requirements for household appliances, including refrigerators and air conditioners. The country is seeking to adopt the harmonized regional standards ECOSTAND 071-1:2017 for refrigeration appliances and ECOSTAND 071-2:2017 for air conditioners at the national level. These standards establish minimum energy performance standards (MEPS), testing methods, and energy-labelling requirements.

8. The project will be implemented in the country in coordination with national stakeholders, including the National Ozone Unit (NOU), the ANMC, the Energy Sector Regulatory Authority (ARSE), the Ministry in charge of Energy, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the customs authorities, the national electricity utility (NIGELEC) and the national association of refrigeration professionals (APFN).

Project objectives and proposed activities

9. The project aims to support the adoption and implementation of energy efficiency regulations for RAC equipment by assessing the adoption of the regional standards through national regulations, and developing an energy labelling scheme adapted to the national market. The project will also promote coordination among relevant national authorities to ensure that energy efficiency considerations and the use of low-GWP refrigerants are reflected in relevant national energy efficiency policies and regulatory frameworks. It will also support awareness-raising activities and the inclusion of energy efficiency components in technician training programmes.

10. The activities, proposed cost breakdown, and expected outputs are presented in table 2.

Table 2. Activities, expected outputs, and requested funding for the project proposed to maintain energy efficiency for the servicing sector in the Niger

Activity	Expected outputs/performance indicators	Cost as submitted (US $)
1. Assessment to prepare for the adoption and implementation of MEPS and energy labelling in the Niger		
1.1 Undertake a mapping exercise to document the legal and institutional framework governing energy efficiency and standardization in the Niger, including institutional mandates and the status of the adoption of regional directives on energy standards and labelling; 1.2 Conduct a gap assessment comparing the requirements of the regional standards with the characteristics of the RAC equipment currently imported, based on import data and consultations with importers and distributors; and 1.3 Establish a national steering committee to guide the adoption of the regional standards; conduct national consultations with relevant stakeholders, including regulatory agencies, equipment importers and distributors, consumer associations and civil society.	• A roadmap toward the formal adoption of MEPS and energy labelling in the Niger, informed by the current legal and institutional framework governing energy efficiency. • Identification of the policy, technical, institutional and infrastructure barriers to the adoption and enforcement of MEPS and energy labelling, and an assessment of needs for testing, verification and market surveillance capacities. • An ongoing steering committee that functions as a coordination mechanism among the different actors involved and serves as a reference body to provide technical advice. The roadmap and gap assessments validated through one workshop with 40 participants (25 per cent	11,000

Activity	Expected outputs/performance indicators	Cost as submitted (US $)
	women).	
2. Development of MEPS and an energy labelling scheme		
2.1 Provide capacity-building and hands-on technical guidance for the drafting of MEPS and relevant regulations; 2.2 Design an energy labelling scheme in line with the regional labelling requirements and with national market realities; 2.3 Review MEPS and labelling schemes based on a comparative analysis of regional and international experiences, and draft MEPS for the Niger; and 2.4 Conduct consumer testing and validation of the energy labels to ensure clarity and usability; and support the ANMC to establish conformity assessment arrangements and define the test methods in line with regional standards and relevant ISO standards.[5]	• Two capacity-building workshops with 20 participants each (25 per cent women). • Implementation of a labelling programme based on the findings of activity 1, starting with voluntary energy labelling creating consumer awareness before the mandatory application of MEPS. • Draft MEPS and energy labelling are finalized and proposed for adoption. • Consumer testing through focus groups involving 20 consumers; one workshop with 50 participants (25 per cent women) to validate the labelling scheme; definition of a testing methodology that accounts for the current absence of national testing capacity; testing arrangements with a regional laboratory, including an exchange mission for two ANMC staff members, to lay the groundwork for future national or shared regional testing capacity.	42,000
3. Integration of energy efficiency into national energy strategies		
3.1 Undertake a policy review led by the NOU to identify opportunities to integrate energy efficiency considerations and MEPS into national energy strategies; and 3.2 Train officials responsible for the effective implementation, monitoring and enforcement of the future MEPS and labelling requirements.	• Policy synergy and coherence across sectors. Review of MEPS and low-GWP refrigerants in energy and climate policies. • 80 officers (25 per cent women) trained to build the institutional capacity to implement, monitor and enforce the requirements.	15,000
4. Awareness-raising and communication		
4.1 Prepare communication materials (including brochures, posters, infographics and digital content, in French and, as appropriate, in the main national languages) explaining the MEPS, the energy labels and the benefits of energy-efficient appliances; 4.2 Raise awareness (including on radio, television, social media and through public events) on energy labels, highlighting cost savings and climate benefits of low-GWP, high-efficiency appliances; establish partnerships with distributors to display labels prominently and provide in-store information to customers; and 4.3 Hold a workshop for key stakeholders (government agencies, customs officers, industry associations, retailers and consumer groups) to present the draft MEPS and labelling requirements.	• Targeted communication materials disseminated among consumers, technicians, distributors, and policymakers. • A campaign to ensure consumer awareness and understanding of labels and the benefits of low-GWP, high-efficiency appliances. • One national workshop for 60 stakeholders (25 per cent women).	25,000

[5] International Organization for Standardization

Activity	Expected outputs/performance indicators	Cost as submitted (US $)
5. Update of technician training materials with energy efficiency components		
5.1 Review current training materials to identify gaps related to energy efficiency and energy labelling in the RAC curricula at vocational training institutes, the national code of practice and standard operating procedures, to include energy efficiency during, installation, maintenance and servicing of RAC equipment. 5.2 Hold train-the-trainer sessions using the updated materials for instructors of vocational training institutes and dissemination of the materials.	• Technician training curricula reviewed and updated to include energy efficiency and energy labelling contents. • 40 trainers and instructors trained (25 per cent women).	27,000
	Total	**120,000**

SECRETARIAT'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION

COMMENTS

11. The Secretariat reviewed the project proposal in line with decisions 89/6(b) and 92/22 and noted that the proposed activities fall within the scope referred to in subparagraphs (b)(ii), (iii), and (v) of decision 89/6. Through the activities to be undertaken, the project will support the Niger in the introduction and implementation of MEPS and energy labelling for RAC equipment to improve energy efficiency and reduce emissions. The proposed activities include updating technician training curricula to incorporate energy efficiency; strengthening coordination and collaboration between the NOU, energy authorities, and relevant national institutions on MEPS and energy labelling; and undertaking awareness-raising and outreach activities to promote energy-efficient RAC equipment using low-GWP refrigerants.

12. The Secretariat sought additional information from UNIDO on various activities, including relevant activities under the HPMP and KIP. The Secretariat enquired how the activities under this project would be implemented in alignment with those of the HPMP and KIP to ensure synergies and the effective use of resources. UNIDO indicated that the proposed activities would complement those under the HPMP and KIP, particularly through the integration of energy-efficiency components into existing technician training programmes, the development of MEPS and energy-labelling requirements, and related awareness-raising activities.

13. The Secretariat noted that the ECOSTANDS proposed for adoption at the national level had been adopted in the framework of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), from which the Niger withdrew in January 2025, and enquired about the rationale for their adoption, and experience in other countries in the region. UNIDO explained that ECOSTAND 071-1:2017 and 071-2:2017 provide technical references for MEPS, test methods and energy labels for refrigerators and air conditioners regardless of ECOWAS membership. They also support implementation of the energy-labelling requirements under WAEMU Directive No. 04/2020/CM/UEMOA.[6] UNIDO noted experience with these standards in other countries of the region and further indicated that the standards have been adopted or applied in neighbouring countries, and that their adoption will promote consistent technical requirements, facilitate access to regional testing capacity and support the introduction of energy-efficient appliances.

14. The Secretariat sought clarification on the institutional responsibilities for implementing MEPS and energy labelling, including the proposed coordination arrangements and the role of the steering committee. UNIDO clarified that the institutional roles were based on the existing legal mandates of the relevant

[6] The directive requires member States to establish energy labelling for new household appliances, including refrigerators and air conditioners.

institutions and will be confirmed and adjusted, as needed, following the initial mapping exercise. The existing National Ozone Committee will serve as the steering committee, with the NOU coordinating the project and the ANMC supporting standards adoption and conformity assessment arrangements. The ARSE, relevant ministries, customs authorities and other stakeholders will contribute to the assessment of regulatory, technical and enforcement needs. The committee will oversee the gap assessment, review of draft MEPS, the development of the energy-labelling scheme and conformity assessment arrangements, and follow up on their adoption and implementation. As an existing body, the committee will continue these functions beyond the project period, which ensures sustainability.

15. The Secretariat noted that an end-user demonstration project involving R-290-based air conditioners was approved under the second tranche of stage I of the KIP at the 97th meeting, and sought information on its implementation status, expected energy-efficiency gains and how the findings may inform the proposed activities. UNIDO explained that implementation of the demonstration project, which will also monitor the energy performance of R-290 air conditioners under the climatic conditions of the Niger, is about to start, after completion of necessary administrative arrangements. The electricity consumption of the demonstration units, once commenced, will be monitored against that of the equipment they replace, and the findings, as available during implementation, may inform the gap assessment, energy-labelling design, awareness-raising activities and technician training. UNIDO further clarified that the KIP activities focus on refrigerant-related standards and information on refrigerant type and GWP, while the proposed project focuses on appliance energy performance, energy labelling and related compliance arrangements, thereby ensuring complementarity and avoiding overlap between the two projects.

16. The Secretariat also enquired how the proposed training and awareness-raising activities under the project will complement those under the HPMP and KIP. UNIDO explained that the proposed project will build on the training curricula updated under stage II of the HPMP by incorporating energy-efficiency content, including equipment sizing, installation, maintenance, energy-performance measurement and the safe handling of alternative refrigerants. UNIDO further explained that the awareness-raising activities under the proposed project will focus mainly on consumers and retailers, particularly in relation to the energy labels, appliance efficiency and electricity costs, complementing the HPMP and KIP activities focused on refrigerant transition and servicing practices.

Gender policy implementation

17. UNIDO indicated that considerations for the inclusion of women would be integrated into project implementation. It proposed targets of 25 per cent participation by women in relevant consultations and capacity-building activities, as appropriate. The project will encourage women's participation, record disaggregated data on participation and report on results.

Updated Agreement

18. In view of the inclusion of funding for additional activities to maintain energy efficiency in the RAC servicing sector and the accordingly revised funding schedule, the Agreement between the Government of the Niger and the Executive Committee has been updated. Specifically, Appendix 2-A has been revised, and paragraph 17 has been added to indicate that the updated Agreement supersedes that reached at the 90th meeting by decision 90/42, as contained in annex I to the present document. The updated Agreement will be appended to the final report of the 99th meeting.

Conclusion

19. The Secretariat noted that the proposed project will support the Niger in the adoption and implementation of MEPS and energy labelling for RAC equipment, building on existing regional standards and institutional arrangements. The project will contribute to increasing awareness among consumers and other stakeholders of the benefits of energy-efficient equipment, strengthening national capacities for the

development, implementation and enforcement of MEPS and energy labelling, and enhancing the technical capacities of RAC trainers through the integration of energy-efficiency considerations into existing training programmes. The project will also promote women's participation in consultations, training and other project activities, while complementing ongoing activities under the HPMP and KIP. Through these activities, the project is expected to contribute to improved energy efficiency in the RAC sector and support the transition to low-GWP alternatives.

RECOMMENDATION

20. The Fund Secretariat recommends blanket approval of the project for additional activities for the introduction of alternatives to HCFCs with low-global-warming-potential for maintaining energy efficiency in the refrigeration and air-conditioning servicing sector in the Niger, and the corresponding 2026–2028 implementation plan, at the funding level shown in the table below, on the understanding that the Fund Secretariat has updated the Agreement between the Government of the Niger and the Executive Committee, as contained in annex I to the present document, specifically Appendix 2-A, to reflect the revised funding level owing to the inclusion of funding for additional activities to maintain energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector; and paragraph 17, which has been added to indicate that the updated Agreement supersedes that reached at the 90th meeting by decision 90/42.

Project title		Project funding (US $)	Support costs (US $)	Implementing agency
(a)	Additional activities for the introduction of low-GWP alternatives to HCFCs and for enhancing energy efficiency in the RAC servicing sector	120,000	8,400	UNIDO

Annex I

TEXT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE UPDATED AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NIGER AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE REDUCTION IN CONSUMPTION OF HYDROCHLOROFLUOROCARBONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STAGE II OF THE HCFC PHASE-OUT MANAGEMENT PLAN

(Relevant changes are in bold font for ease of reference)

17. This updated Agreement supersedes the Agreement reached between the Government of the Niger and the Executive Committee at the 90th meeting of the Executive Committee.

APPENDIX 2-A: THE TARGETS, AND FUNDING

Row	Particulars	2022	2023-2024	2025	2026	2027	2028-2029	2030	Total
1.1	Montreal Protocol reduction schedule of Annex C, Group I substances (ODP tonnes)	10.38	10.38	5.19	5.19	5.19	5.19	0	n/a
1.2	Maximum allowable total consumption of Annex C, Group I substances (ODP tonnes)	10.38	10.38	5.19	5.19	5.19	5.19	0	n/a
2.1	Lead IA (UNIDO) agreed funding (US $)	243,500	0	166,000	**120,000**	167,400	0	118,100	**815,000**
2.2	Support costs for Lead IA (US $)	17,045	0	11,620	**8,400**	11,718	0	8,267	**57,050**
2.3	Cooperating IA (UNEP) agreed funding (US $)	108,000	0	84,500	0	90,000	0	62,500	345,000
2.4	Support costs for Cooperating IA (US $)	14,040	0	10,985	0	11,700	0	8,125	44,850
3.1	Total agreed funding (US $)	351,500	0	250,500	**120,000**	257,400	0	180,600	**1,160,000**
3.2	Total support costs (US $)	31,085	0	22,605	**8,400**	23,418	0	16,392	**101,900**
3.3	Total agreed costs (US $)	382,585	0	273,105	**128,400**	280,818	0	196,992	**1,261,900**
4.1.1	Total phase-out of HCFC-22 agreed to be achieved under this Agreement (ODP tonnes)								10.38
4.1.2	Phase-out of HCFC-22 to be achieved in the previous stage (ODP tonnes)								5.60
4.1.3	Remaining eligible consumption for HCFC-22 (ODP tonnes)								0.00