

Annex XIX

VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON RENEWAL OF INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING PROJECTS SUBMITTED TO THE 94th MEETING

Bahrain

1. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Bahrain (phase XII) and noted with appreciation the submission of data for 2021 and 2022 to the Ozone Secretariat, demonstrating compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee also acknowledged Bahrain's significant progress in phasing out ODS consumption during the project period, notably through the enforcement of ODS import controls via a licensing and quota system and the provision of training to customs officers and refrigeration technicians. Furthermore, the Committee acknowledged Bahrain's efforts in reducing HCFC consumption and anticipates the country's continued successful implementation of its HCFC phase-out management plan and institutional strengthening project, aiming for a 67.5 per cent reduction in HCFC consumption by 1 January 2025.

Burundi

2. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Burundi (phase X) and noted with appreciation the submission of data for 2021 and 2022 to the Ozone Secretariat, demonstrating compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee also acknowledged Burundi's significant progress in phasing out ODS consumption during the project period, notably through enforcing ODS import controls via a licensing and quota system and training customs officers and refrigeration technicians. Furthermore, the Committee acknowledged Burundi's efforts in reducing HCFC and HFC consumption and anticipates the country's continued successful implementation of its HCFC phase-out management plan and institutional strengthening project, aiming for a 67.5 per cent reduction in HCFC consumption by 1 January 2025.

Cameroon

3. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Cameroon (phase XIV) and noted with appreciation the submission of data for 2021 and 2022 to the Ozone Secretariat, demonstrating compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee also acknowledged Cameroon's significant progress in phasing out ODS consumption during the project period, notably through the enforcement of ODS import controls via a licensing and quota system and the provision of training to customs officers and refrigeration technicians. Furthermore, the Committee acknowledged Cameroon's efforts in reducing HCFC and HFC consumption and anticipates the country's continued successful implementation of its HCFC phase-out management plan, Kigali HFC implementation plan and institutional strengthening project, aiming for a 67.5 per cent reduction in HCFC consumption by 1 January 2025.

Chad

4. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Chad (phase XI) and noted with appreciation the submission of 2021 and 2022 HCFC and HFC data to the Ozone Secretariat, demonstrating compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee also acknowledged Chad's progress in phasing out ODS and HFC consumption during the project period. Specifically, Chad enforced ODS and HFC import controls through a licensing and quota system and provided training to customs officers and refrigeration technicians. The Committee noted Chad's efforts in reducing HCFC and HFC consumption and looks forward to the country's continued successful implementation of its HCFC phase-out management plan and institutional strengthening project,

aiming for a 67.5 per cent reduction in HCFC consumption by 1 January 2025, as mandated by the Montreal Protocol.

Comoros (the)

5. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Comoros (phase XIII) and noted with appreciation the submission of data for 2021 and 2022 to the Ozone Secretariat, demonstrating a commitment to compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Executive Committee acknowledged Comoros's efforts to phase out the consumption of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) during the project period, particularly the rigorous enforcement measures implemented to control ODS imports through the licensing and quota system, alongside the comprehensive training provided to customs officers and refrigeration technicians. Furthermore, Comoros's initiatives aimed at reducing HCFC and HFC consumption were noted by the Committee. The Committee is hopeful that, the Government of Comoros will continue the implementation of the institutional strengthening project with success to sustain HCFC phase-out achievements and comply with the HFC phase-down as stipulated in the Kigali Amendment.

Congo (the)

6. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Congo (phase XII) and noted with appreciation the submission of data for 2021 and 2022 to the Ozone Secretariat, demonstrating compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee also acknowledged Congo's progress in phasing out ODS consumption during the project period, notably through enforcing ODS import controls via a licensing and quota system and training customs officers and refrigeration technicians. Furthermore, the Committee noted Congo's efforts in reducing HCFC and HFC consumption and anticipates the country's continued successful implementation of its HCFC phase-out management plan and institutional strengthening project, aiming for a 67.5 per cent reduction in HCFC consumption by 1 January 2025.

Cuba

7. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Cuba (phase XIII) and noted with appreciation the fact that the Government of Cuba is complying with its reduction targets, reported 2023 Article 7 and country programme data to the Ozone and Fund Secretariats, respectively. The Committee further noted that the Government of Cuba has taken steps to phase out ODS and phase down HFC consumption; in particular, implementation of HCFC and HFC import controls through the licensing and quota system, and training of customs officers and refrigeration technicians. The Committee also noted with appreciation the activities initiated for the implementation of the Kigali Amendment. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Cuba and is therefore hopeful that, within the next three years, the Government of Cuba will continue implementation of the HCFC phase-out management plan, Kigali HFC implementation plan and institutional strengthening project activities with success to achieve the 67.5 per cent reduction in HCFC consumption required on 1 January 2025 and the controls related to the Kigali Amendment starting 2024.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

8. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (phase XI) and noted with appreciation the submission of data for 2021 and 2022 to the Ozone Secretariat, demonstrating compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee also acknowledged Democratic Republic of the Congo's progress in phasing out ODS consumption during the project period. Specifically, Democratic Republic of the Congo has enforced ODS import controls through a licensing and quota system and provided training

to customs officers and refrigeration technicians. The Committee noted Democratic Republic of the Congo's efforts in reducing HCFC consumption and looks forward to the country's continued successful implementation of its HCFC phase-out management plan and institutional strengthening project, aiming for a 67.5 per cent reduction in HCFC consumption by 1 January 2025, as mandated by the Montreal Protocol.

Guatemala

9. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Guatemala (phase X) and noted with appreciation that the country has complied with its data reporting and HCFC phase-out obligations under the Montreal Protocol and is pleased by the ratification of the Kigali Amendment in January 2024. The Committee noted that the national ozone unit coordinated activities under stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan and organized and conducted several training sessions for customs officers. The Committee also noted the country's continued participation of stakeholders in the implementation of the Montreal Protocol at the national level, awareness-raising activities and the Ozone Day celebrations, as well as active participation in regional network/events.

Guinea-Bissau

10. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Guinea Bissau (phase VIII) and noted with appreciation the submission of data for 2021 and 2022 to the Ozone and the Multilateral Fund Secretariats, demonstrating compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee also acknowledged Guinea-Bissau's progress in phasing out ODS consumption during the project period, notably through the enforcement of ODS import controls via a licensing and quota system and the provision of training to customs officers and refrigeration technicians. The Committee acknowledged Guinea-Bissau for its efforts to reduce HCFC and HFC consumption and anticipate the country's continued success in implementing its strategies, including its plans to achieve a 67.5 per cent reduction in HCFC consumption by 1 January 2025.

Indonesia

11. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of institutional strengthening project for Indonesia (phase XIV) and noted with appreciation that Indonesia reported 2023 country programme implementation data and Article 7 data to the Fund and Ozone Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country achieved its HCFC reduction target for the year. The Committee also acknowledged Indonesia's commitment to maintain the effective implementation of institutional strengthening related activities including designing and putting in place the HFC licensing system and its supporting instruments, monitoring and evaluating the ODS import data, coordinating actions on HCFC consumption reduction, and raising awareness of the public and the specific sectors to support implementation of Multilateral Fund projects. The Committee also commended Indonesia for its ratification of the Kigali Amendment on 14 December 2022, and the relevant actions taken to prepare for its implementation.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

12. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Lao People's Democratic Republic (phase XII) and noted with appreciation that the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic used the institutional strengthening project to resume operation and to expedite project implementation to catch up with project implementation delayed during a transition period. The Committee noted that the 2022 country programme data and Article 7 data indicates that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol and has sustained compliance with the maximum allowable consumption as agreed with the Executive Committee. The Committee also noted that the government continued the implementation of mandatory labelling

requirement for HCFC-22 and is working on strengthening enforcement measures on HCFC and HFC trade control. The Committee is hopeful that, the Government of Lao People's Democratic Republic will continue the implementation of the institutional strengthening project with success and sustain HCFC phase out achievements and meet the first HFC phase-down obligation under the Kigali Amendment.

Libya

13. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Libya (phase VIII) and noted with appreciation that Libya has reported 2022 country programme data and Article 7 data to the Fund and Ozone Secretariats, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol phase-out schedule and with the plan of action to return to compliance set out in decision XXVII/11. The Committee also 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 Libya to complete stage I of the HCFC phase-out management plan and implement the first tranche of stage II. The Committee is therefore hopeful that the Government of Libya will maintain the consumption within the control limits, remain in compliance with the Montreal Protocol phase-out targets and with its commitments in decision XXVII/11.

Maldives

14. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Maldives (phase XIII) and noted with appreciation that the Government of the Maldives had reported the country programme 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 is hopeful that the Government of the Maldives will continue implementing the institutional strengthening project with success and sustain HCFC phase-out achievements and initiate the HFC phase-down as stipulated in the Kigali Amendment.

Morocco

15. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Morocco (phase V) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Morocco had reported country programme 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 noted that the country is implementing the HCFC phase-out management plan, conducting information outreach and awareness-raising activities and participating in regional network meetings. The Executive Committee is hopeful that, the Government of Morocco will continue the implementation of the institutional strengthening project with success to sustain the momentum of HCFC phase-out and meet the future control measures of the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment.

Niger (the)

16. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Niger (phase XIV) and noted with appreciation the submission of data for 2021 and 2022 to the Ozone Secretariat, demonstrating a commitment to compliance with the Montreal Protocol. Achievements were also noted in Niger's efforts to phase out the consumption of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) during the project period. Noted were the enforcement measures implemented to control ODS imports through a licensing and quota system, alongside the comprehensive training provided to customs officers and refrigeration technicians. Furthermore, Niger's initiatives aimed at reducing HCFC and HFC consumption were acknowledged by the Committee. Looking ahead, the Committee anticipates that Niger will keep implementing the HCFC phase-out management plan and Kigali

HFC implementation plan in the next phase, with the ambitious goal of achieving a 67.5 per cent reduction in HCFC consumption by 1 January 2025.

Panama

17. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Panama (phase XI) and noted with appreciation the fact that the Government of Panama reported 2023 Article 7 and country programme data to the Ozone and Fund Secretariats indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee further noted that the Government of Panama has taken steps to phase out ODS consumption; in particular, implementation of HCFC and HFC import controls through the licensing and quota system, and training of customs officers and refrigeration technicians. The Committee also noted with appreciation the activities initiated to facilitate the implementation of the Kigali Amendment, such as the approval of the first stage of the Kigali HFC implementation plan. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Panama is therefore hopeful that, within the next three years, the Government of Panama will continue implementation of the HCFC phase-out management plan, Kigali HFC implementation plan and institutional strengthening project activities with success in order to achieve the 67.5 per cent reduction in HCFC consumption required since 1 January 2025, sustain the freeze of HFC consumption and the upcoming control targets in 2025.

Qatar

18. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the institutional strengthening project renewal request (phase VII) for Qatar and noted with appreciation that Qatar reported 2022 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 anticipated that the on-going coordination with stakeholders, government & private sectors will be enhanced to ensure their full engagement in implementing the ongoing Montreal Protocol funded projects including the implementation of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) to achieve the 2025 reduction target. The Committee therefore is hopeful that, within the next three years, Qatar will continue with the implementation of its HPMP and institutional strengthening project activities with success to prepare the country for further reduction in the HCFC consumption under Montreal Protocol and initiate the required activities under the Kigali Amendment.

Sao Tome and Principe

19. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the institutional strengthening project renewal request for Sao Tome et Principe (phase VIII) and noted with appreciation the submission of data for 2021 and 2022 to the Ozone Secretariat, demonstrating a commitment to compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee also noted efforts to phase out the consumption of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) during the project period and the rigorous enforcement measures implemented to control ODS imports through a licensing and quota system, alongside the comprehensive training provided to customs officers and refrigeration technicians. Furthermore, Sao Tome and Principe's initiatives aimed at reducing HCFC and HFC consumption were acknowledged by the Committee. Looking ahead, the Committee anticipates Sao Tome and Principe will submit and implement the HCFC phase-out management plan and Kigali HFC implementation plan in the next phase, with the goal of achieving a 67.5 per cent reduction in HCFC consumption by 1 January 2025.

Saudi Arabia

20. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the institutional strengthening project renewal request for Saudi Arabia (phase IV) and noted with appreciation that Saudi Arabia reported 2022 and 2023 Article 7 and country programme data to the Ozone and Multilateral Fund Secretariats,

respectively indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol requirements. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of Saudi Arabia to reduce the consumption of HCFCs and is therefore hopeful that, within the next three years, Saudi Arabia will continue with the implementation of its HCFC phase-out management plan and institutional strengthening project activities with success to prepare the country for further reduction in the HCFC consumption under Montreal Protocol and complete the process for Kigali Amendment ratification.

Senegal

21. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the institutional strengthening project renewal request for Senegal (phase XV) and noted with appreciation the submission of data for 2021 and 2022 to the Ozone Secretariat, demonstrating a commitment to compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee noted Senegal's efforts to phase out ozone-depleting substances (ODS) consumption during the project period. The enforcement measures implemented to control ODS imports through a licensing and quota system, alongside the comprehensive training provided to customs officers and refrigeration technicians were particularly noted. Furthermore, the Committee acknowledged Senegal's proactive initiatives aimed at reducing HCFC and HFC consumption. Looking ahead, the Committee anticipates Senegal's continued success in implementing its HCFC phase-out management plan and institutional strengthening project, with the goal of achieving a 67.5 per cent reduction in HCFC consumption by 1 January 2025.

South Africa

22. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the institutional strengthening project request for South Africa (phase I) and noted with appreciation that the country has an operational national ozone unit (NOU) and had been complying with the obligations to the Montreal Protocol including enforcement of a licensing and quota system for HCFCs and timely submission of Article 7 and country programme data. The Committee also noted with appreciation that South Africa achieved a full phase-out of CFCs without financial support from the Multilateral Fund and legislated the ban of import of CFCs in 2014. The Committee recognized the efforts made by the Government of South Africa to meet the Montreal Protocol obligations and implement projects while not having an institutional strengthening project in place and trusts that with approval of the project, the Government will coordinate with and build the capacity of national stakeholders, raise the awareness of different sector-specific stakeholders, as well as the general public and implement stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan, and freeze HFC consumption at the baseline level and develop the overarching strategy and implementation plan for stage I of its Kigali HFC implementation plan to achieve 10 per cent reduction in HFCs consumption from the baseline by 2029.

South Sudan

23. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the institutional strengthening project renewal request for South Sudan (phase II) and noted with appreciation that South Sudan reported Article 7 data indicating that the country is in compliance with Montreal Protocol in 2023. The Committee acknowledged that South Sudan has a licensing and quota system in place, and that the country had carried out training of customs officers, refrigeration technicians, awareness-raising activities and preparation of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP). The Committee acknowledged the efforts of South Sudan to reduce the consumption of HCFCs and hopes that, within the next three years, South Sudan will start the implementation of stage II of the HPMP and continue to implement institutional strengthening project activities with success in order to prepare the country to achieve the 67.5 per cent reduction in HCFC consumption required by 1 January 2025.

Trinidad and Tobago

24. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the institutional strengthening project renewal request for Trinidad and Tobago (phase XII) and noted with appreciation the fact that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago reported 2023 Article 7 and country programme data to the Ozone and Fund Secretariats indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee noted the efforts taken by Trinidad and Tobago to phase out ODS consumption through licensing and quota systems as well as training of customs officers and refrigeration technicians and introduction of alternatives. The Committee noted with appreciation the activities initiated to facilitate the implementation of the Kigali Amendment and is hopeful that, within the next three years, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago will continue implementation of the HCFC phase-out management plan, Kigali HFC implementation plan, and institutional strengthening project activities with success in order to achieve the upcoming Montreal Protocol control targets in 2024 and 2025.

Vanuatu

25. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Vanuatu (phase IX) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Vanuatu, despite the setback in 2023, reported the country programme data and Article 7 data to the Fund and Ozone Secretariats on time, respectively, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee noted that the government continues to effectively implement the licensing system for HCFC and HFC through the National Single Window system and sustained compliance with the Montreal Protocol HCFC phase-out obligations and maximum allowable consumption as agreed with the Executive Committee and with the Kigali Amendment obligations. The Committee is hopeful that, the Government of Vanuatu will continue the implementation of the institutional strengthening project with success to sustain HCFC phase-out achievements and comply with the HFC phase-down as stipulated in the Kigali Amendment.