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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
Twenty-third Meeting
Montreal, 12-14 November 1997

REPORT ON DATABASE OF MAJOR CAPITAL EQUIPMENT COSTS

1. In Decision 20/7, the Executive Committee decided:

- (i) To request the Fund Secretariat to prepare and maintain, for dissemination to the implementing agencies, a database of estimated costs of major equipment items obtained from approved investment projects and other sources by the Fund Secretariat;
- (ii) That the database should include information on completed and ongoing projects where the equipment procurement process had been concluded, when such information became available;
- (iii) To request the implementing agencies, when the database had been completed, to take steps to ensure that consultants preparing projects were familiar with its contents: this should be facilitated through a conference or seminar, the modalities and timing of which would be finalized by the Fund Secretariat and the implementing agencies in the course of their regular coordination meetings.

2. The Fund Secretariat designed the framework of an electronic database prior to the twenty second Meeting of the Executive Committee and provided electronic copies to each of the agencies. Accurate specification of the equipment to be listed in the database is essential if meaningful information on costs is to be obtained from it. To this end, at a meeting in New York in June 1997 the Secretariat and the implementing agencies agreed on development of detailed specifications for the following six major pieces of equipment used in the foam and refrigeration sectors: high pressure foaming machine; pre-mix station; hydrocarbon storage tank; gas detection system; refrigerant charging equipment, and; leak detector.

3. A set of technical specifications that fully define the equipment and its cost were subsequently developed by the agencies themselves in consultation with the Secretariat. Agencies undertook to enter information into the pilot database for the small group of items, based on the technical specifications they had developed, and using the information they had accumulated on the actual costs of equipment procured in projects they had implemented.

4. A representative example of the database was prepared by the Secretariat and presented to the 11th Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Project Review in September 1997 using figures from some early work undertaken by the World Bank..

5. Agencies' work on this task continues to progress more slowly than anticipated. The only additional input received to date was transmitted by UNDP on 20 February 1998. The principal issue is the complexity of the task faced by the implementing agencies in extracting the necessary data on equipment specifications from the relevant project documentation associated with implemented projects. Agencies are considering whether any simplification of the technical specifications is possible without compromising the usefulness of the database.

6. Any other data received from the implementing agencies subsequent to preparation of this paper will be incorporated into the database and the results advised to the Sub-Committee on Project Review.

7. The Executive Committee might wish to reiterate the need for the database of major capital equipment costs to be established, and request the implementing agencies to accord the appropriate priority to preparing the necessary data.