



**United Nations  
Environment  
Programme**

Distr.  
GENERAL

UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/98/19  
22 May 2026

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH



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<sup>1</sup>

**PROJECT PROPOSAL: ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

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) | UNEP | Blanket approval |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------------------|

<sup>1</sup> UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/98/1

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### Background

1. Stage II of Antigua and Barbuda's HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) was approved at the 96<sup>th</sup> meeting,<sup>2</sup> to completely phase out HCFC consumption by 2030, at a total cost of US \$281,875, plus agency support costs. As per the Agreement between the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and the Executive Committee, the second tranche of the HPMP is scheduled to be submitted to the second meeting in 2027.

2. On behalf of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, UNEP, 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,<sup>3</sup> in the amount of US \$100,000, plus agency support costs of US \$13,000.<sup>4</sup> The submission includes a description of specific activities, targets, and an implementation plan from July 2026 to June 2028.

### Report on HCFC consumption

3. The Government of Antigua and Barbuda reported a consumption of 0.00 ODP tonnes of HCFCs in 2025, which is 100 per cent below the HCFC baseline for compliance. The 2021–2025 HCFC consumption is shown in table 1.

**Table 1. HCFC consumption in Antigua and Barbuda (2021–2025 Article 7 data)**

| HCFC-22                   | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | Baseline |
|---------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|----------|
| <b>Metric tonnes (mt)</b> | 1.08 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 5.51     |
| <b>ODP tonnes</b>         | 0.06 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.30     |

4. The current trend of no consumption since 2022, as reported at the 96<sup>th</sup> meeting and which continued in 2025, is due to a rapid decline in demand, the use of residual stocks, the use of R-417A as a direct drop-in replacement when servicing equipment charged with HCFC-22, and the transition of importers to HFC-based equipment since 2015 and more recently to HC-based equipment.

### *Country programme implementation report*

5. The Government of Antigua and Barbuda 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. Antigua and Barbuda is a member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality (CROSQ), the regional entity promoting efficiency and competitive

<sup>2</sup> Decision 96/32

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> As per the letter of 13 April 2026 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Barbuda Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda to the Secretariat.

production and trade in goods and services through harmonization of regional standards and quality verification. The 2019 CARICOM Regional Energy Efficiency Building Code (CCREEBC) covers both commercial and residential construction and establishes minimum energy efficiency requirements for buildings, including the building envelope and RAC systems. The CCREEBC has not yet been incorporated into national legislation. Antigua and Barbuda was one of the beneficiaries of the CROSQ Energy for Sustainable Development (ESD) project, funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

7. Minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) and labelling requirements for air conditioners and refrigerators were approved in 2019 by CARICOM member states. Antigua and Barbuda adopted two national standards aligned with the CARICOM regional framework: ABNS-CRS 57:2018 and ABNS-CRS 59:2019 on energy labelling requirements and MEPS for refrigeration equipment and non-ducted air conditioners, respectively. Both standards are issued by the Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards (ABBS). These standards remain voluntary and are not enforced through regulation; appliances are not currently required to carry energy labels prior to sale on the market. The Ministry of Energy is responsible for developing and overseeing energy efficiency policies and participates in the ABBS technical committees responsible for developing national standards. The ABBS serves as the designated counterpart for energy efficiency coordination in the RAC sector. The country has not yet ratified the Kigali Amendment; however, funding was approved at the 95<sup>th</sup> meeting for enabling activities for HFC phase-down.<sup>5</sup>

#### Project objectives and proposed activities

8. The project will enhance institutional coordination to facilitate the adoption, implementation and enforcement of mandatory energy efficiency and energy labelling standards as well as the incorporation of global warming potential (GWP) into labelling requirements and will integrate energy efficiency competencies into the national training curricula for RAC technicians.

9. The description and proposed cost breakdown of activities to maintain energy efficiency in the servicing sector, and their 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 Antigua and Barbuda**

| Activity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Expected outputs/performance indicators                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Cost as submitted (US \$) |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>1. Institutional coordination to facilitate the adoption, implementation and enforcement of mandatory energy efficiency and energy labelling standards incorporating GWP information</b>                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                           |
| 1.1 Establish and maintain a national coordination mechanism for the RAC sector, and organize workshops targeting the Ministry of Energy and other relevant Government departments, ABBS, customs enforcement officers, importers and wholesalers to facilitate the adoption and implementation of mandatory MEPS and energy labels (US \$15,000); | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A structured national coordination mechanism among policymakers and stakeholders involved in energy efficiency in the country.</li> <li>• Two workshops for wide consultation among relevant authorities, importers and wholesalers on the adoption and implementation of mandatory MEPS and energy labels.</li> <li>• An assessment of stakeholders and a consultation process completed.</li> <li>• A clearly defined national validation and approval process for mandatory and enforceable MEPS and labels.</li> <li>• Draft regulatory amendments required for mandatory MEPS and energy labelling incorporating GWP information.</li> </ul> | 55,000                    |
| 1.2 Undertake a policy and regulatory assessment for the establishment of mandatory and enforceable MEPS and energy labels with reference to the ABNS-CRS voluntary standards (US \$10,000);                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                           |
| 1.3 Develop an energy efficiency and low-GWP baseline and demand assessment for RAC systems in the country (US \$15,000); and                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                           |

<sup>5</sup> Annex XVII of document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/95/94

| Activity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Expected outputs/performance indicators                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Cost as submitted (US \$) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1.4 Design and pilot a market surveillance mechanism, develop standard operating procedures, including label verification at the point of import and spot checks at the retail level, develop guidance materials and checklists for enforcement officers (US \$15,000).                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An energy-efficiency baseline of the RAC sector in the country and a demand assessment to estimate energy savings potential and emissions avoided with the introduction of high-efficiency and low-GWP RAC equipment; and</li><li>• A market surveillance mechanism designed and piloted, including procedures for verifying labelled appliance performance at the point of import.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                           |
| <b>2. Integrate energy efficiency competencies into the national training curricula for RAC technicians</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                           |
| 2.1 Conduct a needs assessment to identify gaps in the existing RAC curricula related to energy efficiency and low-GWP refrigerant safety and skill gaps among national technicians; review the Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) competency standards for RAC technicians; and identify required competencies to develop an energy efficiency and low-GWP training module for delivery in training workshops, covering energy efficient and low-GWP systems (US \$10,000); | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An assessment of the baseline skills of national technicians on energy efficiency and low-GWP refrigerant safety.</li><li>• Energy efficiency training modules covering sizing, installation, commissioning, correct refrigerant charging procedures and maintenance in alignment with the Caribbean CVQ standards.</li><li>• National coordination meetings to update the training curricula.</li><li>• A training workshop for a minimum of 15 trainers (targeting 5 per cent participation by women) conducted with training institutions; and</li><li>• Two training sessions for a minimum of 50 technicians (targeting 10 per cent participation by women) on energy efficiency installation and servicing practices.</li><li>• National training centres supported in the organization of examinations to assess technicians.</li></ul> | 45,000                    |
| 2.2 Coordination meetings among the national ozone unit (NOU), energy efficiency authority, National Training Agency (NTA), Ministry of Education and training institutions to integrate energy efficiency and low-GWP competencies into the national training curricula (US \$15,000); and                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                           |
| 2.3 Training of trainers workshops to ensure instructors are equipped to deliver the updated curricula effectively, training sessions for RAC technicians focusing on the energy efficiency and low-GWP modules developed and support the national training centres to carry out examinations to assess the post-training level of technicians (US \$20,000).                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                           |
| Total                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 100,000                   |

## SECRETARIAT'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION

### COMMENTS

10. The Secretariat reviewed the project proposal in line with decisions 89/6(b) and 92/22 and sought additional information from UNEP on different activities, including relevant activities under the HPMP. As part of the HPMP, the project will be managed by the same implementation team at the national and UNEP levels, to maximize coordination, and build on the team's knowledge and experience.

11. The Secretariat enquired how the activities under the project would be implemented in alignment with those of the HPMP, to ensure synergies, an effective use of resources, and avoid duplication. UNEP

indicated that the activities of the HPMP would be leveraged in the development of an action plan with the ABBS and its technical committees, and with the support of the coordination mechanism to be established under this project, to facilitate the development and adoption of MEPS and energy labels. Coordination with the Association of Refrigeration Technicians, being restored under the HPMP, is crucial for the implementation of the energy efficiency training activities and for raising consumer awareness on the information contained in the energy labels. The review of the RAC training curricula being undertaken, as part of stage II of the HPMP, to incorporate good servicing practices and safety in working with low- or zero-GWP refrigerants, provides an opportunity to incorporate energy efficiency and system performance, and complements the training sessions planned under the HPMP. There will also be coordination with the awareness programmes planned under the HPMP, including the production of promotional materials targeting the public to integrate good practices in the use and maintenance of equipment to unlock the benefits of energy efficiency.

12. The Secretariat also enquired about the CROSQ ESD project, funded by the GEF, of which Antigua and Barbuda had been a beneficiary. UNEP explained that Antigua and Barbuda was one of five pilot countries in this project, which was executed by the CARICOM Climate Change Centre, as part of the piloting of the CCREEBC and harmonised MEPS and labelling for electrical appliances. The activities under this project, which have been completed, included training courses on the CCREEBC and ASHRAE 90.1,<sup>6</sup> inspectors' certification training, and stakeholder sensitization on energy labelling standards.

13. The Secretariat noted that the proposed activities fall within the scope referred to in subparagraphs (b)(ii), (iii), and (iv) of decision 89/6. Through the activities to be undertaken, the project will support the country in adopting and enforcing mandatory MEPS and energy labelling for RAC equipment to improve energy efficiency and reduce emissions through the RAC sector transition to low-GWP alternatives. The Secretariat also noted the significance of addressing energy efficiency for the introduction of alternatives to HCFCs with low- or zero-GWP in the RAC sector at a time of growth in the use of RAC equipment, associated with the expanding tourism sector and national targets to diversify the agricultural sector to reduce food importation in Antigua and Barbuda.

#### Gender policy implementation

14. The energy efficiency activities will be integrated into the implementation of stage II of the HPMP. During the implementation of stage II of the HPMP, the NOU will, inter alia, continue to collect and report sex-disaggregated data, use more imagery of women in the RAC sector in its publications, encourage women to participate in training sessions and consultations, and apply for available job opportunities under the HPMP.

#### Updated Agreement

15. In view of the inclusion of funding for additional activities to maintain energy efficiency in the refrigeration servicing sector and the accordingly revised funding schedule, the Agreement between the Government of Antigua and Barbuda 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 96<sup>th</sup> meeting by decision 96/32, as contained in annex I to the present document. The updated Agreement will be appended to the final report of the 98<sup>th</sup> meeting.

---

<sup>6</sup> American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers Standard 90.1: Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings

## Conclusion

16. The project has been submitted in line with decisions 89/6(b) and 92/22 and includes activities to promote cooperation among government authorities and stakeholders involved in energy efficiency-related matters, and to foster a better understanding of the linkage between the phasing out of HCFCs, transitioning to low- and zero-GWP refrigerants, and energy efficiency. The involved authorities will articulate a mechanism to strengthen their institutional capacity and collaboration during the planning, development, implementation and enforcement of mandatory MEPS, labelling and related future regulations and policies. Consumers will have a better understanding of available low- or zero-GWP and energy-efficient technology options, their impact on climate, and how to obtain information as a prerequisite for making informed purchase decisions, which is critical to promote market transformation. The project will help strengthen the technical capacity of different stakeholders, and support activities relating to the uptake of energy-efficient and low- or zero-GWP RAC equipment, in this way supporting the country to sustain the reductions achieved in HCFCs.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

17. 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 Antigua and Barbuda, 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 Antigua and Barbuda 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 96<sup>th</sup> meeting by decision 96/32.

| <b>Project title</b> |                                                                                                                                             | <b>Project funding<br/>(US \$)</b> | <b>Support costs (US \$)</b> | <b>Implementing agency</b> |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| (a)                  | Additional activities for the introduction of low-GWP alternatives to HCFCs and for enhancing energy efficiency in the RAC servicing sector | 100,000                            | 13,000                       | UNEP                       |

## Annex I

### TEXT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE UPDATED AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA 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 Antigua and Barbuda and the Executive Committee at the 96<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Committee.

#### APPENDIX 2-A: THE TARGETS, AND FUNDING

| Row   | Particulars                                                                        | 2025    | 2026           | 2027    | 2028  | 2029  | 2030   | Total          |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------------|---------|-------|-------|--------|----------------|
| 1.1   | Montreal Protocol reduction schedule of Annex C, Group I substances (ODP tonnes)   | 0.098   | 0.098          | 0.098   | 0.098 | 0.098 | 0.000  | n/a            |
| 1.2   | Maximum allowable total consumption of Annex C, Group I substances (ODP tonnes)    | 0.098   | 0.088          | 0.088   | 0.071 | 0.071 | 0.000  | n/a            |
| 2.1   | Lead IA (UNEP) agreed funding (US \$)                                              | 133,750 | <b>100,000</b> | 45,385  | 0     | 0     | 38,180 | <b>317,315</b> |
| 2.2   | Support costs for Lead IA (US \$)                                                  | 17,388  | <b>13,000</b>  | 5,900   | 0     | 0     | 4,963  | <b>41,251</b>  |
| 2.3   | Cooperating IA (UNIDO) agreed funding (US \$)                                      | 19,000  | 0              | 45,560  | 0     | 0     | 0      | 64,560         |
| 2.4   | Support costs for Cooperating IA (US \$)                                           | 1,710   | 0              | 4,100   | 0     | 0     | 0      | 5,810          |
| 3.1   | Total agreed funding (US \$)                                                       | 152,750 | <b>100,000</b> | 90,945  | 0     | 0     | 38,180 | <b>381,875</b> |
| 3.2   | Total support costs (US \$)                                                        | 19,098  | <b>13,000</b>  | 10,000  | 0     | 0     | 4,963  | <b>47,061</b>  |
| 3.3   | Total agreed costs (US \$)                                                         | 171,848 | <b>113,000</b> | 100,945 | 0     | 0     | 43,143 | <b>428,936</b> |
| 4.1.1 | Total phase-out of HCFC-22 agreed to be achieved under this Agreement (ODP tonnes) |         |                |         |       |       |        | 0.098          |
| 4.1.2 | Phase-out of HCFC-22 to be achieved in the previous stage (ODP tonnes)             |         |                |         |       |       |        | 0.202**        |
| 4.1.3 | Remaining eligible consumption for HCFC-22 (ODP tonnes)                            |         |                |         |       |       |        | 0.00           |

\* Stage I was cancelled as per decision 82/14

\*\* Including 0.03 ODP tonnes in stage I and an additional 0.172 ODP tonnes phased out by the country