

Annex XV

VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON THE RENEWAL OF INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING PROJECTS SUBMITTED TO THE 88th MEETING

Albania

1. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project (phase IX) for Albania and noted with appreciation that the Government of Albania reported 2019 and 2020 data to the Ozone Secretariat indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol and country programme implementation data to the Fund Secretariat. The Committee noted that an operational ODS import/export licensing and HCFC quota system is in place, and that Albania also established an HFC licensing system. The Committee also noted with appreciation that the country has gained stakeholder support through steering committee and consultation meetings and raised the public awareness on the ozone layer protection. The Committee is therefore confident that Albania will continue implementing its HCFC phase-out management plan and IS project in a timely and effective manner in order to prepare the country to meet and sustain the 67.5 per cent reduction in its baseline consumption of HCFCs in 2025.

Bangladesh

2. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project (phase IX) for Bangladesh and noted with appreciation that the Government of Bangladesh reported country programme implementation data and Article 7 data indicating that the country achieved its 2020 HCFC reduction target as agreed. The Committee also took note of the country's continued effort in enforcement of control measures to sustain ODS phase-out, with the update of rules and regulations and HCFC licensing and quota system. The Committee commended Bangladesh for the steps taken towards the ratification of the Kigali Amendment in 2020 and the timely completion of the first HFC investment project which phased out HFC-134a consumption in the domestic refrigerator manufacturing sector. The Executive Committee is, therefore, confident that the Government of Bangladesh will continue implementing its HCFC phase-out management plan and IS project activities, both at the policy and project levels to meet the next targets of the Montreal Protocol.

Benin

3. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Benin (phase XI) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Benin reported 2019 and 2020 data to the Ozone Secretariat indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol and country programme implementation data to the Fund Secretariat. The Committee also noted that Benin has taken some significant steps to phase out its consumption of HCFCs in the current phase, in particular the implementation of ODS import controls through a licensing and quota system and the training of customs officers and refrigeration technicians. The Committee noted with appreciation that the country reached 35 per cent reduction in HCFC consumption in 2020 as per Montreal Protocol requirements. The Committee greatly appreciates the efforts of the Government of Benin to reduce HCFC consumption and is therefore hopeful that, within the next two years, Benin will continue the implementation of its IS project with success to achieve and sustain compliance with the Montreal Protocol.

Bhutan

4. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Bhutan (phase IX) and acknowledges with appreciation the efforts taken by the country for the development and implementation of the HFC licensing system,

ratification of the Kigali Amendment and timely submission of Article 7 and country programme data reports. The Committee also notes with appreciation that the country maintains a robust licensing and quota system for HCFCs and is enforcing its import licensing system for HFCs, which enabled Bhutan to comply with its obligations during the reporting period. The Committee also notes that the HPMP is being implemented as planned, as the country reached the 35 per cent reduction target for 2020 and has successfully completed the implementation of the enabling activities project for HFC phase-down. The Committee is therefore confident that Bhutan will continue activities both at the project and policy levels to meet the future targets of the Montreal Protocol.

Cameroon

5. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Cameroon (phase XII) and noted with appreciation that Cameroon reported HCFC import data for 2020 under Article 7 and country programme reporting to the Ozone and Multilateral Fund Secretariats, indicating the country's compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee also noted that Cameroon has taken some significant steps to phase out its consumption of HCFCs in the current phase, in particular the implementation of ODS import controls through a licensing and quota system and the training of customs officers and refrigeration technicians. The Committee congratulated the Government of Cameroon for the ratification of the Kigali Amendment in August of 2021. The Committee appreciated the efforts of the Government of Cameroon to reduce HCFC consumption and is therefore hopeful that, within the next two years, Cameroon will continue the implementation of its IS project successfully to achieve and sustain compliance with the Montreal Protocol.

Colombia

6. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project (phase XII) for Colombia and noted with appreciation that the Government of Colombia reported 2019 and 2020 data to the Ozone Secretariat indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol and country programme implementation data to the Fund Secretariat. The Committee further noted that the Government of Colombia has taken steps to phase out ODS consumption including implementation of HCFC imports controls through the licensing and quota system, and training of customs officers and refrigeration technicians. The Committee also acknowledged with appreciation the activities initiated to facilitate the implementation of the Kigali Amendment, and the country's participation in Montreal Protocol meetings. The Executive Committee recognized the efforts of the Government of Colombia and is therefore hopeful that, during the next two years, it will continue implementation of the HCFC phase-out management plan and IS project activities with success in order to sustain the 65 per cent reduction in HCFC consumption required by 1 January 2021.

Comoros

7. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Comoros (phase XI) and noted with appreciation that Comoros reported HCFC import data for 2019 and 2020 under country programme and Article 7 reporting to the Ozone and Multilateral Fund Secretariats, indicating country's compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee also noted that Comoros has taken some significant steps to phase out its consumption of HCFCs, in particular the implementation of ODS import controls through a licensing and quota system and the training of customs officers and refrigeration technicians. The Committee noted with appreciation the establishment of the HFC licensing system in Comoros. The Committee further appreciated the efforts of the Government of Comoros to reduce HCFC consumption and is hopeful that, within the next two years, Comoros will continue the implementation of the IS project with success to achieve and sustain compliance with the Montreal Protocol.

Cook Islands

8. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Cook Islands (phase VIII) and noted with appreciation that Cook Islands reported Article 7 and country programme data for 2019 and 2020 to the Ozone and Multilateral Fund Secretariats indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol phase-out requirements. The Committee acknowledged with appreciation that Cook Islands has maintained zero ODS consumption. The Committee also noted with appreciation the efforts of Cook Islands to use lessons learned from the verification of HCFC consumption to further enhance the licensing system to control HFC import and export as reflected in the legal amendment framework. The Committee is hopeful that, within the next two years, Cook Islands will continue the implementation of the IS project with success to achieve and sustain the compliance with the Montreal Protocol.

Costa Rica

9. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Costa Rica (phase XIV) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Costa Rica reported 2019 and 2020 data to the Ozone Secretariat indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol and country programme implementation data to the Fund Secretariat. The Committee further noted that the Government of Costa Rica has taken steps to phase out ODS consumption by banning the import of HCFC-based equipment by 2020. The Committee commended that Costa Rica has ratified the Kigali Amendment and has already included HFCs in the licensing system in line with the obligations under the Amendment. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Costa Rica and is therefore hopeful that the Government of Costa Rica will continue implementation of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan and IS project activities in order to achieve the reduction targets for HCFC consumption as established in its Agreement between with the Executive Committee.

Guatemala

10. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Guatemala (phase VIII) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Guatemala reported 2019 and 2020 data to the Ozone and Multilateral Fund Secretariats indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee also noted that Guatemala has an operational ODS import/export licensing and HCFC quota system in place and has included HFCs in the licensing system. The Committee noted that Guatemala has successfully carried out public awareness and outreach activities on good refrigeration practices and the safe handling of flammable refrigerants to refrigeration technicians and end-users and has strengthened the relationship with the Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Association (ASFRIGUA). The Committee further noted that Guatemala is finalizing the enabling activities project to support the Kigali Amendment ratification and has made significant progress towards ratification. The Committee is therefore confident that Guatemala will ratify the Kigali Amendment soon and will continue the implementation of the IS project with success to achieve and sustain compliance with the Montreal Protocol.

India

11. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for India (phase XIII) and noted with appreciation that the Government of India reported country programme implementation data and Article 7 data indicating that the country achieved its HCFCs reduction target in 2020. The Committee also noted the country's continued efforts in enforcing control measures and sustaining ODS phase-out, including monitoring of its ODS quota and licensing system. The Committee further noted the country's progress in implementation of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan and the Government's coordination and oversight activities assuring

implementation and achievement of the performance indicators. The Committee acknowledged the participation of the Government of India in Montreal Protocol related meetings. The Committee commended India for its recent ratification of the Kigali Amendment and is, therefore, confident that the Government of India will continue activities to meet the future targets of the Montreal Protocol.

Malaysia

12. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Malaysia (phase XIV) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Malaysia timely submitted the 2019 and 2020 data to the Ozone Secretariat indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol and the country programme implementation data to the Fund Secretariat. The Committee also noted the efforts of the Government of Malaysia to monitor and control ODS phase-out through various policy and regulatory activities, including technology transfer and awareness raising activities. The Committee further noted that, despite the difficult situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Malaysia ensured implementation continued as planned to phase out ODS consumption, ratified the Kigali Amendment and initiated actions for HFC phase-down. The Committee acknowledges the efforts of the Government of Malaysia and is, therefore, hopeful that, within the next two years, the Government of Malaysia will continue Montreal Protocol activities with success including implementation of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan and development of stage III, development of Kigali HFC implementation plan and implementation of IS project activities.

Micronesia (Federated States of)

13. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for the Federated States of Micronesia (phase VII) and noted with appreciation that the Federated States of Micronesia reported 2019 and 2020 data to the Ozone and Multilateral Fund Secretariats indicating that the country is in compliance with Montreal Protocol phase-out requirements. The Committee noted with appreciation the effective implementation of the licensing and quota system for HCFCs, the establishment of the HFC licensing system and coordination with relevant stakeholders. The Committee commended the Government of Federated States of Micronesia for achieving more than the 35 per cent HCFC consumption reduction in 2020. The Committee noted with appreciation the increased level of public awareness created to inform key stakeholders and the general public about the HCFC phase-out and Kigali Amendment obligations. The Committee is therefore hopeful that, within the next two years, the Government of Federated States of Micronesia will continue to effectively implement the new regulations to continue the implementation of the IS project with success to achieve and sustain the compliance with the Montreal Protocol.

Namibia

14. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Namibia (phase XI) and noted with appreciation that Namibia reported country programme and Article 7 data to the Fund and Ozone Secretariats on time, indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol and its Agreement with the Executive Committee. The Committee noted that Namibia has taken steps to address HCFC phase-out, including the implementation of a licensing and quota system for HCFCs, and the training of customs officers and refrigeration technicians. The Committee further noted with appreciation the ratification of the Kigali Amendment by the country in May 2019, with a commitment to early action on its implementation. The Committee is therefore confident that Namibia will continue its progressive reduction in HCFC consumption to achieve the 67.5 per cent target by 1 January 2025 and fulfil its other obligations under the Montreal Protocol.

North Macedonia

15. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project (phase VII) for North Macedonia and noted with appreciation that the Government of North Macedonia reported country programme implementation data and Article 7 data indicating that the country achieved its 2020 HCFC reduction target as agreed. The Committee also took note of the country's continued effort in enforcement of control measures to sustain ODS phase-out, with the update of rules and regulations and HCFC licensing and quota system. The Committee commended North Macedonia for the steps taken to enable the ratification of the Kigali Amendment. The Executive Committee is, therefore, confident that the Government of North Macedonia will continue implementing its HCFC phase-out management plan and IS project activities, both at the policy and project levels to meet the next targets of the Montreal Protocol.

Paraguay

16. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Paraguay (phase X) and noted with appreciation that Paraguay has complied with its Article 7 data reporting and HCFC phase-out obligations under the Montreal Protocol, and that an operational ODS import/export licensing and HCFC quota system is in place and includes HFCs in the licensing system. The Committee further noted that Paraguay submitted country programme implementation data to the Secretariat in a timely manner. The Committee was pleased to note that the country has trained refrigeration technicians in good refrigeration practices and the safe handling of alternative substances, gained stakeholder's support through the steering committee, and was committed to the formulation of norms and standards for the safe handling of alternative refrigerants. The Committee also noted that Paraguay carried out consultation meetings and raised public awareness on ozone layer protection. The Committee is therefore confident that Paraguay will continue implementing the IS project in an effective manner in order to meet the HCFC phase-out targets by 2030 and in preparation for the HFC phase-down.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

17. The Executive Committee reviewed the report submitted with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (phase VII) and noted with appreciation that the country has reported 2020 country programme implementation and Article 7 data to the Multilateral Fund and Ozone Secretariats in advance of the deadlines. The Committee acknowledged with appreciation that the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has a well-structured and operational HCFC licensing and quota system that includes the licensing of HFCs. The Committee noted with appreciation that the country has taken steps to initiate the ratification of the Kigali Amendment. The Committee also noted with appreciation the efforts made by the Government following the April 2021 La Soufriere Volcanic eruption. The Committee is therefore confident that the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will continue activities both at the policy and project levels to ensure that its annual HCFC consumption does not to exceed the maximum allowable consumption in the HCFC phase-out management plan Agreement with the Executive Committee, and that the country will ratify the Kigali Amendment.

Senegal

18. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Senegal (phase XIV) and noted with appreciation that Senegal reported 2019 and 2020 data to the Ozone Secretariat indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee further noted that Senegal has taken some significant steps to phase out its consumption of HCFCs in the period covered, namely the implementation of ODS import controls through a licensing and quota system and the training of customs officers and refrigeration technicians. The

Committee appreciated the efforts of Senegal to reduce HCFC consumption and noted that the 35 per cent reduction in HCFC consumption was achieved in 2020 in accordance with Montreal Protocol requirements. The Committee is hopeful that, within the next two years, Senegal will continue with the implementation of its IS project with success to sustain compliance with the Montreal Protocol.

Serbia

19. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project (phase VIII) for Serbia and noted with appreciation that the Government of Serbia reported 2019 and 2020 data to the Ozone Secretariat indicating that the country in compliance with the Montreal Protocol and country programme implementation data to the Fund Secretariat. The Committee also noted that the Government of Serbia has taken steps to establish a certification system for service technicians and participate in outreach and awareness-raising activities. The Committee further noted with appreciation the ratification of the Kigali Amendment by Serbia and activities initiated to implement the Amendment. The Executive Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Serbia and is, therefore, hopeful that, during the next two years, it will continue implementation of the HCFC phase-out management plan and IS project activities to achieve the next targets of the Montreal Protocol.

Solomon Islands

20. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Solomon Islands (phase VIII) and noted with appreciation that the country is taking the necessary steps to meet the Montreal Protocol control measures related to HCFCs and HFCs. The Committee noted with appreciation that the country has reported 2019 and 2020 country programme implementation and Article 7 data to the Multilateral Fund and Ozone Secretariats. The Committee commended the Government of Solomon Islands for the development of a draft Ozone Layer Protection (OLP) bill that includes the mandatory control of HFCs and the transition to an electronic licensing and quota system. The Committee noted that Solomon Islands expedited project implementation despite challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee also noted that the country complied with its 35 per cent reduction obligation under the Montreal Protocol in 2020. The Committee is hopeful that, in the upcoming phase of the IS project, the Government of Solomon Islands will complete the ratification of the Kigali Amendment, endorse the OLP Bill, and comply with the reporting requirements.

Sudan (the)

21. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening project for Sudan (phase X) and noted with appreciation that Sudan reported 2018, 2019 and 2020 country programme implementation and Article 7 data to the Multilateral Fund and Ozone Secretariats indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee acknowledged that Sudan has an operational HCFC licensing and quota system, has carried out training of refrigeration technicians in the safe handling of low-GWP alternatives, and has conducted awareness-raising activities. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Sudan and is therefore confident that Sudan will continue activities both at the policy and project levels to enable the country to reduce HCFC consumption and to achieve the 67.5 per cent reduction required under the Montreal Protocol by 1 January 2025. The Committee is also hopeful that the Kigali Amendment will be ratified in the next phase.

Thailand

22. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Thailand (phase X) and noted with appreciation that the

Government of Thailand reported 2019 and 2020 data to the Ozone Secretariat indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol and country programme implementation data to the Fund Secretariat. The Committee also noted that despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Ozone Unit continued providing training to customs officers and refrigeration service technicians and implementing awareness raising activities. The Committee acknowledged the continuation of progress achieved by the Government of Thailand to control HCFC consumption including the ban on the use of HCFCs in the foam (except spray foam) and air-conditioning sectors, and to ratify the Kigali Amendment. The Executive Committee is hopeful that, within the next two years, the Government of Thailand will continue with the implementation of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan and IS project activities to enable the country to continue to meet the obligations under the Montreal Protocol.

Timor-Leste

23. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Timor Leste (phase VI) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Timor Leste reported 2019 and 2020 data to the Ozone and Multilateral Fund Secretariats indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol. The Committee also noted with appreciation that the country further strengthened its HCFC licensing and quota system through the national single window system, which enhanced the existing mechanism for effective data collection and reconciliation, as well as provided accurate data reporting. The Committee is hopeful that Timor Leste will continue implementing its IS project in a timely and effective manner and will soon ratify the Kigali Amendment.

Trinidad and Tobago

24. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Trinidad and Tobago (phase XI) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago timely submitted the 2019 and 2020 data to the Ozone Secretariat indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol and the country programme implementation data to the Fund Secretariat, and that the country is taking the necessary steps to meet the Montreal Protocol control measures related to HCFCs and for the implementation of HFC control measures. The Committee also noted the efforts in the implementation of HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) activities; the development of regulations for the import of ODS, ODS blends, and ODS-based equipment, as well as its compulsory labelling standard for refrigerant containers; training on good practices in refrigeration; conducting activities for public awareness and participation in Montreal Protocol meetings. The Committee is, therefore, hopeful that, within the next two years, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago will continue the implementation of the HPMP and IS project activities with success to sustain the reduction in HCFC consumption so far achieved.

Uruguay

25. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project for Uruguay (phase XIII) and noted with appreciation that the Government of Uruguay reported 2019 and 2020 data to the Ozone Secretariat indicating that the country is in compliance with the Montreal Protocol and country programme implementation data to the Fund Secretariat. The Committee further noted that the Government of Uruguay has taken steps on the implementation of HCFC imports controls through the licensing and quota system, and training of customs officers and refrigeration technicians. The Committee also noted with appreciation the implementation of activities related to the Kigali Amendment, and the country's participation in the Montreal Protocol meetings. The Committee acknowledged the efforts of the Government of Uruguay and is, therefore, hopeful that, within the next two years, the Government of Uruguay will continue implementation of stages II and III of the HCFC phase-out management plan and IS project activities with success in order to maintain the reduction in HCFC consumption so far achieved.

Vanuatu

26. The Executive Committee reviewed the report presented with the request for the the renewal of the institutional strengthening (IS) project (phase VIII) for Vanuatu and noted with appreciation that Vanuatu reported 2019 and 2020 Article 7 and country programme data to the Ozone and Multilateral Fund Secretariats indicating that the country is in compliance with Montreal Protocol phase-out requirements. The Committee further noted that Vanuatu has taken some significant steps to sustain the phase-out of its HCFC consumption through training and capacity-building in key sectors such as law enforcement officials (including customs) and the training of refrigeration and air-conditioning servicing technicians. The Committee appreciated the efforts of Vanuatu to enforce the HCFC licensing system and the ban on HCFC-based equipment, and to establish the HFC licensing system including mandatory control of HFC-based equipment. The Committee commended the Government of Vanuatu for achieving more than the 35 per cent reduction in HCFC consumption, and is therefore, hopeful that, within the next two years, Vanuatu will continue the implementation of the IS project with success to achieve and sustain the compliance with the Montreal Protocol.