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

PROJECT PROPOSAL: THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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

Phase-down

• Kigali HFC implementation plan (stage I, second tranche)	UNDP, UNEP and UNIDO	Blanket approval

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

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

PROJECT EVALUATION SHEET – MULTI-YEAR PROJECTS

The Dominican Republic

PROJECT TITLE	AGENCY	MEETING APPROVED	CONTROL MEASURE
Kigali HFC implementation plan (stage I)	UNDP (lead), UNEP and UNIDO	93rd	10% phase-out by 2029

ARTICLE 7 DATA (Annex F)	Year: 2025	1,538.25 mt	3,119,715 CO_2-eq tonnes

COUNTRY PROGRAMME SECTORAL DATA (CO_2-eq tonnes)								Year:	2025
Substance	Aerosol	Foam	Fire-fighting	Air-conditioning (AC) and refrigeration			Servicing	Solvent	Other
				Manufacturing					
				Refrigeration	AC	Other			
HFCs							3,119,745		

CONSUMPTION DATA (CO_2-eq tonnes)			
HFC baseline:	3,834,089	Starting point for sustained aggregate reductions:	TBD
CONSUMPTION ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING			
Already approved:	389,732	Remaining:	TBD

ENDORSED BUSINESS PLAN		2026	2027	2028	Total
UNDP	HFC phase-down (mt)	63.79	0.0	0.0	63.79
	Funding (US $)	393,999	0	0	393,999
UNEP	HFC phase-down (mt)	20.25	0.0	0.0	20.25
	Funding (US $)	116,697	0	0	116,697
UNIDO	HFC phase-down (mt)	8.79	0.0	0.0	8.79
	Funding (US $)	53,715	0	0	53,715

PROJECT DATA			2023	2024–2025	2026	2027–2028	2029	Total
Consumption (CO_2-eq tonnes)	Montreal Protocol limits		n/a	3,834,089	3,834,089	3,834,089	3,450,680	n/a
	Maximum allowable		n/a	3,834,089	3,834,089	3,834,089	3,450,680	n/a
	Reduction from baseline (%)		n/a	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	n/a
Amounts approved in principle (US $)	UNDP	Project costs	365,106	0	368,223	0	60,839	794,168
		Support costs	25,557	0	25,776	0	4,259	55,592
	UNEP	Project costs	120,774	0	103,272	0	45,903	269,949
		Support costs	15,701	0	13,425	0	5,967	35,093
	UNIDO	Project costs	50,050	0	49,280	0	10,670	110,000
		Support costs	4,505	0	4,435	0	960	9,900
Funds approved by ExCom (US $)		Project costs	535,930	0		0	0	535,930
		Support costs	45,763	0		0	0	45,763
Total funds recommended for approval at this meeting (US $)		Project costs			520,775			520,775
		Support costs			43,636			43,636

Secretariat's recommendation	Blanket approval

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. On behalf of the Government of the Dominican Republic, UNDP as the lead implementing agency has submitted a request for funding for the second tranche of stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan (KIP), at a total cost of US $564,411, consisting of US $368,223, plus agency support costs of US $25,776, for UNDP, US $103,272, plus agency support costs of US $13,425, for UNEP and US $49,280, plus agency support costs of US $4,435, for UNIDO. The submission includes a progress report on the implementation of the first tranche, the verification report on HFC consumption for 2024 to 2025, and the tranche implementation plan for 2026 to 2029.

Report on HFC consumption

2. The Government of the Dominican Republic reported a consumption of 3,119,715 CO_2-equivalent (CO_2-eq) tonnes of HFCs in 2025, which is 19 per cent below the country's HFC baseline for compliance. The 2021–2025 HFC consumption is shown in table 1.

Table 1. HFC consumption in the Dominican Republic (2021–2025 Article 7 data)

HFC	GWP	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Metric tonnes						
HFC-32	675	5.44	0.00	13.03	36.03	35.43
HFC-134a	1,430	767.43	1,209.63	1,075.47	884.93	768.67
R-404A	3,921.6	146.50	201.21	209.15	184.89	245.95
R-407C	1,773.85	3.50	9.69	0.00	5.32	6.40
R-410A	2,087.5	174.24	539.92	435.70	447.88	466.85
R-422A	3,142.95	0.09	0.39	0.66	0.12	0.44
R-438A	2,264.435	1.35	6.80	6.95	4.09	2.27
R-507A	3,985	5.10	8.09	8.32	14.83	8.15
Others*		0.78	0.91	7.76	4.82	4.09
Total (mt)		**1,104.43**	**1,976.64**	**1,757.04**	**1,582.91**	**1,538.25**
CO_2-eq tonnes						
HFC-32	675	3,672	0	8,795	24,320	23,915
HFC-134a	1,430	1,097,425	1,729,771	1,537,922	1,265,450	1,099,198
R-404A	3,921.6	574,514	789,081	820,203	725,065	964,525
R-407C	1,773.85	6,208	17,189	0	9,437	11,353
R-410A	2,087.5	363,726	1,127,083	909,524	934,950	974,549
R-422A	3,142.95	283	1,226	2,074	377	1,383
R-438A	2,264.435	3,057	15,398	15,738	9,262	5,140
R-507A	3,985	20,324	32,239	33,155	59,098	32,478
Others*		2,383	1947	15,811	6,264	7,133
Total (CO_2-eq tonnes)		**2,071,592**	**3,713,933**	**3,343,222**	**3,034,223**	**3,119,715**
HFC baseline calculation (CO_2-eq tonnes)						
HFC average consumption in 2020–2022						2,752,744
HCFC baseline (65%)						1,081,345
HFC baseline						**3,834,089**

* HFC-125, HFC-152a, R-407A, R-407F, R-417A, R-422D, R-449A, R-452A, R-454B and R-513A

3. HFC consumption, expressed in CO_2-eq tonnes, declined between 2022 and 2024 before increasing slightly in 2025, while remaining below the maximum allowable consumption levels throughout the period. HFC-134a showed a sustained decrease from 2022 to 2025, whereas R-404A and R-410A increased overall between 2021 and 2025, despite year-to-year variations. These changes appear to be associated with variations in refrigerant import patterns and demand in the refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) sector.

Country programme implementation report

4. The HFC consumption data provided by the Government of the Dominican Republic in its country programme (CP) implementation report for 2025 in metric tonnes is consistent with the data reported under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol. The slight difference of 30 CO_2-eq tonnes is due to rounding.

Verification report

5. The verification report confirmed that the Government was implementing an enforceable licensing and quota system for HFC imports. Verified consumption amounted to 3,034,650 CO_2-eq tonnes in 2024 and 3,092,030 CO_2-eq tonnes in 2025, remaining below the Montreal Protocol control targets and the maximum allowable consumption levels established under the Agreement for stage I of the KIP. However, the verification identified discrepancies between the customs' and the national ozone unit (NOU) records, resulting in differences between verified consumption and that reported under the Article 7 and CP data reports. The report recommended resubmitting these reports to reflect the verified figures.

6. The report highlighted that the Technical Environmental Regulation MA-VGA-RT-001-2024, which established HFC controls and the phase-down schedule, provided for a 70 per cent reduction by 2045 instead of the 80 per cent reduction required under the Kigali Amendment for Article 5, Group 1 countries. It therefore recommended amending the Regulation to align it with the applicable phase-down schedule.

7. The verification further identified cases in which importers had exceeded their allocated quotas or imported HFCs without an allocated quota or registration. These cases could reflect either authorized reallocations of unused quotas or allocations to new importers. The Government reserves 5 per cent of the total quota for specific national needs, including requests from new importers. However, the verification found no records identifying companies receiving reallocated quotas or additional allocations as new importers or in response to exceptional national circumstances. It therefore recommended that internal controls be strengthened to clearly distinguish between allocations to traditional importers (95 per cent) and those reserved for contingencies and new importers (5 per cent).

Assessment of HFC consumption trends and market demand in the Dominican Republic (decision 93/60(c))

8. In line with decision 93/60(c), the tranche request included an assessment of HFC consumption trends and market demand. The assessment concluded that the HFC baseline remained representative of market demand and proposed maintaining the maximum allowable consumption limits through 2029. The average annual HFC consumption during 2020–2025 was 1,564.38 mt, i.e., approximately 4 per cent higher than the average of 1,502.70 mt recorded over 2020–2022. The 2023–2025 consumption did not return to pre-2022 levels and reached an average equivalent to 83 per cent of the baseline, bringing the country closer to the 90 per cent consumption limit applicable in 2029 under the Kigali Amendment.

9. The assessment further identified several factors expected to contribute to a continued growth in HFC demand, including demand for residential air-conditioning (AC) and commercial and industrial refrigeration equipment, servicing requirements for the installed base of equipment using refrigerants with high global-warming potential (GWP), and the ongoing transition from HCFCs to HFCs. It also indicated that, if the current upward trend continued, statistical projections pointed to a significant risk of the Dominican Republic failing to meet its Kigali Amendment obligations by 2029.

Progress report on the implementation of the first tranche of stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan

Legal framework

10. The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic established the Programme for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (hereinafter referred to as the NOU), responsible for

directing and implementing national action plans and projects under the Montreal Protocol. The NOU also administers the importer registry and quota system and collects and validates consumption data by cross-checking information against records from the General Directorate of Customs (DGA) and the Foreign Trade Single Window. Import registrations, licences and HFC quotas are managed electronically through the NOU, while the DGA operates a separate system to monitor and authorize imports of controlled substances, using the 2022 Harmonized System (HS) codes and subsequent revisions.

11. The Dominican Republic updated its regulatory framework through Technical Environmental Regulation MA-VGA-RT-001-2024, establishing comprehensive controls on ozone-depleting substances (ODSs) and HFCs, including mandatory registration and licensing, annual HCFC and HFC import quotas, provisions for new importers and a schedule for progressively reducing individual allocations. It also introduces requirements for RAC technician certification, refrigerant recovery and disposal, record-keeping, inspections, measures to combat illegal trade, and strengthening controls across the refrigerant supply chain.

Refrigeration servicing sector

12. The following outcomes were accomplished under the first tranche:

(a) *Strengthening of the legal framework, customs training and inter-institutional coordination*: An awareness-raising workshop on HFC licensing and quota procedures was held for 58 importers (36 men and 22 women); two consultants were engaged: one to strengthen HFC import controls and monitoring, and the other to support the review and strengthening of the regulatory framework applicable to HFCs; one wide-range portable refrigerant identifier and spare parts were procured and delivered to customs; a gender diagnostic report, KIP Gender Action Plan and recommendations for promoting women's participation in KIP activities were prepared; and a workshop to validate the Gender Action Plan was held for 34 participants (12 men and 22 women);

(b) *Awareness-building and information dissemination*: Four awareness-raising events were held for target audiences, including (i) a workshop on KIP objectives, HFC phase-down and regulatory controls for 30 stakeholders (20 men and 10 women); (ii) a two-day symposium on energy efficiency in RAC systems for 114 participants (79 men and 35 women) from training institutions, technicians' associations, end users and importers; (iii) a seminar promoting energy-efficient RAC systems and low- and zero-GWP alternatives for 41 end users (26 men and 15 women); and (iv) a national seminar on RAC sector sustainability and environmentally sound alternatives for 150 participants (93 men and 57 women) involved in environmental management;

(c) *Capacity-building for the safe use of low-GWP refrigerants in RAC*: An information event on the implementation of the Kigali Amendment and HFC phase-down, the safe handling of alternative refrigerants, refrigerant recovery and recycling, and technician certification was held for 100 technicians (92 men and eight women); RAC training programmes are being updated to cover the safe handling of flammable and high-pressure refrigerants and basic knowledge of electronic controls and inverter technology; technical documentation for updating the certification standards, to include new categories for handling zero- and low-GWP alternatives, is under review and awaiting approval; and initial steps were taken towards the planning and design of an electronic registry of certified RAC technicians, which will be linked to the platform for managing technician licensing applications and related authorizations in the RAC sector;

(d) *Reduction of emissions of HFCs over refrigerant life cycle*:

(i) *Training in the mobile air-conditioning (MAC) sector*: A technical training manual and supporting materials were developed; tools and equipment to improve servicing

practices and refrigerant management in MAC workshops were identified; and NOU's technical capacities were strengthened through regional and international exchanges on refrigerant life-cycle management, low-GWP alternatives, energy efficiency and sustainable cooling;

(ii) *Procurement of equipment for refrigerant recovery, recycling and reclamation*: Terms of reference and technical specifications were developed and a purchase request was issued for recovery and recycling equipment and tools for 10 MAC workshops; a refrigerant recovery and reclamation unit was acquired and installed at the Dominican Association of Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Technicians (ADOMTRA); and a three-day technical workshop was also held for 19 trainers (16 men and three women), including practical activities on refrigerant recovery, identification, reclamation, traceability, safety and proper refrigerant handling, with emphasis on preventing leaks and cross-contamination that could affect the quality of reclaimed refrigerants; and

(iii) *Technical assistance for refrigerant recovery from RAC equipment*: A workshop on ODS/HFC and used RAC equipment management was held for 29 public and private stakeholders (27 men and two women) to identify gaps and propose improvements to refrigerant collection and management on 10 September 2026; and a three-day technical workshop on refrigerant recovery, reclamation and environmentally sound management was conducted for 19 RAC trainers (16 men and three women), combining theoretical and practical training, including the start-up and operation of a refrigerant reclamation machine.

Pilot project to enhance energy efficiency (decision 91/65)

13. At its 97th meeting, the Executive Committee approved a pilot project for UNIDO and UNEP to carry out an integrated energy-efficiency transition in the cooling sector and to update energy-efficiency standards for non-ducted single-split air conditioners and household refrigerators and freezers in the Dominican Republic, with operational completion scheduled no later than 31 December 2028. Implementation has progressed through the development of a standardized methodology and data collection tools for energy audits and the selection of four pilot facilities, following a preliminary assessment of nine sites. An energy audit completed at a seawater park in October 2026 identified opportunities for energy savings through improved maintenance and operating practices and the potential introduction of more efficient R-290-based AC technologies. A second audit, covering more than 40 AC units at the Santo Domingo Institute of Technology, commenced in November 2026, and two further audits are scheduled for the first quarter of 2027. The findings will inform equipment specifications and the implementation and verification of energy-saving measures.

Project implementation and monitoring

14. The NOU, UNDP and UNIDO have been monitoring activities, reporting on progress, and working with stakeholders to phase down HFCs. Of the US $48,721 approved for project monitoring activities under the first tranche, US $35,188 was disbursed for project staff and consultants (US $31,188), and oversight travel (US $4,000).

Level of fund disbursement

15. As of October 2026, of the US $535,930 approved so far (US $365,106 for UNDP, US $120,774 for UNEP and US $50,050 for UNIDO), US $155,042 (29 per cent) had been disbursed (US $75,142 for UNDP, US $30,400 for UNEP and US $49,500 for UNIDO). The balance of US $380,888 will be disbursed in 2026–2027.

Implementation plan for the second tranche of stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan

16. The following activities will be implemented between December 2026 and December 2029:

(a) *Strengthening of the legal framework, customs training and inter-institutional coordination*:

(i) Finalize the review and strengthening of the regulatory framework applicable to HFCs through inter-institutional coordination meetings, including a regulatory impact assessment of additional HFC control measures; conduct two training sessions for a total of 60 participants from public institutions and ADOMTRA on the additional legal measures following their adoption; initiate the development of a national registry of large and medium-sized HFC end users to strengthen the monitoring and control of HFC use; procure and deliver one additional wide-range portable refrigerant identifier and spare parts to customs (UNDP) (US $30,050 plus funds from the previous tranche);

(ii) Finalize the regulatory analysis to strengthen the HFC control system, including the development of standard operating procedures for the issuance, verification and approval of import permits; enhance the NOU's import control mechanisms through an electronic system for recording HFC quotas and import permits in CO_2-eq tonnes; update the training manual to reflect current HFC import control measures; provide technical support for developing a model course to be incorporated into the regular training programme for frontline customs officers; conduct a three-day trainers' training on new regulations, refrigerant identification and prevention of illegal trade for 40 customs and enforcement officers; conduct three one-day workshops on HS codes and revised regulations for a total of 150 brokers and importers (UNEP) (US $17,972 plus funds from the previous tranche);

(iii) Implement a plan for the integration of women in the RAC sector, including the development of awareness-raising materials; and hold a workshop for approximately 50 participants focusing on women's empowerment, barriers to participation and opportunities for greater inclusion (UNDP) (US $11,625 plus funds from previous tranches);

(b) *Awareness and information dissemination on zero- and low-GWP technologies*: Design and implement a media campaign on HFC controls, emissions reduction and alternative technologies; and hold a national seminar for approximately 50 participants to promote energy-efficient equipment and zero- and low-GWP alternatives and highlight national progress towards sustainable RAC technologies (UNDP) (US $21,600 plus funds from previous tranche);

(c) *Capacity-building for the safe use of low-GWP refrigerants in RAC*: Procure and distribute laboratory training equipment to four RAC vocational schools, including training and follow-up on its use (UNDP) (US $92,488 plus funds from previous tranche); complete the revision of curricula for RAC training courses to cover the safe handling of flammable and high-pressure refrigerants, basic knowledge of electronic controls for RAC equipment and inverter technology, and train at least 420 technicians under the revised curricula; finalize the revision of labour competency certification standards to incorporate new categories for handling zero- and low-GWP alternatives and certify at least 150 technicians; complete the development and operationalize an electronic registry of certified RAC technicians, linked to the platform for managing technician licensing applications and related authorizations in the RAC sector (UNEP) ($85,300 plus funds from previous tranche); and provide tool kits to 45 certified technicians to adopt good practices in the safe handling of commercial

refrigeration equipment using hydrocarbon refrigerants (UNDP) (US $81,009 plus funds from previous tranche);

(d) *Reduction of emissions of HFCs over the refrigerant life cycle*:

(i) *Good practices and recovery and recycling training in the MAC sector*: Conduct 13 training courses of 32 hours (theoretical and hands-on) for 400 MAC technicians (UNIDO) (US $44,800);

(ii) *Provision of recovery and recycling equipment for the MAC sector*: Identify and select interested workshops with the highest annual frequency of MAC maintenance to participate in recovery and recycling activities; complete the ongoing procurement of recovery and recycling equipment and tools for 10 MAC workshops; and initiate a new procurement process for the acquisition and distribution of additional recovery and recycling equipment and tools for 25 MAC workshops, bringing the total number of workshops equipped to 35 (UNDP) (US $56,970 plus funds from previous tranche);

(iii) *Technical assistance for refrigerant recovery from RAC equipment*: Identify and establish four centres for the environmentally sound dismantling of RAC appliances and equip them to strengthen operational capacity and minimize the risk of HFC emissions during equipment dismantling; train 20 workers from dismantling centres through two workshops on safe refrigerant recovery, handling and dismantling practices; and implement an awareness-raising campaign to promote the equipment dismantling service, including an information brochure and press and social media outreach (UNDP) (US $31,618 plus funds from the previous tranche); and

(e) *Project monitoring*: project staff and consultants (US $33,675), oversight travel (US $6,171), HFC consumption verification report (US $16,000), and planning meetings (US $5,030) (UNDP and UNIDO) (US $42,863 and US $4,480, respectively, plus funds from the previous tranche).

SECRETARIAT'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION

COMMENTS

Report on HFC consumption and verification

17. In 2024, reported HFC consumption amounted to 3,034,223 CO_2-eq tonnes, compared with verified consumption of 3,034,650 CO_2-eq tonnes. The differences mainly concerned HFC-32, R-407F and R-410A. In 2025, the reported consumption of 3,119,715 CO_2-eq tonnes differed from the verified figure of 3,092,030 CO_2-eq tonnes, mainly owing to discrepancies in HFC-134a import volumes.

18. UNDP informed the Secretariat that the Government would submit the revised Article 7 and CP data reports reflecting the verified figures by 19 November 2026. It was agreed that the approved funds would not be transferred to the agencies until the Secretariat confirmed that the revised reports for 2024 and 2025 had been duly submitted. UNDP also indicated that the Government would address the recommendations of the verification report by strengthening its HFC quota allocation and monitoring procedures. The Government will also amend the Technical Environmental Regulation MA-VGA-RT-001-2024 to ensure the required 80 per cent reduction in HFC consumption by 2045, in line with the Kigali Amendment. These matters will be addressed through activities under the second tranche of the KIP, including measures to strengthen customs controls and the legal framework.

Compliance with decision 93/60(c)

19. The Secretariat noted that the average HFC consumption during 2023–2025 was 3,165,720 CO_2-eq tonnes, suggesting that the consumption of 3,713,933 CO_2-eq tonnes reported in 2022 was unusually high. The Secretariat asked whether the proposed 2027–2029 consumption targets, including the 10 per cent reduction target for 2029, could be reviewed to establish lower limits, in accordance with decision 93/60(c)(ii). UNDP explained that the high consumption recorded in 2022 reflected increased refrigeration needs following the COVID-19 pandemic, the subsequent economic recovery and the growth of the RAC sector.

20. In addition, UNDP presented an HFC consumption projection that considered both an expected 6.58 per cent growth in the construction market, additional demand generated from new installations, and the conversion to HFCs of 15 per cent of the HCFC-22 consumption annually as HCFC-based equipment was being replaced. Under this scenario, HFC consumption in 2029 would reach 4,086,270 CO_2-eq tonnes, or around 18 per cent above the proposed target of 3,450,680 CO_2-eq tonnes. UNDP indicated that revising the 2027 quotas was no longer feasible and that revising the 2028 quotas could increase pressure in 2029, when the HFC phase-down and HCFC phase-out would overlap.

21. The Secretariat requested updated information on the country's HFC imports in 2026. UNDP reported that imports had reached 3,150,000 CO_2-eq tonnes, representing approximately 96 per cent of the quota. UNDP further indicated that additional imports were expected before the end of the year, as importers had already shipped confirmed orders, although vessel transit delays through the Panama Canal were extending delivery times.

22. In response to the Secretariat's questions on whether the analysis was based solely on HFC import trends and did not account for the number of RAC equipment units imported or installed, which would be relevant to assessing market trends and behaviour in the RAC sector, UNDP referred to the preliminary national inventory of Montreal Protocol controlled substances and RAC equipment covering the period 2016–2025. The inventory included an assessment of the installed equipment base as of December 2025, identifying 10,898,415 RAC equipment units in use or disuse, comprising 3,846,841 AC units, 7,048,286 fixed refrigeration units and 3,288 refrigerated transport vehicles. It also provided data on equipment imports during 2016–2025, showing an increase in new AC systems (mainly split-type), whose imports reached 650,403 units in 2025. Imports of new domestic and commercial refrigerators amounted to 367,250 units in 2025, and 421,655 MAC units and components were also identified. UNDP explained that the inventory complemented the analysis of HFC import trends by providing information on the evolution of the RAC equipment market and the estimated number and composition of units in use and disuse. It added that those findings provided context for HFC demand trends, particularly the relevance of R-410A and the growing presence of HFC-32 in split-type systems, as well as HFC-134a in the MAC subsector.

Progress report on the implementation of the first tranche of stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan

Legal framework

23. The Government of the Dominican Republic has issued HFC import quotas for 2026 and 2027 in accordance with the Montreal Protocol control targets.

Refrigeration servicing sector

24. The Secretariat requested clarification on the rationale for acquiring and installing a recovery and reclamation unit at ADOMTRA, which operates as a refrigerant gas collection centre. UNDP, on behalf of UNIDO, explained that the Dominican Republic had 26 refrigerant recovery and recycling centres, each collecting between 100 and 150 lb of refrigerants per month, and that the reclamation unit would fill a gap in the existing network by enabling the centralized reclamation of recovered refrigerants. UNDP also

reported that following installation, the facility was preparing for regular operations by collecting and storing refrigerant cylinders pending delivery of a dedicated gas analyser required for the regeneration process and refrigerant quality assessment.

Implementation plan for the second tranche of stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan

25. The Secretariat took note of UNDP's explanation that the increased price of wide-range refrigerant identifiers would limit procurement under stage I of the KIP to two units instead of the four originally planned. UNDP further explained that additional refrigerant identifiers were being procured under the HCFC phase-out management plan and that the country would coordinate the allocation and use of equipment under both plans to strengthen refrigerant identification and control across customs checkpoints.

Co-financing

26. The Government has supported KIP implementation through in-kind contributions, including the provision of technical and administrative staff, office and storage space, transportation, logistical and institutional coordination, and administrative services. It has also supported the dissemination and coverage of awareness-raising activities through institutional resources and communication channels. These contributions complement project resources without entailing direct expenditures under the KIP.

Gender policy implementation

27. In line with decisions 84/92(d) and 90/48(c), measures were incorporated into the KIP in accordance with the Multilateral Fund's Policy. A RAC sector assessment was completed and a comprehensive action plan for women in the sector was developed to address identified gaps and promote women's participation in the sector's technological transition. The Plan includes measures to strengthen the training and capacity-building opportunities, promote women's participation in technical activities and support inclusion and retention in traditionally male-dominated areas.

Sustainability of the HFC phase-out and assessment of risks

28. The Dominican Republic has initiated the implementation of the first tranche of the KIP and established institutional foundations for continuing activities to promote zero- and low-GWP refrigerants and reduce demand for HFCs. The sustainability of the HFC phase-down will be supported by strengthening the regulatory and institutional framework, import controls and quota management, customs capacity, and technical skills in the RAC and MAC sectors. Strengthening vocational training centres through equipment, training materials and practical training on natural refrigerants and low-GWP alternatives, together with improved refrigerant recovery, reclamation and recycling practices, will help sustain technical capacities and environmentally responsible practices beyond the implementation period.

29. The main risks include procurement and administrative delays, limited institutional capacity, challenges in adopting low-GWP technologies, retention of trained personnel, and weaknesses in HFC import controls. Mitigation measures include the continuous monitoring of procurement and contracting, coordination among the NOU, implementing agencies and national institutions, sustained technical training, stronger regulatory and monitoring mechanisms, and adequate planning for equipment operation and maintenance. The Secretariat considers the risks to the sustainability of the HFC phase-down as low, given the support provided under the KIP to strengthen the institutional, regulatory and technical capacities required for its implementation.

Conclusion

30. The country was in compliance with the maximum allowable consumption levels during the reporting period, and recommendations of the verification report are expected to be addressed during the

implementation of the second tranche. Disbursement of funds approved for the first tranche exceeded 20 per cent (29 per cent) and significant progress was achieved in tranche implementation, including *inter alia* training for importers and for MAC and RAC trainers, a refrigerant identifier for the customs, a gender action plan, awareness-building workshops and information events, training manual and materials for MAC technicians, and a refrigerant recovery and reclamation unit for ADOMTRA. Under the second tranche, activities will strengthen the regulatory framework and the HFC quota and licensing system; create central registries of HFC end users and certified RAC technicians; update training curricula and train customs and enforcement officers, trainers, brokers, importers, and RAC and MAC technicians; launch a media campaign on HFC controls; provide equipment to RAC vocational schools; certify at least 150 RAC technicians and provide tools and equipment to 45 of them; provide refrigerant recovery and recycling equipment to selected MAC workshops; and establish, equip, and promote four centres for dismantling RAC appliances and train their workers. The Secretariat recommends withholding the transfer of funds to agencies until the Government submits the revised Article 7 and CP data reports for 2024 and 2025 based on the verified data.

RECOMMENDATION

31. The Fund Secretariat recommends that the Executive Committee note the progress report on the implementation of the first tranche of stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan (KIP) for the Dominican Republic, and further recommends blanket approval of the second tranche of stage I of the KIP and the corresponding 2026–2029 tranche implementation plan for the Dominican Republic at the funding levels shown in the table below, on the understanding that the approved funds will not be transferred to UNDP, UNEP and UNIDO until the Secretariat has confirmed that the revised Article 7 data and country programme implementation reports for 2024 and 2025 have been correctly submitted by the Dominican Republic.

	Project title	Project funding (US $)	Support costs (US $)	Implementing agency
(a)	Kigali HFC implementation plan (stage I, second tranche)	368,223	25,776	UNDP
(b)	Kigali HFC implementation plan (stage I, second tranche)	103,272	13,425	UNEP
(c)	Kigali HFC implementation plan (stage I, second tranche)	49,280	4,435	UNIDO