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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
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Montreal, 1–5 December 2025
Item 9(d) of the provisional agenda¹

PROJECT PROPOSAL: THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

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

Energy efficiency

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pilot project to maintain and/or enhance the energy efficiency of replacement technologies and equipment in the context of HFC phase-down (non-investment activities) | UNEP | Individual consideration |
|---|------|--------------------------|

¹ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/97/1

PROJECT EVALUATION SHEET – NON-MULTI-YEAR PROJECT**The Republic of Moldova****PROJECT TITLE****BILATERAL/IMPLEMENTING AGENCY**

Pilot project to maintain and/or enhance the energy efficiency of replacement technologies and equipment in the context of HFC phase-down (non-investment activities)	UNEP
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PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The pilot project aims to promote energy efficiency in the refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pumps (RACHP) sector by strengthening institutional, technical, and regulatory capacities. The main objective is to ensure that energy-efficiency considerations are effectively integrated into training, certification, and outreach activities, thereby encouraging the adoption of energy-efficient RACHP technologies in the context of HFC phase-down.
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NATIONAL COORDINATING AGENCY	The National Office for the Implementation of Environmental Projects (ONIPM), Ministry of Environment
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LATEST ARTICLE 7 DATA (Annex F)	Year: 2023	N/A	452,288 CO ₂ -eq tonnes
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Particular	Non-investment activities
HFC used by the servicing sector (2024 country programme data)	243.44 mt 500,340 CO ₂ -eq tonnes
Project duration (months):	36
Initial amount requested (US \$):	198,000
Final project costs (US \$):	180,000
Implementing agency support cost (US \$):	23,400
Total cost of project to Multilateral Fund (US \$):	203,400
Energy-efficiency savings (kWh/year):	n/a
Status of counterpart funding (Y/N):	N
Project monitoring milestones included (Y/N):	Y
Minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) available for the relevant sector (Y/N):	Y

SECRETARIAT'S RECOMMENDATION	Individual consideration
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Background

1. On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Moldova, UNEP has submitted, in line with decision 91/65, a request for a pilot project to maintain and/or enhance the energy efficiency of replacement technologies and equipment in the context of HFC phase-down (non-investment activities), in the amount of US \$198,000, plus agency support costs of US \$25,740 as originally submitted.²

Energy-efficiency pilot project

2. The Republic of Moldova ratified the Kigali Amendment on 22 September 2023. Under stage I of the Kigali HFC implementation plan (KIP) approved at the 96th meeting,³ the country has committed to reducing HFC consumption by 10 per cent of its baseline by 2029. The country also plans to request funding for additional activities to maintain energy efficiency in refrigeration servicing sector (decision 89/6) together with the third tranche request of stage III of its HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) in 2027.

Policy, regulatory and institutional framework

3. The Republic of Moldova signed an Association Agreement with the European Union (EU) in 2014. This Agreement commits the country to converge its policies and legislation to those of the EU. The country became a contracting party of the Energy Community Treaty in 2010 and has thus started transposing EU energy legislation even before the entry into force of the Association Agreement.

4. The country has made considerable progress in adopting a legal and regulatory framework aligned with the relevant EU directives and regulations on energy efficiency. This includes the Law on Labelling of Energy-related Products (updated in 2023) and the Law on Eco-design Requirements for Energy-related Products (updated in 2024), which sets standards for energy consuming appliances including air conditioners and refrigerators. In addition to these laws that directly govern various aspects of energy efficiency, the country has adopted the Law on Energy which is the umbrella law for the energy sector. A significant part of the EU acquis on eco-design and labelling of energy-related products have already been transposed into national legislation. These laws are supported by detailed government regulations and decisions that ensure compliance and expand coverage to a wide range of household and professional equipment.

5. The Eco-design regulation in the country set the minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) that need to be adhered to for various products, including RACHP appliances. The Energy Labelling regulation establishes requirements for labelling of energy-consuming products, including RACHP appliances. Both laws cover domestic refrigerators (between 10 and 1,500 litres) and air-conditioning equipment (≤ 12 kW). While the legal framework for energy efficiency is well advanced, key challenges remain in its effective implementation, enforcement, and public awareness.

6. The primary institution responsible for energy efficiency in the country is the National Centre for Sustainable Energy (CNED), operating under the Ministry of Energy and is mandated to coordinate and implement activities that support the execution of national policies in the fields of energy efficiency and renewable energy. The Ministry of Environment is the focal point for the Montreal Protocol. The National Office for Implementation of Environmental Projects (ONIPM) subordinated to the Ministry of

² As per the letter of 14 July 2025 from the Ministry of Public Institution, National Office for the Implementation of Environmental projects of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova to UNEP.

³ Decision 96/44

Environment, is responsible for coordination and implementation of ODS phase-out and HFC phase-down activities in the Republic of Moldova. The ONIPM will closely work with CNED under this project.

Project objective

7. This pilot project proposal aims to strengthen the national framework for energy efficiency in the RACHP sector, particularly in the enforcement of MEPS and labelling. It focuses on enhancing institutional, technical, and regulatory capacities to ensure that energy efficiency is integrated into training, certification, and outreach initiatives. Key activities include capacity-building for customs and enforcement officers, expansion of refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) technicians' certification schemes, training for master trainers and RAC technicians, upgrading training centres, and stakeholder awareness campaigns on energy efficiency. This is aligned with the KIP's long-term strategy to promote the adoption of energy-efficient, low-global warming potential (low-GWP) technologies in support of the HFC phase-down strategy.

Proposed activities

8. Activities with their cost breakdown (as initially submitted) are described below:

- (a) *Enhancing institutional capacities for energy efficiency in RACHP sector (US \$27,000):* (i) Training of customs officers on energy efficiency (US \$8,000); (ii) revision and publication of a handbook for customs and enforcement officers on regulations related to energy efficiency in RACHP sector (US \$4,000); (iii) two workshops for capacity building of 30 inspectors of the State Inspectorate for Non-Food Products Surveillance and Consumer Protection, responsible for checking labelling and product quality, and development and dissemination of the handbook explaining regulations, for these inspectors (US \$10,000); (iv) two workshops for importers and distributors of RACHP equipment on the rules and regulations concerning the imports of controlled substances and equipment (US \$5,000);
- (b) *Capacity building for energy efficiency in RACHP sector (US \$90,000):* (i) Expansion of the certification scheme to include energy efficiency considerations for RACHP appliances, through the implementation of the necessary amendments in the relevant decision (US \$5,000); (ii) amending the certification programme as per revised decision, led by University Centre for Continuing Education and the Public Association of Refrigeration Technicians of the Republic of Moldova (AOF) (US \$10,000); (iii) training of two RACHP experts in an EU country on energy efficiency aspects (US \$15,000); (iv) production of training material on energy efficiency aspects (US \$6,000); (v) procurement of three set of training equipment (portable monitoring device for performance analysis) for three training centres (US \$33,000); (vi) technical advice to individuals and businesses, through AOF, on the selection of low-GWP technology and energy efficiency RACHP systems when procuring new systems (US \$21,000);
- (c) *Stakeholder communication, awareness and outreach (US \$66,000):* (i) three annual stakeholder consultations to coordinate activities related to energy-efficiency (US \$9,000); (ii) development and dissemination of a specialized brochure on energy efficiency (US \$12,000); (iii) awareness-raising campaigns on energy efficiency regulations, available technology options, long-term cost benefits, and impact on climate and the environment for relevant stakeholders including promoting the role and involvement of women energy efficiency experts (US \$30,000); (iv) extension of the website, being developed under stage I of the KIP, with relevant legislation to include the considerations related to energy efficiency, and production of case studies with cost-benefit analysis

(US \$12,000); (v) development and dissemination of the outcomes of the feasibility study on the benefits of improved cooling efficiency and sustainability (US \$3,000); and

- (d) *Project management, monitoring and reporting (US \$15,000)*: Hiring a project consultant to coordinate the activities, monitor implementation, produce progress reports and a final summary report on the results of the pilot project for wider dissemination (in Romanian and English).

Total cost of the pilot project

9. The project is expected to be completed in 36 months after approval, between January 2026 and December 2028, for a total cost of US \$198,000, plus agency support costs US \$25,740.

SECRETARIAT'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

COMMENTS

10. The Secretariat reviewed the project proposal in light of the activities described under decisions 91/65 and 89/6 as well as those being implemented under stage I of the KIP.

Eligibility under decision 91/65

11. In line with decision 91/65, confirmation has been obtained from the Government of the Republic of Moldova that the ONIPM will coordinate with relevant energy-efficiency authorities and national standards bodies to facilitate the consideration of refrigerant transition when further developing energy efficiency standards in the relevant sectors/applications; that, if the Republic of Moldova has mobilized or were to mobilize funding from sources other than the Multilateral Fund for energy-efficiency components when phasing down HFCs, the project will not result in the duplication of activities among those funded by the Multilateral Fund and those funded from other sources; that information on project progress, results and key learning will be made available, as appropriate; and that the date of completion of the project will be set as no more than 36 months after the date of approval by the Executive Committee and that a detailed project report will be submitted to the Executive Committee within six months of the date of completion of the project.

Technical and cost-related issues

12. The Secretariat noted that several proposed activities, such as training of customs officers, training of trainers, and stakeholder awareness, appear similar to those under stage I of the KIP. Considering this, the Secretariat requested further clarification on how each activity is integrated with, and not overlapping with existing activities under the KIP. UNEP clarified that the proposed pilot project is designed to complement the activities under the ongoing stage I of KIP. While KIP focuses primarily on the transition to low-GWP refrigerants and safe handling practices, the pilot project addresses energy efficiency in the RACHP sector through targeted interventions such as updated training materials, enhanced enforcement capacity and public awareness campaigns, for supporting implementation of energy efficiency regulations. These activities build on existing work under KIP by integrating the regulations and expanding the scope to include energy efficiency, which is not covered in detail under the KIP. UNEP reassured that each activity has been carefully planned to ensure synergy and avoid duplication.

13. On clarifying how the support to AOF aligns with activities outlined under decision 91/65, UNEP explained that AOF offers free consulting services to individuals and economic agents on refrigeration solutions, particularly for agricultural applications. It collaborates with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which subsidizes up to 70 per cent of the cost of design works. While its support has traditionally focused on technical expertise and operational guidance, energy efficiency

considerations have not been systematically included. Through the proposed project, AOF will expand its advisory services by engaging experts, to provide targeted advice on energy-efficiency aspects within its existing scope of activities. UNEP further mentioned that the integration of energy-efficiency advice into these services will lead to better informed decisions, reduced energy consumption, and strengthened sustainable cooling practices.

14. Following discussions on activities, expected outcomes, and associated costs, the overall project budget was further optimized. Activities under subparagraphs (a)(i) and (a)(iii) of paragraph 8 were merged, as they could be jointly implemented, thereby reducing the cost of conducting them separately. Similarly, activities under (c)(ii) and (c)(iii) were combined, given that the outcome of one was connected to the other, resulting in cost savings. The costs for activities under (c)(iv) was reduced by aligning its implementation with similar activities under stage I of the KIP. Additionally, funding initially allocated for the activity under (d) was redirected towards the recruitment of a technical consultant, necessity of whom was justified during the discussions. The agreed cost is shown in table 1 below.

Table 1. Agreed activities and costs for the pilot project on energy efficiency

Activity	Sub-activity description	Budget (US \$)
(a) Enhancing institutional capacities for energy efficiency in RACHP sector	(i) Training of 45 customs officers and 30 enforcement officers on energy efficiency aspects	15,000
	(ii) Revision and publication of the handbook for customs and enforcement officers on regulations related to energy efficiency	4,000
	(iii) Two workshops for 30 importers and distributors of RACHP equipment	5,000
(b) Capacity building for energy efficiency in RACHP sector	(i) Expansion of the certification scheme to include energy efficiency considerations for RACHP appliances, through the implementation of the necessary amendments in the relevant decision	5,000
	(ii) Amending the certification programme as per revised decision, led by University Centre for Continuing Education and AOF	10,000
	(iii) Training of two RACHP experts in an EU country on energy efficiency aspects of RACHP applications	15,000
	(iv) Production of training material on energy efficiency aspects of RACHP applications	6,000
	(v) Procurement of three set of training equipment (portable monitoring device for performance analysis) for three training centres	33,000
	(vi) Technical advice on low-GWP technology and energy efficiency of systems to individuals and businesses in their procurement of RACHP systems, through association, to assist them in making informed decision	21,000
	(vii) Technical consultant for support to project implementation and monitoring	15,000
(c) Stakeholder communication, awareness and outreach	(i) Three annual stakeholder consultations to coordinate activities related to energy-efficiency	9,000
	(ii) Development and dissemination of a specialized brochure on energy efficiency and awareness-raising campaigns targeting relevant stakeholders on energy efficiency regulations, available technology options, long-term cost benefits, and their impact on climate and the environment including promoting the role and involvement of women energy efficiency experts	31,000
	(iii) Extension of the website, being developed under stage I of the KIP, with relevant legislation to include the considerations related to energy efficiency, and production of case studies with cost-benefit analysis	8,000
	(iv) Development and dissemination of the outcomes of the feasibility study on the benefits of improved cooling efficiency and sustainability	3,000
Total		180,000

Sustainability, replicability and assessment of risks

15. The pilot project supports the enforcement of MEPS by building capacity of relevant officers and inspectors, strengthen technical training centres to better address energy efficiency considerations in their regular training, ensures that energy efficiency consideration is incorporated in existing RAC technician certification and training programmes, and raises awareness of the new regulations among relevant stakeholders facilitating their compliance.

16. The main identified risk is the delay in the implementation of energy efficiency measures at the national level. The project's support in building institutional capacity and developing a monitoring plan will help ensure timely execution of project activities. The enforcement of MEPS and certification schemes will contribute to the long-term sustainability of the country's HFC phase-down efforts. Additionally, trainers supported under the project will continue to deliver technician training during the implementation of stage I of the KIP, further reinforcing sustainability. Given the country's association agreement with the EU and its membership in the Energy Community, it is expected that efforts related to energy efficiency will continue to expand beyond the scope of this project.

RECOMMENDATION

17. The Executive Committee may wish to consider approving the pilot project to maintain and/or enhance the energy efficiency of replacement technologies and equipment in the context of HFC phase-down (non-investment activities) for the Republic of Moldova, in the amount of US \$180,000, plus agency support costs of US \$23,400 for UNEP, noting:

- (a) That the Republic of Moldova has committed to the conditions referred to in decision 91/65(b)(iv)b to b(iv)d; and
- (b) That the project would be operationally completed no later than 31 December 2028, and that a detailed project report would be submitted to the Executive Committee within six months of the date of completion of the project.