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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 agenda¹

PROJECT PROPOSAL: QATAR

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

Phase-out

- HCFC phase-out management plan (stage II, third tranche) UNIDO and UNEP Blanket approval

¹ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/99/1

PROJECT EVALUATION SHEET – MULTI-YEAR PROJECTS

Qatar

PROJECT TITLE	AGENCY	MEETING APPROVED	CONTROL MEASURE
HCFC phase-out plan (stage II)	UNIDO (lead), UNEP	88 th	67.5% phase-out by 2025

ARTICLE 7 DATA (Annex C, Group I)	Year: 2025	28.23 ODP tonnes
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COUNTRY PROGRAMME SECTORAL DATA (ODP tonnes)							Year: 2025
Substance	Aerosol	Foam	Firefighting	Refrigeration		Solvent	Total sector consumption
				Manufacturing	Servicing		
HCFC-22					28.23		28.23

CONSUMPTION DATA (ODP tonnes)			
2009–2010 baseline:	86.90	Starting point for sustained aggregate reductions:	86.08
CONSUMPTION ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING			
Already approved:	71.67	Remaining:	14.41

ENDORSED BUSINESS PLAN		2026	2027	2028	Total
UNIDO	ODS phase-out (ODP tonnes)	1.19	0.00	0.00	1.19
	Funding (US \$)	64,200	0	0	64,200
UNEP	ODS phase-out (ODP tonnes)	1.37	0.00	0.00	1.37
	Funding (US \$)	77,970	0	0	77,970

PROJECT DATA			2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Consumption (ODP tonnes)	Montreal Protocol limits		56.49	56.49	56.49	56.49	28.24	28.24	n/a
	Maximum allowable		56.49	56.49	56.49	40.00	28.24	28.24	n/a
Amounts approved in principle (US \$)	UNIDO	Project costs	205,000	0	100,000	0	60,000	0	365,000
		Support costs	14,350	0	7,000	0	4,200	0	25,550
	UNEP	Project costs	139,500	0	144,500	0	69,000	0	353,000
		Support costs	18,135	0	18,785	0	8,970	0	45,890
Funds approved by ExCom (US \$)		Project costs	344,500		244,500*				589,000*
		Support costs	32,485		25,785*				58,270*
Total funds recommended for approval at this meeting (US \$)		Project costs						129,000	129,000
		Support costs						13,170	13,170

* Includes funds approved for the second tranche for UNEP on the understanding that the Treasurer would transfer them to UNEP only after the Secretariat had confirmed that the country had implemented the commitments listed in decision 88/54(e); these funds were transferred to UNEP in October 2026 following confirmation of those commitments by the Secretariat.

Secretariat's recommendation:	Blanket approval
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. On behalf of the Government of Qatar, UNIDO as the lead implementing agency has submitted a request for funding for the third and final tranche of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP), at a total cost of US \$142,170, consisting of US \$60,000, plus agency support costs of US \$4,200, for UNIDO and US \$69,000, plus agency support costs of US \$8,970, for UNEP.² The submission includes a progress report on the implementation of the second tranche, the verification report on HCFC consumption for 2022 to 2025, and the tranche implementation plan for 2026 to 2027.

Report on HCFC consumption

2. The Government of Qatar reported a consumption of 28.23 ODP tonnes of HCFCs in 2025, which is 68 per cent below the country's HCFC baseline for compliance. The 2021–2025 HCFC consumption is shown in table 1.

Table 1. HCFC consumption in 2021–2025 in Qatar (Article 7 data)

HCFC	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Baseline
Metric tonnes (mt)						
HCFC-22	1,027.15	1,024.96	1,026.80	726.69	513.32	1,335.50
HCFC-123	0.00	3.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.40
HCFC-141b	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.24
HCFC-142b	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	195.90
Total (mt)	1,027.15	1,028.56	1,026.80	726.69	513.32	1,553.04
ODP tonnes						
HCFC-22	56.49	56.37	56.47	39.97	28.23	73.45
HCFC-123	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.33
HCFC-141b	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.58
HCFC-142b	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.73
Total (ODP tonnes)	56.49	56.44	56.47	39.97	28.23	86.90

3. HCFCs have been used exclusively to service refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) equipment following the phase-out of the extruded polystyrene manufacturing sector under stage I of the HPMP. Consumption of HCFC-22, which is used mainly to service split-type residential air-conditioning (AC) units, remained steady between 2021 and 2023 and decreased in 2024 and further in 2025, in line with the reductions in the import quotas issued by the Government. The alternatives being introduced in residential AC are R-410A and HFC-32, while alternatives suitable for high-ambient-temperature (HAT) conditions are not yet widely available for other applications. HCFC-123, which is used intermittently to service chillers, was last imported in 2022. There has been no consumption of HCFC-141b, whether pure or contained in imported pre-blended polyols, after 2020, or of HCFC-142b after 2018.

Country programme implementation report

4. The HCFC consumption data provided by the Government of Qatar in its country programme implementation report for 2025 is consistent with the data reported under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol.

Verification report

5. The verification report confirmed that the Government was implementing a licensing and quota system for HCFC imports and exports and that the total consumption of HCFCs reported under Article 7 of the Montreal Protocol for 2022 to 2025 was correct (as shown in table 1 above). The verification concluded

² As per the letter of 6 October 2026 from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change of Qatar to UNIDO.

that Qatar was in compliance with the targets specified in its Agreement with the Executive Committee; that the procedures of the licensing system had been properly followed and the import licensing system was functioning well, including through the electronic licensing (e-licensing) system; that customs data were sufficient and reliable; and that importers reported their imports to the national ozone unit (NOU) on a quarterly basis. The verification report provided an update on the implementation of the recommendations of the previous report, discussed in paragraph 21.

Progress report on the implementation of the second tranche of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan

6. At its 93rd meeting, the Executive Committee approved the second tranche of stage II of the HPMP on the understanding that the funds approved for UNEP (US \$144,500, plus agency support costs of US \$18,785) would only be transferred by the Treasurer after the Secretariat had confirmed that the country had implemented the commitments listed in decision 88/54(e).³ The last of the measures adopted by the Government to implement those commitments was issued on 5 October 2026, and on 7 October 2026 the Secretariat requested the Treasurer to transfer to UNEP the funds approved for the second tranche.

Legal framework

7. Qatar's ratification of the Kigali Amendment is almost complete, pending approval by the Council of Ministers. The country's e-licensing system has been monitoring the import and export of HFCs since 2021, and the HFC licensing and quota system will become fully operational following ratification.

8. The Government reported that the following measures had been adopted to implement the commitments listed in decision 88/54(e)(i), (ii), and (iii):

- (a) A ban on disposable refrigerant cylinders: On 5 February 2026, the Council of Ministers approved the decisions of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MECC) banning the import and use of disposable refrigerant cylinders and the import and use of HCFC-141b contained in pre-blended polyols, noting that the import of HCFC-141b contained in pre-blended polyols had already been banned as of 1 January 2020;
- (b) A mandatory certification scheme for RAC technicians: Labour Law No. 9 of 2026, issued on 25 June 2026 following coordination among MECC, the Ministry of Labour, and Qatar University, requires all workers engaged in technical and skilled trades, including technicians servicing RAC equipment, to obtain training and examination certificates from training centres accredited by the Ministry of Labour; certification has therefore been mandatory for all RAC servicing technicians since that date;
- (c) Mandatory good servicing practices for RAC technicians: On 5 October 2026, MECC issued an official notification instructing its inspectors to apply an updated field inspection checklist during routine and unannounced inspections under Law No. 19 of 2015, which implements the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) unified regulation on ODS. The updated checklist requires the following:
 - (i) Prohibition of the intentional venting of refrigerants, and mandatory use of certified recovery equipment in all servicing interventions;
 - (ii) Mandatory use of electronic leak detectors; prohibition of the use of open flames, and of refrigerants, for leak and pressure testing; use of oxygen-free dry nitrogen for pressure testing, purging, and tightness testing; passing of dry nitrogen at a low

³ Decision 93/36

flow rate during copper pipe welding to minimize internal oxidation; and use of low-loss fittings and valves to prevent refrigerant emissions while servicing;

- (iii) Filling of recovery cylinders within the permitted limit (typically 80 per cent of capacity), labelling of cylinders with the type and condition of the refrigerant and traceability data, and storage of cylinders in areas with controlled access, protection from mechanical hazards, and ventilation appropriate for the type of refrigerant;
- (iv) Record-keeping by servicing facilities, including refrigerant tracking records, service logs, safety data sheets, and mass-balance records, and availability of portable recovery and leak-detection tools for mobile service teams operating at customer sites; and
- (v) For systems with a cooling capacity exceeding 15 tons of refrigeration (TR), periodic electronic leak checks in accordance with a mandatory schedule, and a dedicated service log for each piece of equipment.

9. The e-licensing system was established in 2020 and updated in 2023 to align with local requirements and procedures, improve its efficiency and user-friendliness, and extend it to HFCs and other non-ODS substances, and the staff of the NOU and enforcement officers were trained in the use of the updated system. The system will be further updated following the ratification of the Kigali Amendment.

10. Coordination meetings were held with stakeholders in the RAC sector on the quota system and the phase-out schedule. The Harmonized System (HS) codes for substances controlled under the Montreal Protocol were updated and adopted by the GCC countries as of 1 January 2025; cooperation with the Customs Authority continued on the updated HS codes and on the procedures for ODS shipments in transit; and the NOU participated in the first meeting of experts from the GCC countries on the unified system for substances controlled under the Montreal Protocol, held in Riyadh.

11. UNIDO delivered five refrigerant identifiers to MECC, and 30 environmental inspectors (including three women) were trained online in their use and maintenance. The training workshop for 20 newly recruited customs officers, the meeting on regional enforcement cooperation, and the finalization of the legal framework for reclamation centres, which remains in draft form, have not yet been implemented. The verification report indicated that 284 officials, including all 45 environmental inspectors and a number of customs officers, had been trained over the past three years in the control of imports of HCFCs and HFCs.

Refrigeration servicing sector

12. The training and certification of 80 technicians in good servicing practices, including the safe handling of flammable refrigerants, planned for the second tranche, has not yet started, owing to the delayed transfer of funding for UNEP from the Treasurer. Under the first tranche, the delayed training of 20 trainers and 40 technicians, and certification of 40 technicians, was completed.

13. Servicing tools and equipment were delivered to two training centres; the associated hands-on training, which was delayed due to ongoing conflict in the region, is expected to take place in December 2026. As the Government considered that two equipped training centres provided sufficient capacity to meet current training needs, the third set of equipment that had been planned was not procured, and it is proposed to reallocate the remaining funds under this activity to support the establishment and operationalization of the reclamation centre, as further discussed in paragraph 33.

Technical assistance

14. UNIDO provided the business model and recommendations for the establishment of the reclamation centre and, together with the NOU, undertook visits to reclamation facilities in Kuwait and Poland to inform the selection of a host enterprise. Following a call for interest, introductory workshops for interested companies, and an evaluation of the bids by a national team, a host enterprise was selected. The delivery, installation, and commissioning of the equipment, and the training of personnel, are expected to be completed by the end of 2027.

15. The activities to be implemented by UNEP, namely, awareness-raising on low-global-warming-potential (GWP) alternatives in collaboration with RAC associations, the update of standards and codes, and the development of standard operating procedures for the handling of flammable refrigerants in servicing workshops, have not started.⁴

Project implementation and monitoring

16. The NOU, under MECC, is responsible for the overall coordination and monitoring of the project, with the support of UNIDO and UNEP through missions and regular communication. Against the US \$45,000 approved for project monitoring activities for UNIDO under the first and second tranches (US \$20,000 under the first tranche and US \$25,000 under the second tranche), US \$53,000 was disbursed for the verification of HCFC consumption (US \$18,000), consultants (US \$20,000), and travel (US \$15,000).

Level of fund disbursement

17. As of October 2026, of the US \$589,000 approved so far, US \$322,500 (55 per cent) had been disbursed (US \$183,000 for UNIDO and US \$139,500 for UNEP), as shown in table 2. Of the balance of US \$266,500, US \$144,500 corresponds to the funds approved for UNEP under the second tranche that were transferred by the Treasurer in October 2026, in line with decision 93/36; and the remaining US \$122,000 for UNIDO will be disbursed in 2026 and 2027.

Table 2. Financial report of stage II of the HPMP for Qatar (US \$)

Agency	First tranche		Second tranche		Total		
	Approved	Disbursed	Approved	Disbursed	Approved	Disbursed	Balance
UNIDO	205,000	104,000	100,000	79,000	305,000	183,000	122,000
UNEP	139,500	139,500*	144,500**	0	284,000	139,500	144,500
Total	344,500	243,500	244,500	79,000	589,000	322,500	266,500
Disbursement rate (%)	71		32		55		

* Including US \$4,600 that was returned to the Multilateral Fund at the 97th meeting.

** The Treasurer released these funds to UNEP in October 2026 in line with decision 93/36.

Implementation plan for the third and final tranche of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan

18. The following activities will be implemented between December 2026 and December 2027:

(a) Legal framework:

(i) Review of the functionality of the e-licensing system and implementation of any necessary enhancements; one training workshop for local staff; and orientation

⁴ Funding under the second tranche was only transferred by the Treasurer to UNEP in October 2026, in line with decision 93/36.

sessions for importers and local authorities to promote the use of the system (UNEP) (US \$5,000, plus funds from the previous tranche);

- (ii) One stakeholder meeting on the update of ODS policies and regulations to ensure the sustainability of the phase-out and provide incentives to promote low-GWP alternatives, and coordination with stakeholders to advance the implementation of the certification scheme and good servicing practices for RAC technicians (UNEP) (US \$5,000, plus funds from the previous tranche);
 - (iii) One training workshop for the Customs Authority and other Government entities to enhance the control of ODS in goods entering Qatar (UNEP) (US \$4,000, plus funds from the previous tranche);
 - (iv) One training workshop for 20 newly recruited customs officers on the Montreal Protocol and the control of HCFCs, including risk profiling, and one meeting with the NOUs of the GCC countries to strengthen regional and cross-border enforcement cooperation (UNEP) (funds from the previous tranche);
 - (v) Finalization and adoption of the legal framework for recovery, recycling, and reclamation centres, including a proposal for financial incentives (UNEP) (funds from the previous tranche);
- (b) Refrigeration servicing:
- (i) Training of 160 technicians in good servicing practices, including the safe handling of flammable refrigerants (UNEP) (US \$30,000, plus funds from the previous tranche);
 - (ii) Continued implementation of the certification programme, in conjunction with the technician training, to certify 160 technicians, and support for the operationalization of the national certification system (UNEP) (US \$25,000, plus funds from the previous tranche);
 - (iii) One workshop for the RAC sector and one meeting with enterprises in the sector to strengthen the RAC industry and its associations (UNEP) (funds from the previous tranche);
- (c) Technical assistance:
- (i) Procurement, installation, and commissioning of equipment for one high-capacity reclamation centre, and training of personnel (UNIDO) (US \$35,000, plus funds from previous tranches);
 - (ii) Hands-on training at the two training centres on the use of the RAC servicing tools and equipment delivered under the second tranche (UNIDO) (funds from the previous tranche);
 - (iii) Dissemination of information on emerging technologies in collaboration with RAC associations, and an awareness campaign on the HCFC phase-out and long-term alternatives, including the production and distribution of printed materials (UNEP) (funds from the previous tranche);
 - (iv) Review and update of the standards and codes relating to the ODS sector, update of the national standards for RAC products in line with the road map for the GCC

countries, and awareness-raising on the use of standards (UNEP) (funds from the previous tranche);

- (v) Development of standard operating procedures for servicing workshops on the handling of flammable and hazardous refrigerants, and related awareness-raising (UNEP) (funds from the previous tranche); and
- (d) Project management and monitoring (UNIDO) (US \$25,000): Includes verification of HCFC consumption (US \$10,000), and monitoring and reporting (US \$15,000).

SECRETARIAT'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION

COMMENTS

Report on HCFC consumption and verification

19. At the 93rd meeting, the Secretariat had sought to better understand why consumption of HCFC-22 for servicing had remained fairly steady since 2019 notwithstanding the activities undertaken under the HPMP and the changing technology landscape. UNEP had clarified that the high demand in the servicing sector was due to the HAT conditions in the country, the high rate of development and urbanization, and the limited availability of alternatives suitable for the country, but emphasized that the country was committed to meeting the targets specified in its Agreement with the Executive Committee.

20. UNIDO explained that the demand for HCFC-22 for servicing continues to be managed through the national licensing and quota system, strengthened regulatory measures, and the gradual transition to available alternative technologies, noting that HCFC-22 consumption has decreased by 50 per cent between 2023 and 2025. The mandatory good servicing practices, including leak checks and equipment logs, are being enforced to minimize refrigerant losses, and the establishment of the reclamation centre is expected to further support the servicing of existing equipment and reduce dependence on virgin HCFC-22, contributing to continued compliance in 2026 and 2027.

21. The verification report provided an update on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the 2020–2022 verification report discussed at the 93rd meeting. UNIDO confirmed that the establishment of an electronic database for the registration and monitoring of RAC equipment, certified RAC servicing technicians and enterprises, and equipment operators will be implemented under stage III of the HPMP, and that mandatory reporting on recovered, recycled, and reclaimed refrigerants will be enacted once the reclamation scheme is in place and before the end of 2027. UNIDO will include a report on the quantity and type of recovered, recycled, and reclaimed refrigerants as part of the final progress report on the implementation of stage II of the HPMP or when submitting stage III, whichever comes first.

Progress report on the implementation of the second tranche of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan

Legal framework

22. The Government of Qatar has issued HCFC import quotas for 2026 in accordance with the Montreal Protocol control targets.

Implementation of the commitments listed in decision 88/54(e)

23. At its 97th meeting, the Executive Committee noted a progress report on the implementation of the commitments listed in decision 88/54(e)(i), (ii), and (iii), which indicated that the commitments were expected to be implemented by the end of 2026 (decision 97/22). The request for the third tranche was

submitted to the 97th and 98th meetings and was withdrawn on both occasions, as not all the commitments had been implemented; at the time of the 98th meeting, the mandatory certification scheme and the mandatory good servicing practices for RAC technicians remained outstanding.

24. With the approval by the Council of Ministers of the ban on the import and use of disposable refrigerant cylinders on 5 February 2026, the issuance of Labour Law No. 9 of 2026 on 25 June 2026, and the notification by MECC of the updated field inspection checklist on 5 October 2026, the Government reported that all the commitments listed in decision 88/54(e) had been implemented, and requested that the funds approved for UNEP under the second tranche be released.

25. At the 97th meeting, the ban on disposable cylinders was expected to be implemented gradually, starting with a ban on the import of new disposable cylinders and followed by a ban on disposable cylinders entering into the market. UNEP confirmed that a complete ban on both the import and the entry/use of disposable refrigerant cylinders in the domestic market was in effect following its approval on 5 February 2026.

26. With regard to the mandatory good servicing practices, the Secretariat requested a summary of the requirements incorporated in the updated inspection checklist and clarification of the equipment to which they apply. UNEP explained that the prohibition of venting, the mandatory recovery of refrigerants, the leak-detection and pressure-testing practices, and the record-keeping requirements for servicing facilities apply to all servicing interventions, while the periodic leak-check schedules and the individual equipment service logs apply specifically to systems exceeding 15 TR.

27. Further, leak checks on such systems (above 15 TR) must be undertaken by certified technicians using calibrated electronic leak-detection equipment, in accordance with a mandatory schedule; and a dedicated log is required for each piece of equipment recording the service date, the type and quantity of refrigerant charged or recovered, the results of leak checks, the name and licence number of the technician, and the destination of any recovered refrigerant. Regarding the recovery cylinders, those cylinders must carry labels indicating the type and condition of the refrigerant and traceability data; while standard labels are currently used, the use of QR codes to facilitate electronic tracking and record-keeping could be explored in the future.

28. UNEP explained that the checklist is an administrative control tool issued under the existing legislative authority of MECC: under Law No. 19 of 2015 and Decree-Law No. 30 of 2002 (the Environmental Protection Law), MECC and its inspection and control section are empowered to establish, update and enforce inspection criteria and environmental conditions in all regulated sectors, and no new ministerial decision or by-law was therefore required. The notification of 5 October 2026, issued by the Acting Director of the Chemicals and Hazardous Waste Department of MECC, is the administrative instrument instructing inspectors to apply the good servicing practice requirements during routine and unannounced inspections; copies of the notification letter and of the updated checklist were provided to the Secretariat. MECC further confirmed that all the measures included in the checklist are required as part of the inspection process and are operational with immediate effect.

29. On the basis of the documentation and clarifications provided, the Secretariat confirmed that the Government had implemented the commitments listed in decision 88/54(e) and, accordingly, requested the Treasurer to transfer to UNEP the funds approved for the second tranche, in line with decision 93/36. The funds were released in October 2026.

Technical assistance

30. At the 93rd meeting, the reclamation centre had been expected to be operational by December 2024. As of October 2026, only US \$9,000 of the US \$150,000 allocated to the centre under the first tranche had been disbursed; the legal framework for the management of the centre remained in draft form; and the

delivery, installation, and commissioning of the equipment were now expected by the end of 2027, coinciding with the date of completion of stage II.

31. UNIDO explained that the delay resulted from the time required to complete the technical groundwork, benchmark against existing reclamation centres (including through visits to centres in Kuwait in December 2025 and Poland in January 2026), and develop a sustainable business model suited to the conditions in Qatar before launching the bidding process. A host enterprise was selected in October 2026 following an evaluation of bids by a national team. Further, the supplier bidding process was completed and technical evaluations are being conducted; the procurement of the equipment will be initiated once evaluations are complete, with delivery, installation, commissioning, and training expected by the fourth quarter of 2027. The sustainability of the centre will be supported by its business model and by the regulatory framework, including the mandatory good servicing practices, equipment logs, and technician certification, which are expected to provide a steady supply of recovered refrigerant.

32. A draft decision on the enforcement of refrigerant recycling and reclamation and on the framework for reclamation centres was developed under the first tranche. The Government confirmed its commitment to adopt and implement formal regulatory provisions requiring reporting on recovery, recycling, and reclamation by 31 December 2027.

33. UNIDO reported that equipment had been procured for two training centres rather than the three originally planned and proposed to reallocate the remaining balance of US \$14,750 to support the implementation of the recovery, recycling, and reclamation scheme; based on the current needs and implementation conditions in Qatar, UNIDO and the Government consider that the establishment and equipping of two training centres provides sufficient capacity to support the country's current training needs. UNIDO further clarified that the reallocated funds would be used to procure additional equipment for the reclamation centre, in line with the identified technical needs, to address limitations in the available budget and support the centre's technical capacity. The reallocation is consistent with the flexibility provided to the country in paragraph 8 of the Agreement between the country and the Executive Committee, and the Secretariat considers that the successful implementation of the recovery, recycling, and reclamation scheme would substantially assist the country and, therefore, supports this proposal.

Implementation plan for the third and final tranche of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan

34. Noting the delays in implementation, the Secretariat enquired whether it might be prudent to extend the date of completion of stage II to 31 December 2028. UNIDO indicated that an extension was not necessary, as all the key regulatory measures were in place, the procurement for the reclamation centre was advanced and the training equipment had been delivered, and that the activities under the third tranche were expected to be completed by 31 December 2027.

Gender policy implementation

35. In line with decisions 84/92(d) and 90/48(c), the Government, UNIDO, and UNEP continued to encourage the participation of women in the activities supported by the HPMP and to track such participation; three of the 30 environmental inspectors trained in the use of refrigerant identifiers during the second tranche were women. During the implementation of the third tranche, the NOU will seek the views of stakeholders on integrating relevant indicators into the planning, implementation, and reporting of each component; encourage balanced participation in training and capacity-building activities; and include sessions on gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment in training workshops and meetings. UNIDO and UNEP will continue to collect disaggregated data and to report on the experiences gained and the challenges faced.

Completion of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan

36. UNIDO has confirmed that stage II for Qatar will be completed on 31 December 2027, as established in paragraph 14 of the Agreement. The Government plans to submit stage III of its HPMP to the 100th meeting.

Sustainability of the HCFC phase-out and assessment of risks

37. The HCFC phase-out will be sustained through the enforcement of the licensing and quota system, including the e-licensing system; the ban on the import of HCFC-based products and equipment in place since November 2022; the ban on the import of HCFC-141b, pure and contained in pre-blended polyols, in place since 1 January 2020; the ban on disposable refrigerant cylinders; the mandatory certification of RAC technicians; the inspection of good servicing practices by MECC; the continued training of customs officers and technicians; and the establishment and operation of the reclamation centre.

38. The main risks relate to the delays in the training and certification of technicians and in the establishment of the reclamation centre; the limited time remaining to complete the activities under the second and third tranches; the enforcement of the recently adopted measures; and the situation in the region, which caused difficulties in importing HCFCs and HFCs through seaports in early 2026 and delayed some training activities. To mitigate these risks, UNIDO, UNEP, and the NOU will closely monitor the regional situation and coordinate activities with the national authorities in line with applicable United Nations security guidance; hold meetings and consultations remotely and adjust implementation schedules where necessary; and closely monitor procurement and equipment delivery, considering alternative arrangements where needed to minimize delays.

Conclusion

39. The country was in compliance with the maximum allowable consumption levels specified in its Agreement with the Executive Committee for 2022 to 2025, as confirmed by the verification report, and has an enforceable licensing and quota system for HCFCs. The level of disbursement of the second tranche is 32 per cent, and the overall level of disbursement is 55 per cent. During the implementation of the second tranche, the Government implemented the commitments listed in decision 88/54(e)(i), (ii), and (iii), which has allowed the transfer of the funds approved for UNEP under that tranche; refrigerant identifiers were delivered and environmental inspectors trained in their use; two training centres were equipped; and preparations for the establishment of the reclamation centre advanced, including the selection of a host enterprise. While the activities to be implemented by UNEP under the second tranche have yet to start and the establishment of the reclamation centre has been delayed, UNIDO and UNEP have confirmed that all the remaining activities are expected to be completed by 31 December 2027. The activities planned under the third tranche, in particular the training and certification of technicians and the establishment of the reclamation centre, will support the enforcement of the recently adopted measures and help the country to sustain its HCFC consumption targets.

RECOMMENDATION

40. The Fund Secretariat recommends that the Executive Committee:

(a) Note:

- (i) The progress report on the implementation of the second tranche of stage II of the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) for Qatar;
- (ii) That the Government of Qatar has implemented the commitments listed in decision 88/54(e), and that the funds approved for UNEP under the second tranche

of stage II of the HPMP, in the amount of US \$144,500, plus agency support costs of US \$18,785, were subsequently transferred to UNEP, in line with decision 93/36;

- (iii) The commitment of the Government of Qatar to adopt and implement, by 31 December 2027, regulatory provisions requiring reporting on recovered, recycled and reclaimed refrigerants;
 - (iv) That UNIDO will include, as part of the final progress report on the implementation of stage II of the HPMP or the submission of stage III of the HPMP, whichever comes first, a report on the quantity and type of refrigerant recovered, recycled and reclaimed in the country; and
- (b) Request the Government of Qatar, UNIDO and UNEP to submit a progress report on the implementation of the work programmes associated with the final tranche and the project completion report to the second meeting of the Executive Committee in 2028.

41. The Fund Secretariat further recommends blanket approval of the third and final tranche of stage II of the HPMP for Qatar and the corresponding 2026–2027 tranche implementation plan at the funding levels shown in the table below.

	Project title	Project funding (US \$)	Support costs (US \$)	Implementing agency
(a)	HCFC phase-out management plan (stage II, third tranche)	60,000	4,200	UNIDO
(b)	HCFC phase-out management plan (stage II, third tranche)	69,000	8,970	UNEP