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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
Ninetieth Meeting
Montreal, 20-23 June 2022
Item 8(b) of the provisional agenda¹

TRANCHE SUBMISSION DELAYS**Introduction**

1. Pursuant to decision 47/50(d),² the Secretariat has prepared the present document. It presents actions taken in response to decisions on tranche submission delays adopted at the 88th meeting; and an analysis of each of the tranches that were due but were not submitted to the 90th meeting and the tranches that were submitted but subsequently withdrawn during the project review process. It also provides an overview of the reasons for the delays and the impact on compliance with the countries' obligations under the Montreal Protocol, and the Secretariat's recommendation.

I. Follow-up to decisions taken on tranche submission delays at the 88th meeting

2. At the 88th meeting, 21³ of the 41 countries that had been scheduled to submit tranche requests, had not done so on time, representing a non-submission rate of 51 per cent. Subsequently, the Executive Committee *inter alia* requested the Secretariat to send letters to the relevant Governments regarding the decisions on tranche submission delays contained in Annex IX to the report of the 88th meeting (decision 88/33(b)).

3. Pursuant to decision 88/33(b), the Secretariat sent letters to the Governments of 24 Article 5 countries to urge the submission of the next tranche of their HCFC phase-out management plans (HPMPs). As a result, the Governments of Argentina,⁴ Bangladesh,⁵ Costa Rica,⁶ Cote d'Ivoire,⁷

¹ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/90/1

² The Executive Committee decided that a separate sub-agenda item on delays in the submission of annual tranches and disbursement of funds for tranches and obligations should be included for future meetings.

³ Excluding three countries (Mexico, Mozambique, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)), whose tranche requests were submitted to the 88th meeting but were subsequently withdrawn.

⁴ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/90/18

⁵ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/90/20

⁶ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/90/24

⁷ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/90/25

Equatorial Guinea,⁸ Grenada,⁹ Iran (Islamic Republic of),¹⁰ Mexico,¹¹ Mozambique,¹² and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) submitted respective tranches of their HPMPs to the 90th meeting.

4. However, the Governments of Algeria, Barbados, Burundi, the Congo, Dominica, Guyana, Haiti, Jordan, Mali, Saint Kitts and Nevis, South Africa, South Sudan, Suriname, and Thailand did not submit their tranche requests.

II. Analysis of tranches not submitted to the 90th meeting

5. Twenty-seven activities associated with tranches of HPMPs for 20 countries including those in paragraph 4, at a total value of US \$6,106,138 (including agency support costs), due for submission to the 90th meeting were not submitted, as shown in Annex I to the present document.¹³

6. In addition, the second tranche of stage II of the HPMP for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, amounting to US \$615,250 (including agency support costs), was submitted to the 90th meeting, but subsequently withdrawn by the relevant implementing agency during the project review process. This tranche is also included in Annex I to the present report.

III. Reason for delays and impact on compliance

7. The reasons for delays in the submission of tranches of HPMPs include: constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic (16); Government decisions, and/or endorsements, and/or changes in the national ozone unit, and/or structural change (10); lack of verification report (8); disbursement below the 20 per cent threshold of approved funds for the previous tranche (7); internal or external difficulties (5); sufficient funds from previous tranche approved (4); submission of progress and financial reports (3); political situation or security issues (3); lead agency not ready for submission (2); and enterprise delays (1). For the delays in the submissions, more than one reason may apply.

8. As reported by the relevant implementing agencies, delays in the submission of tranches that were past due would have no impact on compliance with the countries' obligations under the Montreal Protocol. All outstanding tranches are expected to be submitted to the 91st meeting, except for Algeria, Dominica, and Haiti, which may be submitted to the 92nd meeting.

IV. Recommendations made by the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS)

9. At the 88th meeting, in the context of the audit of the Multilateral Fund by the OIOS, the Executive Committee requested the Fund Secretariat, the Treasurer and the bilateral and implementing agencies to complete implementation of the recommendation made by OIOS and to include information in that regard in relevant meeting documents (decision 88/1(d)).

10. In line with the decision and in response to the recommendation on the need for more effective analysis of root causes for delays in project implementation and for taking corrective action to address the systemic issues, the implementing agencies, together with the Secretariat have identified both operational and systemic issues as the root causes of the recurrent reasons for project implementation delays. The Secretariat has taken immediate actions by requesting implementing agencies to provide, when submitting information for the 90th and future meetings on tranche submission delays, detailed information on the underlying causes for delays and specific actions being taken with relevant timelines to address the delays.

⁸ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/90/26

⁹ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/90/27

¹⁰ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/90/28

¹¹ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/90/32

¹² UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/90/33

¹³ For comparison, at the 88th meeting, 28 tranches for 21 countries that were due were not submitted.

Implementing agencies have reported to have established robust internal monitoring and support systems to ensure that project implementation is closely monitored to minimize the number of projects with delays and have also adopted measures to avoid reoccurrence.

V. Recommendation

11. The Executive Committee may wish:

- (a) To note:
 - (i) The report on tranche submission delays contained in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/90/12;
 - (ii) The information on tranche submission delays under HCFC phase-out management plans (HPMPs) submitted by UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO and the World Bank;
 - (iii) That 17 out of 44 activities (13 out of 33 countries) related to tranches of HPMPs due for submission at the 90th meeting had been submitted on time;
 - (iv) That relevant implementing agencies had indicated that the late submission of the tranches of HPMPs due for submission at the first meeting of 2022 would have no impact on compliance with the Montreal Protocol, and that there was no indication that any of the countries concerned were in non-compliance with the Montreal Protocol control measures; and
- (b) To request the Secretariat to send letters to the relevant Governments regarding the decisions on tranche submission delays contained in Annex I to the present report.

Annex I

TRANCHES NOT SUBMITTED TO THE 90TH MEETING

Country	Agency	Tranche	Amount (with support costs) (US \$)	Reason for delay/withdrawal	Recommendations
Albania (Stage II)	UNEP	2022	44,635	COVID-19 pandemic disruption/sufficient funds from previous tranche approved	Noting the delays due to constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and that the overall disbursement rate of the first (2020) tranche of stage II of the HPMP was below the 20 per cent disbursement threshold, and urging the Government of Albania to work with UNEP and UNIDO so that the second (2022) tranche of stage II could be submitted to the 91 st meeting, on the understanding that the 20 per cent disbursement threshold for funding of the previous tranche had been achieved.
	UNIDO	2022	88,563	20 per cent disbursement threshold/internal or external difficulties	
Algeria (Stage I)	UNIDO	2014 and 2017	197,988	Government decisions/endorsements/changes in the NOU/lack of verification report/enterprise delays	Noting that the mandatory verification of HCFC consumption targets has not been completed and urging the Government of Algeria to work with UNIDO to complete the verification so that the third (2014) and fourth (2017) tranches of stage I of the HPMP could be submitted to the 92 nd meeting with a revised plan of action to take into account the reallocation of the 2014 and subsequent tranches.
Barbados (Stage I)	UNEP	2020	31,640	COVID-19 pandemic disruption/lack of verification report/Government decisions/endorsements/changes in the NOU	Noting the delays due to constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and that the mandatory verification on HCFC consumption targets had not been completed, and urging the Government of Barbados to work with UNEP to complete the verification so that the fourth (2020) tranche of stage I of the HPMP could be submitted to the 91 st meeting with a revised plan of action to take into account the reallocation of the 2020 tranche.
Burundi (Stage I)	UNEP	2020	37,516	COVID-19 pandemic disruption/lack of verification report/Government decisions/endorsements/changes in the NOU	Noting the delays due to constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and that the mandatory verification on HCFC consumption targets had not been completed, and urging the Government of Burundi to work with UNEP to complete the verification so that the fourth (2020) tranche of stage I of the HPMP could be submitted to the 91 st meeting with a revised plan of action to take into account the reallocation of the 2020 tranche.
Congo (the) (Stage I)	UNEP	2020	39,550	Submission of progress and financial reports/internal or external difficulties	Noting the delays due to the non-submission of the progress and financial reports, and urging the Government of the Congo to work with UNEP to submit the required progress and financial reports so that the fifth (2020) tranche of stage I of the HPMP could be submitted to the 91 st meeting with a revised plan of action to take into account the reallocation of the 2020 tranche.

Country	Agency	Tranche	Amount (with support costs) (US \$)	Reason for delay/withdrawal	Recommendations
Dominica (Stage I)	UNEP	2020	18,588	COVID-19 pandemic disruption/ Government decisions/endorsements/ changes in the NOU/submission of progress and financial reports/20 per cent disbursement threshold	Noting the delays due to the non-submission of the progress and financial reports and that the overall disbursement rate of the second (2019) tranche of the HPMP was below the 20 per cent disbursement threshold, and urging the Government of Dominica to submit the required progress and financial reports and to work with UNEP so that the third (2020) tranche of stage I of the HPMP could be submitted to the 92 nd meeting with a revised plan of action to take into account the reallocation of the 2020 tranche, on the understanding that the 20 per cent disbursement threshold for funding of the previous tranche had been achieved.
Guyana (Stage II)	UNDP	2021	133,750	Lead agency not ready for submission	Noting the delays due to constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and that the mandatory verification on HCFC consumption targets had not been completed, and urging the Government of Guyana to work with UNEP to complete the verification and with UNDP and UNEP so that the third (2021) tranche of stage II of the HPMP could be submitted to the 91 st meeting with a revised plan of action to take into account the reallocation of the 2021 and subsequent tranches.
	UNEP	2021	51,415	COVID-19 pandemic disruption/lack of verification report/Government decisions/ endorsements/changes in the NOU	
Haiti (Stage I)	UNEP	2018 and 2020	127,556	COVID-19 pandemic disruption/lack of verification report/Government decisions/ endorsements/changes in the NOU/ internal or external difficulties	Noting the delays due to constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and that the mandatory verification on HCFC consumption targets had not been completed, and urging the Government of Haiti to work with UNEP to complete the verification so that the third (2018) and fourth (2020) tranches of stage I of the HPMP could be submitted to the 92 nd meeting with a revised plan of action to take into account the reallocation of the 2018 and subsequent tranches.
Jordan (Stage II)	World Bank	2021	572,157	COVID-19 pandemic disruption/20 per cent disbursement threshold	Noting the delays due constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and that the overall disbursement rate of the second (2018) tranche of the HPMP was below the 20 per cent disbursement threshold, and urging the Government of Jordan to work with UNIDO and the World Bank so that the third (2021) tranche of stage II of the HPMP could be submitted to the 91 st meeting with a revised plan of action to take into account the reallocation of the 2021 tranche, on the understanding that the 20 per cent disbursement threshold for funding of the previous tranche had been achieved.
	UNIDO	2021	71,085	Lead agency not ready for submission	
Mali (Stage I)	UNDP	2020	30,100	COVID-19 pandemic disruption/internal or external difficulties/political situation or security issues	Noting the delays due to constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and that the mandatory verification on HCFC consumption targets had not been completed, and urging the Government of Mali to work with UNEP to complete the verification, and with UNDP and UNEP so that the fifth (2020) tranche of stage I of the HPMP could be submitted to the 91 st meeting with a revised plan of action to take into account the reallocation of the 2020 tranche.
	UNEP	2020	31,640	Government decisions/endorsements/ changes in the NOU/lack of verification report/internal or external difficulties	

Country	Agency	Tranche	Amount (with support costs) (US \$)	Reason for delay/withdrawal	Recommendations
Montenegro (Stage II)	UNIDO	2022	294,250	COVID-19 pandemic disruption	Noting the delays due the constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and urging the Government of Montenegro to work with UNIDO so that the second (2022) tranche of stage II of the HPMP could be submitted to the 91 st meeting.
Saint Kitts and Nevis (Stage I)	UNEP	2020	19,097	COVID-19 pandemic disruption/lack of verification report/sufficient funds from previous tranche approved/submission of progress and financial reports/Government decisions/endorsements/changes in the NOU	Noting the delays due to the non-submission of the progress and financial reports and that the mandatory verification on HCFC consumption targets had not been completed, and urging the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis to submit the required progress and financial reports and to work with UNEP to complete the verification so that the third (2020) tranche of stage I of the HPMP could be submitted to the 91 st meeting with a revised plan of action to take into account the reallocation of the 2020 tranche.
Serbia (Stage II)	UNEP	2022	24,860	COVID-19 pandemic disruption/sufficient funds from previous tranche approved	Noting the delays due to constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and that the overall disbursement rate of the first (2020) tranche of stage II of the HPMP was below the 20 per cent disbursement threshold, and urging the Government of Serbia to work with UNEP and UNIDO so that the second (2022) tranche of stage II could be submitted to the 91 st meeting, on the understanding that the 20 per cent disbursement threshold for funding of the previous tranche had been achieved.
	UNIDO	2022	101,860	20 per cent disbursement threshold	
South Africa (Stage I)	UNIDO	2018	191,273	COVID-19 pandemic disruption/ Government decisions/endorsements/ changes in the NOU	Noting the delays due to constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and changes in the NOU, and urging the Government of South Africa to work with UNIDO so that the fifth (2018) tranche of stage I of the HPMP could be submitted to the 91 st meeting with a revised plan of action to take into account the reallocation of the 2018 tranche.
South Sudan (Stage I)	UNDP	2018 and 2020	98,100	Political situation or security issues	Noting the delays due to the constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the delay due to the political instability, and urging the Government of South Sudan to work with UNDP and UNEP so that the second (2018) and third (2020) tranches of stage I could be submitted to the 91 st meeting with a revised plan of action to take into account the reallocation of the 2018 and subsequent tranches.
	UNEP	2018 and 2020	113,000	COVID-19 pandemic disruption/political situation or security issues	
Suriname (Stage I)	UNEP	2020	15,255	COVID-19 pandemic disruption/lack of verification report	Noting the delays due to the constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and that the mandatory verification on HCFC consumption targets had not been completed, and urging the Government of Suriname to work with UNEP to complete the verification and with UNEP and UNIDO so that the fourth (2020) tranche of stage I of the HPMP could be submitted to the 91 st meeting with a revised plan of action to take into account the reallocation of the 2020 tranche.
	UNIDO	2020	9,810	Government decisions/endorsements/ changes in the NOU	

Country	Agency	Tranche	Amount (with support costs) (US \$)	Reason for delay/withdrawal	Recommendations
Syrian Arab Republic (Stage I)	UNEP	2022	467,548	COVID-19 pandemic disruption/ sufficient funds from previous tranche approved	Noting the delays due to the constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and urging the Government of Syrian Arab Republic to work with UNEP so that the second (2022) tranche of stage I of the HPMP could be submitted to the 91 st meeting.
Thailand (Stage II)	World Bank	2020	2,264,689	20 per cent disbursement threshold	Noting that the overall disbursement rate of the first (2018) tranche of stage II of the HPMP was below the 20 per cent disbursement threshold, and urging the Government of Thailand to work with the World Bank so that the second (2020) tranche of stage II could be submitted to the 91 st meeting with a revised plan of action to take into account the reallocation of the 2020 and subsequent tranches, on the understanding that the 20 per cent disbursement threshold for funding of the previous tranche had been achieved.
Turkey (Stage I)	UNIDO	2022	919,558	20 per cent disbursement threshold	Noting that the overall disbursement rate of the fourth (2019) tranche of stage I of the HPMP was below the 20 per cent disbursement threshold, and urging the Government of Turkey to work with UNIDO so that the fifth (2022) tranche of stage I could be submitted to the 91 st meeting, on the understanding that the 20 per cent disbursement threshold for funding of the previous tranche had been achieved.
Turkmenistan (Stage II)	UNIDO	2022	110,745	COVID-19 pandemic disruption/20 per cent disbursement threshold	Nothing the delays due constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and that the overall disbursement rate of the first (2020) tranche of stage II of the HPMP was below the 20 per cent disbursement threshold, and urging the Government of Turkmenistan to work with UNIDO so that the second (2022) tranche of stage II could be submitted to the 91 st meeting, on the understanding that the 20 per cent disbursement threshold for funding of the previous tranche had been achieved.
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (Stage II)	UNIDO	2019	615,250	Additional time required to address issues identified during the project review process	Noting that the second (2019) tranche of stage II of the HPMP submitted to the 90 th meeting had been withdrawn as additional time would be required to address issues identified during the review of the proposal, and urging the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to work with UNIDO to resubmit the second (2019) tranche to the 91 st meeting with a revised plan of action to take into account the reallocation of the 2019 and subsequent tranches.
Total			6,721,388		