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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF  
THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL  
Ninety-third Meeting  
Montreal, 15-19 December 2023  
Item 7(c) of the provisional agenda<sup>1</sup>

**2023 CONSOLIDATED PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT  
(Part II)**

**Introduction**

1. Pursuant to relevant decisions on project completion reports (PCRs), most recently decision 92/19(b), the lists containing outstanding PCRs due for 2023 were sent to bilateral and implementing agencies in July 2023 for the second consolidated report of the year to be submitted to the 93<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
2. In line with decision 92/19(b), the Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (SMEO) requested agencies to provide the reasons for not submitting the PCRs due for the 93<sup>rd</sup> meeting, where applicable. The causes did not differ from those reported in previous consolidated reports, related to customs, visa issues, political instability or temporary issues with global supply chain, causing delays in project completion.
3. In total 48 PCRs for multi-year agreement (MYA) projects, as listed in annex I to the present document, were submitted after the 92<sup>nd</sup> meeting within the agreed cut-off date for consideration at the 93<sup>rd</sup> meeting, of which 47 were related to HCFC phase-out management plans (HPMPs) and one was related to a chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) production project. The latter is the last pending project on CFCs funded by the Multilateral Fund for which the PCR was due. This final submission facilitates the closure of the online submission database for CFC PCR projects; it will be turned into a repository instead of a submission platform.
4. Six individual PCRs submitted for the 93<sup>rd</sup> meeting, as listed in annex II to the present document, comprised five reports for non-investment projects (four verification projects and one global chiller replacement project) and one for an investment project (conversion project).

<sup>1</sup> UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/93/1

## I. Summary of information from multi-year agreement project completion reports

### I.1 Overview of information from multi-year agreement project completion reports

5. Of the 294 MYA projects identified as completed in the 2022 progress report, bilateral and implementing agencies submitted 286 PCR's prior to the 93<sup>rd</sup> meeting, of which 242 were received prior to the 92<sup>nd</sup> meeting and 44 after, leaving eight outstanding PCR's, as shown in table 1. The eight outstanding PCR's are listed in annex III to the present document. In addition, there are 17 outstanding MYA PCR's due by decision that are listed in annex IV to the present document.

**Table 1. Overview of MYA PCR's**

| Agency       | Completed  | Received prior to the 92 <sup>nd</sup> meeting | Received after the 92 <sup>nd</sup> meeting | Outstanding |
|--------------|------------|--|---|-------------|
| Canada       | 3          | 3  | 0   | 0           |
| France       | 6          | 6  | 0   | 0           |
| Germany*     | 12         | 10   | 2   | 0           |
| Japan        | 1          | 1  | 0   | 0           |
| UNDP*        | 59         | 53   | 5   | 1           |
| UNEP*        | 112        | 72   | 35  | 5           |
| UNIDO        | 75         | 72   | 1   | 2           |
| World Bank   | 26         | 25   | 1   | 0           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>294</b> | <b>242</b>                                     | <b>44</b>                                   | <b>8</b>    |

\*In addition, UNDP submitted two MYA PCR's, UNEP submitted one MYA PCR, and Germany submitted one MYA PCR for projects completed after 2022.

6. Table 2 below reports on the aggregated funds disbursed, ozone-depleting substances (ODSs) phased out, and project completion delays in the 48 MYA projects for which PCR's have been received since the 92<sup>nd</sup> meeting, and which have been included in the present consolidated report for consideration at the 93<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

**Table 2. Overview of the budget, ODSs phased out and delays of MYA PCR's submitted after the 92<sup>nd</sup> meeting**

| Agency             | MYA funds (US \$) |                   | Consumption phase-out (ODP tonnes) |              | Production phase-out (ODP tonnes) |                | Average delays (months)* |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
|                    | Approved          | Disbursed         | Approved                           | Actual       | Approved                          | Actual         |                          |
| UNDP               | 646,899           | 635,797           | 8.9                                | 8.3          | 0.0                               | 0.0            | 6.07                     |
| Germany            | 1,633,818         | 1,601,145         | 14.3                               | 22.1         | 0.0                               | 0.0            | 10.13                    |
| IBRD               | 10,600,000        | 10,600,000        | 0.0                                | 0.0          | 3,020.0                           | 3,020.0        | -3.00                    |
| UNDP               | 10,943,102        | 9,172,029         | 182.7                              | 170.6        | 0.0                               | 0.0            | 4.05                     |
| UNEP               | 9,426,239         | 8,980,900         | 59.2                               | 30.0         | 0.0                               | 0.0            | 5.29                     |
| UNIDO              | 1,064,785         | 901,030           | 7.2                                | 6.8          | 0.0                               | 0.0            | 0.70                     |
| <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>34,314,843</b> | <b>31,890,901</b> | <b>272.3</b>                       | <b>237.8</b> | <b>3,020.0</b>                    | <b>3,020.0</b> | <b>5.19</b>              |

\* The total average is based on the total of 48 MYA PCR's received, as presented in annex I.

### I.2 Reasons for delays in multi-year agreement project implementation and actions taken

#### HCFC phase-out management plan

##### *Reasons for delays*

7. The agencies submitted 43 MYA PCR's for stage I and four PCR's for stage II of HPMPs. A variety of causes for project implementation delays were reported, including: (a) delayed signature of agreements due to internal arrangements and long administrative processes in some governments for tranche approvals; (b) the submission of the verification report was delayed by the time required to find an independent agency

to conduct the verification process, since government restricted private companies' access to its documents; (c) delays related to low disbursement of funds (e.g., issues with the local bank for fund transfer, government decisions and delays in the procurement process for some equipment, etc.); and (d) the COVID-19 pandemic and external factors (e.g., natural disasters) affected the physical implementation of capacity-building activities, including training of technicians, training of customs officers and public-awareness activities, thus prolonging the timeframe of activities' implementation.

8. In many cases, agencies reported delays in relation to enterprises and suppliers, such as delays in signing the agreement between the reclamation centre and the government due to technical issues. The economic situation in the country delayed enterprises' contribution in completing the conversions. Other agencies reported delays caused by the higher prices of ODS identifiers, low availability of hydrofluoroolefins (HFOs), high prices in the market and the difficulties with technical problems in handling these new substances.

9. In one case, weaknesses in project design and the subsequent revision led to the cancellation of activities relevant to the refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) sector in the country. In other cases, agencies reported the unforeseen technical difficulties in the availability, pricing and agreement preparation for the usage of HFO, that took more than the initial timeframe determined during the project design phase.

10. In relation to ODS legislation, one agency reported delays due to the presence of methyl bromide requiring clearance from the Ministry of Agriculture before proceeding with the ODS licencing system in the country. The process took three years, but a well-planned implementation approach was adopted to overcome the delay. In other cases, some concerns were raised by small and medium enterprises for the early adoption of the HFO technology because of the delay in issuing the regulations to ban the use of HCFC-141b in the foam sector.

11. Delays were also reported in reference to issues related to national ozone officers (NOOs)<sup>2</sup> which impacted on the delivery of activities. In some cases, the restructuring of the national ozone units (NOUs) delayed the processes for replacing the NOOs.

12. Some other delays were reported by bilateral and implementing agencies related to political instability and institutional changes within the government structure; and delays in getting licensing or approval from the relevant authorities for the import and use of flammable refrigerants and equipment.

#### *Actions taken to address the implementation delays*

13. The delays in tranche approvals were addressed by implementing agencies through improved communication and consecutive meetings with government representatives to resolve the administrative issues and expedite the approval process.

14. The difficulties regarding the preparation of the verification report were resolved following an official decision which allowed the implementing agency, on exceptional basis, to hire a registered company or an individual verification auditor.

15. To overcome issues linked to the low disbursement of funds, the agencies undertook closer consultations and support with the countries and with field missions, working with the NOOs to address the issues required to foster the signature of the agreement. They also worked with the NOOs and providers in the country to revise the work plans based on the enterprises' requirements.

16. To address enterprises' and suppliers' delays, implementing agencies conducted field missions and provided technical support to national ozone authorities and to NOOs. They conducted meetings with local

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<sup>2</sup> Such as high turnover, part time dedication only and, in a few cases, passing away.

enterprises with the support of international experts to collect information, arrange the delivery of equipment and rearrange the schedule and project work plan to mitigate the impact of the delays on project completion.

17. In the case of the adoption of HFOs, many meetings were held with suppliers and the concerned ministry in the country to guarantee procurement and finalize the agreements. Additionally, NOUs, governments, and the agencies held meetings with different enterprises from the polyurethane foam sector and explained the process to the stakeholders to build a common understanding. The actions taken helped reframe the timeline for HFO projects.

18. In reference to delays in the approval of ODS licensing systems, implementing agencies reported that NOUs conducted several capacity-building workshops for customs officers, and good servicing practices training workshops for RAC servicing technicians to enforce the quota and licensing system for HCFCs. This was complemented by regular awareness-raising activities to provide end users with technology-related information on HCFC alternatives.

19. To compensate for the delays in implementation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, alternative forms of meetings with stakeholders and training activities were implemented. The planned activities were redefined and, when possible, courses and workshops were redesigned to take place virtually. New communication methods were put in place, including video conferences, chats and cloud-based collaboration.

20. In order to facilitate the replacement of NOOs, implementing agencies conducted missions to the countries and followed up closely with governments to accelerate the appointment of new NOOs. This was complemented by delivering capacity-building programmes and continuous training for newly appointed personnel, to facilitate their integration to better support project implementation.

21. In cases of political and institutional change, the agencies provided support for the transition period to build bridges between previous and new responsible bodies, undertook dedicated missions and delivered hands-on training on Montreal Protocol objectives. In one case, in order to address the delay in receiving approval from the relevant authorities, a modification of activities was proposed by the country and subsequently approved by the Executive Committee.

### CFC production

#### *Reasons for delays and action taken*

22. The CFC production project achieved early CFC production phase-out, but some challenges occurred during the production of HCFC-22 as the main alternative substance of CFC-12. The agency reported that the same plants used for producing CFC were being used for producing HCFC-22 but lacked some raw materials. Thus, the unspent labour budget was allocated to monitoring enterprises' production and project management costs. In addition, the absence of recorded documentation at the plants required enterprises to impose a mandatory daily recording system and make it available for auditing purposes. These elements delayed the completion of the project and the preparation of the PCR.

## **I.3 Lessons learned**

### HCFC phase-out management plans

#### *Project implementation*

23. Lessons learned from project implementation highlight the essential role of collaboration and cooperation between the implementing agencies, the country's government and the private sector. Capacity

building as well as training and awareness-raising workshops contribute positively to compliance with the Montreal Protocol.

24. The sustainability and continuous achievement of HCFC phase-out can be ensured by reinforcing capacity-building programmes and providing equipment to RAC associations, technical RAC training schools and centres of excellence. Regular checks with customs officers and additional training and workshops for importers/customs brokers are needed to emphasize best practices and improve the data monitoring process.

25. Some other aspects could be improved for better implementation. Lessons reveal that the project implementation period should be extended to compensate for delays caused by administrative constraints.

26. It is also noted that the use of national experts helps ensure that projects are implemented with due consideration of the national context, in particular with regard to performing technical revisions of the required guidelines and standard procedures.

#### *Technical issues*

27. In relation to technical issues, in one case, the implementing agency reported that some servicing workshops lacked the proper tools and equipment to follow good practices due to the limited number of suppliers of servicing tools and equipment in the country. It is suggested that a set of criteria be developed to identify the most efficient and effective selection of training content, training location and equipment distribution to support HPMP implementation.

28. In other cases, it was reported that technicians prioritized equipment performance over the safe handling of flammable refrigerants and safety features. Continuous training on safety precautions to handle flammable refrigerants is needed.

29. One bilateral agency reported that some countries relied on containment to reduce refrigerant leaks from the equipment, to overcome the lack of replacement technologies and maintain ownership of the equipment.

#### *Alternative technology*

30. With regard to the availability of alternative technology, one agency reported that the advanced scientific and technical information that led to the availability of alternative technologies in the RAC sector contributed to the success of the project. It is suggested that more resources should be invested in innovative products.

31. In some countries, lessons learned referred to: the obstacles to market uptake and the high prices of alternative technologies; the absence of suppliers and the use of second-hand and old equipment as an alternative solution; the absence of safety standards and guidelines for flammable climate-friendly alternative technologies; and the different standards for approval depending on licencing-authority policies. The need to promote green procurement strategies to reduce the prices of low-GWP technologies was also mentioned.

#### *Capacity building*

32. In some countries, capacity-building programmes related to training and equipping refrigeration technicians, as well as enhancing the skills of customs officers, were instrumental to support the implementation of HCFC phase-out. Those training programmes increased the adoption of alternative technologies by many stakeholders. Additionally, strengthening the enforcement skills of customs officers operating at the checkpoints decreased the probability of illegal trade in controlled substances.

33. In one case, the agency reported that strengthening national technical skills proved successful during COVID-19 pandemic. It is suggested that further training be conducted on developing and using new technologies at the national level to reduce reliance on international experts.

34. In other cases, during customs-officer training, the NOUs played a vital role in establishing an informal communication mechanism with customs officers at the checkpoints to exchange information related to ODS control. Lessons showed the importance of adopting an integrated approach to facilitating collaboration with customs by appointing a focal point. In other cases, the existence of a memorandum of understanding between different authorities proved relevant in strengthening cooperation between national stakeholders.

35. Further capacity-building programmes in risk-profiling mechanisms will enable countries with the required profiling knowledge to alert the authorities regarding ODS imports and support customs officers in inspecting HCFC shipments. Training programmes could be enriched as part of activities in stage II of the HPMPs, including RAC training on codes of good practices to enable technicians to handle emerging technologies. Professional training is also required to improve refrigeration technicians' mastery of more advanced skills (e.g., training on the safe use of natural refrigerants, in particular hydrocarbons; using recycled HCFC-22; retrofitting, handling flammable refrigerants, etc.).

36. It could be advantageous to improve the educational programmes tackling the legal aspects of customs and environmental regulations by incorporating more information and studies on energy savings and climate change. The emerging new studies could generate new opportunities by encouraging cooperation between a country's government and private sector.

37. To maintain the sustainability of the training results under stage II of the HPMPs, it could prove useful to establish monitoring and enforcement schemes for the corresponding certification for RAC technicians. Previous experience in stage I of the HPMP in some countries showed that many technicians refused to attend voluntary training; it would therefore be relevant to put in place certification-system requirements that would make it mandatory for RAC technicians to attend training.

38. The identification of new adequate training facilities and trainers could also be useful for stage II of the HPMPs. Lessons have shown that in some countries the main obstacles to the uptake of low-GWP technologies were the absence of training centres with specialized equipment and training courses. This should be accompanied by the continuous improvement of the centres of excellence, established during the implementation of stage I of the HPMPs.

#### *Public awareness*

39. With regard to public awareness, in many cases awareness activities played a significant role in facilitating the adoption of the required control measures and related policies; promoting Montreal Protocol goals by changing the mindset of consumers about the procurement of low-GWP and energy-efficient alternative technologies to HCFCs; and fostering positive community attitudes and responses in supporting the implementation of HCFC phase-out projects.

40. To continue benefiting from the public-awareness activities, it is recommended to: conduct awareness programmes using effective tools to gather all stakeholders, including service persons, technicians, importers, retailers and end users; involve the RAC sectors more often in strategic awareness programmes; and encourage dialogue between public and private stakeholders. Governments could further develop awareness programmes between public authorities and other stakeholders on the benefits of ODS phase-out, to facilitate the adoption of control measures.

*Policy and regulatory framework*

41. In some countries, an efficient regulatory and institutional framework of licensing and quota systems supported by good management and monitoring of controlled substances played a substantial role in HCFC phase-out.

42. Additional regulations are planned in some countries to reduce dependence on HCFCs, such as a ban on imports of equipment containing HCFCs, promoting awareness-raising and incentive programmes for the implementation of HCFC-free alternatives and low-GWP alternatives.

43. Some incidents occurred regarding the control of imports, in relation to the declaration process and the issuance of import licenses for HCFC shipments at checkpoints. As part of the lessons learned, the coordination and strengthening of communication between the different ministries is a strategic step to avoid similar incidents and to reinforce the control measures carried out by customs officers.

CFC production

44. The agency reported the elements for success of the CFC production project. It was observed that the sustainability of CFC phase-out is due to the control and linkage between ODS consumption and production from the initial phase of the project. Under the close supervision of the agency, enterprises and the government guaranteed regular monitoring of CFC production and achieved compliance with the Montreal Protocol.

**II. Summary of information from individual project completion reports**

**II.1 Overview of information from individual project completion reports**

45. Of the total 1,867 investment projects completed, bilateral and implementing agencies have submitted 1,865 PCRs, one of which was received after the 92<sup>nd</sup> meeting before the cut-off date for submission to the 93<sup>rd</sup> meeting, with a balance of two outstanding PCRs, as shown in table 3.

**Table 3. PCRs submitted for investment projects**

| Agency   | Completed    | Received prior to the 92 <sup>nd</sup> meeting | Received after the 92 <sup>nd</sup> meeting | Outstanding |
|--|--------------|--|---|-------------|
| Canada   | 2            | 2  | 0   | 0           |
| France   | 13           | 13   | 0   | 0           |
| Germany  | 20           | 20   | 0   | 0           |
| Italy  | 11           | 11   | 0   | 0           |
| Japan  | 6            | 6  | 0   | 0           |
| Spain  | 1            | 1  | 0   | 0           |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | 1            | 1  | 0   | 0           |
| United States of America                             | 2            | 2  | 0   | 0           |
| UNDP   | 899          | 899  | 0   | 0           |
| UNIDO  | 454          | 451  | 1   | 2           |
| World Bank   | 458          | 458  | 0   | 0           |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>1,867</b> | <b>1,864</b>                                   | <b>1</b>                                    | <b>2</b>    |

46. Of the 1,292 non-investment projects completed, bilateral and implementing agencies have submitted 1,280 PCRs, five of which were received after the 92<sup>nd</sup> meeting before the cut-off date for submission to the 93<sup>rd</sup> meeting, with a balance of 12 outstanding PCRs for verification reports, as shown in table 4.

**Table 4. PCRs submitted for non-investment projects**

| Agency       | Completed    | Received prior to the 92 <sup>nd</sup> meeting | Received after the 92 <sup>nd</sup> meeting | Outstanding |
|--------------|--------------|--|---|-------------|
| Canada       | 57           | 57   | 0   | 0           |
| France       | 34           | 34   | 0   | 0           |
| Germany      | 62           | 61   | 1   | 0           |
| Japan        | 17           | 17   | 0   | 0           |
| UNDP         | 303          | 301  | 0   | 2           |
| UNEP         | 519          | 507  | 3   | 9           |
| UNIDO        | 163          | 161  | 1   | 1           |
| World Bank   | 44           | 44   | 0   | 0           |
| Others       | 93           | 93   | 0   | 0           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1,292</b> | <b>1,275</b>                                   | <b>5</b>                                    | <b>12*</b>  |

\* All these outstanding PCRs are related to verification reports.

47. The six individual PCRs (investment and non-investment projects) received after the 92<sup>nd</sup> meeting covered three project categories, as follows: one investment and five non-investment projects, the latter comprising one demonstration project and four verification projects.

48. The aggregated results relevant to disbursement, actual phase-out and average duration and delays in project implementation are shown in table 5. Only two individual PCRs for completed investment projects are outstanding, as listed in annex V to the present document.

**Table 5. Overview of the budget, ODSs phased out and delays of individual projects submitted after the 92<sup>nd</sup> meeting**

| Agency       | Number of projects | Funds (US \$)    |                  | Phase-out (ODP tonnes) |            | Average duration/delays (months)* |              |
|--------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
|              |                    | Approved         | Disbursed        | Approved               | Actual     | Duration                          | Delays       |
| Germany      | 1                  | 30,000           | 30,000           | 0.0                    | 0.0        | 4.07                              | -8.10        |
| UNEP         | 3                  | 90,000           | 65,500           | 0.0                    | 0.0        | 32.47                             | 8.10         |
| UNIDO        | 2                  | 1,826,561        | 1,480,198        | 0.0                    | 0.0        | 52.25                             | 32.98        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>6</b>           | <b>1,946,561</b> | <b>1,575,698</b> | <b>0.0</b>             | <b>0.0</b> | <b>34.33</b>                      | <b>13.69</b> |

\*The total average is based on the total of six individual PCRs received before the cut-off date for submission.

## II.2 Reasons for delays and actions taken

### Investment projects (1)

49. The PCR concerning the one investment project, related to the conversion of commercial refrigeration manufacturing, reported delays related to the equipment. It was noticed during the preparation phase that the two facilities manufactured different types of products for the conversion to R-290. In order to address this issue, the implementing agency helped the enterprises adapt to the most convenient distribution system.

50. The COVID-19 pandemic was also mentioned among the causes of delays. There were some delays in initiating project implementation due to the absence of clarity in some terms of the agreement, and further delays due to the staff turnover within the NOU. As part of the measures taken to mitigate the impact of delays, the implementing agency supported the new staff in both enterprises with the required information to effectively deliver the project.



Non-investment projects (5)*Verification reports (4)*

51. The PCRs concerning the verification reports referred to the delays caused by the advent COVID-19 pandemic. The delay in tranche implementation postponed the recruitment of an international consultant for the verification process. Travel restrictions also prevented the possibility of conducting a country mission and a virtual verification of HCFC consumption was conducted by an international consultant.

52. In one case, a local independent consultant was recruited for the verification process that was done physically. As part of the verification process, the national counterpart, through the NOU, supported the verifier and facilitated data collection and communication with relevant stakeholders.

*Demonstration project (1)*

53. The demonstration project providing technical assistance to enterprises for the phase-out of CFC chillers experienced some delays due to supply and contractor issues. Some enterprises faced challenges in converting their equipment from CFC-based chillers to non-CFC-based alternatives. When faced with the difficulty of purchasing recycled CFCs to recharge old chillers, thus avoiding high installation costs, some enterprises became unwilling to replace old chillers. The process of issuing new contracts to eligible enterprises caused delays in project implementation. The implementing agency along with the governments issued a reimbursement contract to eligible enterprises for the CFC-chiller replacement process as an alternative intervention to overcome the delays in implementation.

**II.3 Lessons learned<sup>3</sup>**Investment projects

54. For the conversion project, lessons learned indicate that safety requirements and the equipment's sustainability should be maintained through continuous training for servicing staff. Project design and appropriate budget planning must consider any additional cost emerging during the implementation process and allocate the necessary amount to enterprises during the conversion process.

Non-investment projects*Verification reports*

55. For the implementation of verification reports, lessons learned refer to the need to enhance the licencing system and improve customs procedures. Other recommendations include: granting NOUs the authority to issue annual quotas to registered importers following yearly country quotas; amending regulations to promote the recovery and reuse of refrigerants instead of transporting equipment; conducting capacity-building and awareness programmes for technicians; and facilitating public access to information by publishing details about certified technicians in local newspapers and on the NOU's website.

*Demonstration project*

56. The demonstration project conveyed some lessons learned, including with regard to stakeholder engagement and capacity building. Lessons learned showed that early consultation and direct engagement of stakeholders during the preparation phase of the project is a key aspect of project sustainability. Additionally, increasing the skills and awareness of end users dealing with chillers is important to reach an

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<sup>3</sup> Online access to lessons learned from individual PCRs: <http://multilateralfund.org/pcrindividual/search.aspx>.

effective substitute for remaining CFC chillers through technology transfer and by providing training in energy management for chiller owners.

57. Learning from the delays in implementation, it is suggested that operational sites first be assessed to ensure that they have the required conditions for project implementation. It is also suggested that a country's economic situation be taken into account, as well as higher energy-efficiency costs. This should be considered when increasing economic incentives for dismantling old equipment and installing new equipment.

### **III. Reporting on gender mainstreaming in project completion reports**

58. The existing formats for submitting the PCRs do not include a dedicated section to report on gender mainstreaming. However, a few agencies managed to provide information on this matter, when available, under the section for comments, lessons learned and implementation effectiveness.

59. Among the PCRs considered for the present consolidated report, five reports included a reference to gender-related issues: three MYA PCRs on stage II of HPMPs, one on stage I of the HPMP and one on individual non-investment project approved after the 85<sup>th</sup> meeting.<sup>4</sup>

60. Two MYA PCRs reported on women's participation in activities in the RAC sector and the role of the country's government in encouraging gender mainstreaming and women's representation in this sector. One agency highlighted gender-equality participation during stakeholders' meetings and training sessions related to HPMPs. A gender-relevant study on women's participation in the implementation of the Montreal Protocol's obligations will be implemented during the last tranches of stage II of the HPMP. This study will be carried out at the level of industry, in the management of servicing companies or organizations, civil society organizations, training institutions and at the decision-making and policy level. The results of this study will help set up priority actions for the future.

61. Another agency reported that a study of gender-related issues was conducted during the implementation of activities. The study assessed gender parity in the RAC sector by mapping gender roles, highlighting possible opportunities to improve gender balance, and identifying ways to encourage participation by women technicians (e.g., creating an awards system based on performance criteria for female technicians). The results of this study were shared and disseminated during a workshop that brought together refrigeration and air-conditioning technicians, major importers, representatives of relevant public institutions and customs officials.

62. The SMEO will continue to monitor references to gender mainstreaming in PCRs. Information reporting on the gender dimension is still poor but improving, noting that information has been provided even for projects which did not fall under the Multilateral Fund operational policy on gender's obligation to report.

### **IV. Other issues**

#### Improvements in the timeliness of project completion report submission

63. The SMEO would like to report on the positive trends observed in the submission of PCRs by the bilateral and implementing agencies. All the PCRs that could be submitted were submitted on time; for the PCRs that could not be submitted, the agencies reported to the SMEO the reasons for the delays, as requested, in time for consideration in this consolidated report.

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<sup>4</sup> Date after which projects should be addressing gender issues in compliance with the Multilateral Fund operational gender mainstreaming policy approved by decision 84/92. For latest updates see UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/92/51.

Exemption from project completion report for verification reports

64. As part of the ongoing review of PCR formats, processes and tools, for which document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/93/11 provides an update, a consultation took place between the SMEO and the bilateral and implementing agencies to take into account their experiences and feedback for the improvement of PCR-related issues. A survey took place during the summer of 2023 and the results were shared internally with the Secretariat. In addition, a consultation session was organized during the inter-agency coordination meeting (IACM) held on 3–5 October 2023.<sup>5</sup>

65. As a result of these consultations, it appears that the PCRs for verification reports do not add new information, noting that the format of individual PCRs is not adapted to the characteristics of verification projects. Therefore, from 2024 onwards, the evaluation unit will not request bilateral and implementing agencies to submit PCRs for verification reports. Accordingly, they are not included in annex V of individual PCRs due for 2024.

**V. Recommendation**

66. The Executive Committee may wish:

- (a) To note:
  - (i) The 2023 consolidated project completion report (PCR) (part II) contained in document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/93/22;
  - (ii) That the submission of a PCR for technical assistance for verification reports will no longer be required from 2024 onwards;
- (b) To request:
  - (i) Bilateral and implementing agencies to submit, to the 94<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Committee, outstanding project completion report (PCRs) for multi-year agreements (MYAs) and individual projects or to provide reasons for failing to do so;
  - (ii) Lead and cooperating implementing agencies to continue coordinating their work closely in finalizing their respective portions of PCRs to facilitate the timely submission of the reports by the lead implementing agency;
  - (iii) Bilateral and implementing agencies, when filling in the data for PCR submissions, to ensure the inclusion of relevant and useful information, including gender information, and reporting lessons learned and reasons for delays in project implementation for their use in future improvements in project design and implementation; and
- (c) To invite all those involved in the preparation and implementation of MYAs and individual projects, in particular the Secretariat and the bilateral and implementing agencies, to take into consideration the lessons learned from PCRs, where applicable.

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<sup>5</sup> MLF/IACM.2023/2/2



**Annex I**

**MULTI-YEAR AGREEMENT PROJECT COMPLETION REPORTS  
RECEIVED AFTER THE 92<sup>nd</sup> MEETING AND CONSIDERED IN THE  
2023 CONSOLIDATED PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT (Part II)**

|     | <b>Country</b>                    | <b>Multi-year agreement (MYA)<br/>sector/title</b> | <b>Lead agency</b> | <b>Cooperating<br/>agency(ies)</b> |
|-----|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1.  | Argentina                         | Production CFC                                     | World Bank         |                                    |
| 2.  | Armenia                           | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage II)                     | UNDP               | UNEP                               |
| 3.  | Bahamas                           | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               | UNIDO                              |
| 4.  | Belize                            | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               | UNDP                               |
| 5.  | Benin                             | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               | UNIDO                              |
| 6.  | Bosnia and Herzegovina            | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNIDO              |                                    |
| 7.  | Brunei Darussalam                 | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               | UNDP                               |
| 8.  | Chad                              | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               | UNIDO                              |
| 9.  | Chile                             | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage II)                     | UNDP               | UNEP/UNIDO                         |
| 10. | Colombia                          | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage II)                     | UNDP               | UNEP/Germany                       |
| 11. | Comoros (the)                     | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               |                                    |
| 12. | Cook Islands                      | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               |                                    |
| 13. | Cuba                              | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNDP               |                                    |
| 14. | Djibouti                          | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               |                                    |
| 15. | Eritrea                           | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               | UNIDO                              |
| 16. | Eswatini                          | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               | UNIDO                              |
| 17. | Ethiopia                          | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               | UNDP                               |
| 18. | Fiji                              | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNDP               | UNEP                               |
| 19. | Gabon                             | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               | UNIDO                              |
| 20. | Gambia (the)                      | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               | UNIDO                              |
| 21. | Guinea                            | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               | UNIDO                              |
| 22. | Guinea-Bissau                     | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               | UNIDO                              |
| 23. | Jamaica                           | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNDP               | UNEP                               |
| 24. | Kiribati                          | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               |                                    |
| 25. | Lao, PDR                          | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               | France                             |
| 26. | Lesotho                           | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | Germany            |                                    |
| 27. | Liberia                           | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | Germany            | UNIDO                              |
| 28. | Malawi                            | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               |                                    |
| 29. | Marshall Islands (the)            | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               |                                    |
| 30. | Micronesia (Federated States of)  | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               |                                    |
| 31. | Republic of Moldova (the)         | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage II)                     | UNDP               | UNEP                               |
| 32. | Nauru                             | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               |                                    |
| 33. | Niue                              | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               |                                    |
| 34. | Palau                             | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               |                                    |
| 35. | Paraguay                          | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               | UNDP                               |
| 36. | Region: ASP (PIC Islands)         | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               |                                    |
| 37. | Rwanda                            | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               | UNIDO                              |
| 38. | Saint Lucia                       | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               | UNIDO                              |
| 39. | Samoa                             | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               |                                    |
| 40. | Sao Tome and Principe             | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               |                                    |
| 41. | Sierra Leone                      | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               | UNIDO                              |
| 42. | Solomon Islands                   | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               |                                    |
| 43. | Tonga                             | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               |                                    |
| 44. | Tuvalu                            | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               |                                    |
| 45. | Uganda                            | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               | UNIDO                              |
| 46. | United Republic of Tanzania (the) | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               | UNIDO                              |
| 47. | Vanuatu                           | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | UNEP               |                                    |
| 48. | Zimbabwe                          | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | Germany            |                                    |



**Annex II**

**INDIVIDUAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORTS  
RECEIVED AFTER THE 92<sup>nd</sup> MEETING AND  
CONSIDERED IN THE 2023 CONSOLIDATED PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT (Part II)**

|    | <b>Country</b> | <b>Code</b>        | <b>Agency</b> | <b>Project Title</b>  |
|----|----------------|--------------------|---------------|---|
| 1. | Bahamas (the)  | BHA/PHA/82/TAS/27  | UNEP          | Verification report on the implementation of the HCFC phase-out management plan   |
| 2. | Cambodia       | KAM/PHA/84/TAS/38  | UNEP          | Verification report on the implementation of the HCFC phase-out management plan   |
| 3. | Global         | GLO/REF/80/DEM/344 | UNIDO         | Global chiller replacement project  |
| 4. | Liberia        | LIR/PHA/85/TAS/29  | Germany       | Verification report for stage I of HCFC phase-out management plan   |
| 5. | Mexico         | MEX/REF/81/INV/04+ | UNIDO         | Conversion of commercial refrigeration manufacturing in two facilities from the use of HFC-134a and R-404A as the refrigerants to propane (R- 290) and isobutane (R-600a) at Imbera |
| 6. | Saint Lucia    | STL/PHA/82/TAS/30  | UNEP          | Verification report on the implementation of the HCFC phase-out management plan   |





**Annex III**

**OUTSTANDING MULTI-YEAR AGREEMENT PROJECT COMPLETION REPORTS FOR  
SUBMISSION TO THE 94<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

|    | <b>Country</b> | <b>Multi-year agreement (MYA)<br/>sector/title</b> | <b>Final<br/>completion<br/>date</b> | <b>Lead agency</b> | <b>Cooperating<br/>agency(ies)</b> |
|----|----------------|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. | Côte d'Ivoire  | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | Dec-22                               | UNEP               | UNIDO                              |
| 2. | Georgia        | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | Dec-22                               | UNDP               |                                    |
| 3. | Haiti          | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | Dec-22                               | UNEP               | UNDP                               |
| 4. | Iraq           | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | Dec-21                               | UNEP/UNIDO         | UNIDO                              |
| 5. | Kuwait         | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | Jun-22                               | UNEP/UNIDO         | UNIDO                              |
| 6. | Niger (the)    | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | Dec-22                               | UNIDO/UNEP         | UNEP                               |
| 7. | Saudi Arabia   | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | Dec-22                               | UNIDO/UNEP         | UNEP/Japan                         |
| 8. | Togo           | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)                      | Dec-22                               | UNEP               | UNIDO                              |



**Annex IV**

**OUTSTANDING MULTI-YEAR AGREEMENT PROJECT COMPLETION REPORTS  
DUE BY DECISION IN 2024**

|     | <b>Country</b>    | <b>Sector</b>                  | <b>Lead agency</b> | <b>Cooperating agency(ies)</b> | <b>Final completion date</b> | <b>Schedule date of PCR submission</b> | <b>Decision</b>                               |
|-----|-------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|
| 1.  | Afghanistan       | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)  | UNEP               | Germany/UNIDO                  | Dec-22                       | First meeting in 2023                  | 87/6(c)                                       |
| 2.  | Barbados          | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)  | UNEP               | UNDP                           | Dec-23                       | Jun-24                                 | 91/41(a)                                      |
| 3.  | Botswana          | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)  | UNEP               | UNIDO                          | Jun-23                       | Dec-23                                 | 90/23(d)(i) and 91/14(b)(i)                   |
| 4.  | Congo (the)       | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)  | UNEP               | UNIDO                          | Dec-23                       | Jun-24                                 | 91/41(a)                                      |
| 5.  | Equatorial Guinea | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)  | UNEP               | UNIDO                          | Dec-23                       | Jun-24                                 | 90/32(a)                                      |
| 6.  | Grenada           | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)  | UNEP               | UNIDO                          | Dec-23                       | Jun-24                                 | 90/32(a)                                      |
| 7.  | Libya             | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)  | UNIDO              |                                | Dec-23                       | Jun-24                                 | 82/75(e), 84/20(b), 86/26(b) and 91/14(b)(ii) |
| 8.  | Mozambique        | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)  | UNEP               | UNIDO                          | Jun-23                       | Dec-23                                 | 90/32(a)                                      |
| 9.  | Myanmar           | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)  | UNEP               | UNIDO                          | Dec-22                       | Jun-23                                 | 86/53(a)                                      |
| 10. | North Macedonia   | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)  | UNIDO              |                                | Dec-23                       | Jun-24                                 | 88/40(a)                                      |
| 11. | Philippines (the) | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage II) | UNIDO              |                                | Dec-23                       | First meeting in 2024                  | 87/19(e), 90/17(c)(ii) and 92/17(b)           |
| 12. | Somalia           | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)  | UNIDO              |                                | Jun-23                       | Dec-23                                 | 88/40(a) and 91/14(b)(iii)                    |
| 13. | South Africa      | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)  | UNIDO              |                                | Dec-23                       | Second meeting in 2024                 | 91/41(a)                                      |
| 14. | Sudan (the)       | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage II) | UNIDO              |                                | Dec-23                       | Jun-24                                 | 88/60(a) and 91/14(b)(iv)                     |
| 15. | Uruguay           | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage II) | UNDP               |                                | Dec-23                       | First meeting in 2024                  | 87/20(e) and 91/25(d)(ii)                     |
| 16. | Viet Nam          | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage II) | IBRD               | Japan                          | Dec-23                       | Jun-24                                 | 90/22(c)(vi)                                  |
| 17. | Zambia            | HCFC Phase-Out Plan (Stage I)  | UNEP               | UNIDO                          | Jun-23                       | Dec-23                                 | 90/23(d)(ii)                                  |



**Annex V**

**OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORTS  
FOR SUBMISSION TO THE 94<sup>th</sup> MEETING\***

|    | <b>Country</b> | <b>Code</b>        | <b>Agency</b> | <b>Final completion date</b> | <b>Project Title</b>  |
|----|----------------|--------------------|---------------|------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Argentina      | ARG/REF/81/INV/01+ | UNIDO         | Jun-22                       | Conversion project for replacement of HFC-134a with isobutane (R-600a)/propane (R-290)-based refrigerant in the manufacture of domestic and commercial refrigeration equipment at Briket, Bambi and Mabe-Kronen |
| 2. | Iraq           | IRQ/REF/57/INV/07  | UNIDO         | Jun-21                       | Replacement of refrigerant CFC-12 with isobutane and foam blowing agent CFC-11 with cyclopentane in the manufacture of domestic refrigerators and chest freezers at Light Industries Company                    |

\* Note: As a result of the ongoing review of PCRs, processes and tools, the evaluation unit no longer requires the submission of PCRs for projects for the preparation of verification reports. Therefore, only two individual projects are outstanding for the 94<sup>th</sup> meeting, while 12 verification-report projects are exempted from the past PCR requirement.