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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE MULTILATERAL FUND FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL
Ninety-fourth Meeting
Montreal, 27-31 May 2024
Item 14 of the provisional agenda¹

**ISSUE RELATING TO A FUNDING WINDOW TO ASSIST ARTICLE 5 COUNTRIES
AFFECTED BY THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE PANDEMIC**

Note from the Secretariat

1. At the 93rd meeting, the Executive Committee agreed to include the issue relating to a funding window to assist Article 5 countries affected by the coronavirus disease pandemic on the agenda of its 94th meeting.²
2. The representative who introduced the topic under agenda item 15 on other matters, recalled decision XXXV/16 of the Thirty-Fifth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol: Addressing the impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on hydrofluorocarbon baseline consumption for certain parties. As stated in the report of the 93rd meeting, the decision had deferred, until 2026 data became available, any consideration of compliance status with regard to control measures for consumption of Annex F substances, for eight parties³ on the understanding that they would continue to make every effort to comply with the control measures. The representative of Cuba mentioned that despite what had been decided in Nairobi, considerable effort was still required by the country to adopt national measures for importers and by all those managing refrigeration to access alternatives. Consequently, he was requesting that adequate funding be provided to assist Cuba and the other seven Article 5 countries listed in the annex to decision XXXV/16 to meet their obligations. Acknowledging that the issue was a complex one to be considered at a late stage in the [present] meeting, he asked that it be included on the agenda of the 94th meeting.
3. Also, as reflected in the report of the 93rd meeting, one member recalled that extensive discussions had been held on the matter at the Thirty-Fifth Meeting of the Parties, at which time Parties had expressed sympathy with the challenges that some countries were facing owing to the impacts of the pandemic on their HFC baselines. In his view, decision XXXV/16 provided significant time-limited flexibility to the

¹ UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/94/1

² Paragraph 406 of UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/93/105

³ Botswana, Cuba, Mauritius, Mongolia, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Saint Lucia and Turkmenistan (annex to decision XXXV/16).

eight countries in question. In addition, noting that paragraph 2 of that decision urged the eight countries to submit expeditiously their respective KIPs for consideration by the Executive Committee, he acknowledged with appreciation that the KIPs of two of those countries, Cuba and Turkmenistan, had already been submitted and approved at the [present] meeting. As the KIPs were already an avenue for those countries to seek funding from the Executive Committee, his delegation was not presently open to considering other avenues for funding; however, he had no objection to including the issue on the agenda of the 94th meeting.

4. Another member echoed those comments, adding that the conditions of approval of its KIP provided Cuba with the flexibility to submit additional investment projects during the implementation of the first stage. If approved, such projects would provide Cuba with additional assistance to meet the 10 per cent reduction, as well as possibly a project to phase out HFCs containing imported pre-blended polyols should the Executive Committee decide to allow such projects in the case of HFCs. That, he considered, was essentially the agreement to enable Cuba to meet its 10 per cent reduction target, although he allowed that longer term assistance beyond that reduction could be discussed.