

Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol

Funding success - the Multilateral Fund celebrates 25 years of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer Protocol

For the past 25 years Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer have committed to reduce their levels of production and consumption of chemicals that harm the ozone layer according to an agreed schedule. The Montreal Protocol, cited as the most successful environmental agreement, has achieved the global phase-out of CFCs and other ozone-depleting substances (ODS) and profoundly influenced other environmental negotiations over the years. One of the many reasons for its success is the full participation and compliance with the Montreal Protocol by developing country Parties.

The Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol removed financial barriers that might have discouraged developing countries to accede to the Montreal Protocol. A few months after it was set up in 1991, the Multilateral Fund was financing projects to assist its beneficiary countries to work towards their first Montreal Protocol target: the freeze in consumption and production of CFCs in 1999. For 21 of the Montreal Protocol's 25 years of existence, developing countries have received financial and technical assistance from the Multilateral Fund. Since 1991 the Multilateral Fund's Executive Committee has approved about US \$2.9 billion to support more than 6,800 projects and activities that have phased-out over 460,000 ODP tonnes of consumption and production of ozone-depleting substances in developing countries.

In September 2007 the Parties to the Montreal Protocol decided to accelerate the freeze and phase-out of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), ODS that not only harm the ozone layer but also have other detrimental environmental impacts. Following this decision, developing and developed country members of the Executive Committee worked together through complex and protracted technical negotiations to develop the policies and guidelines to assist countries to phase-out HCFCs with due consideration to alternative substances that minimize other impacts on the environment, including on the climate. As of July 2012 the Executive Committee has approved national plans to phase-out HCFCs for 126 of the 146 countries eligible for support and committed almost US \$538 million of funding for HCFC phase-out in these countries.

According to Maria Nolan, the Chief Officer of the Multilateral Fund Secretariat since 2004, "Implementation of the Montreal Protocol is ultimately the responsibility of national governments" and "The Multilateral Fund is proud to have played a role in supporting the efforts of beneficiary countries that have ensured 25 years of success of the Montreal Protocol".

The Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol provides funds to help developing countries comply with their obligations under the Protocol to phase out the use of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) at an agreed schedule. The Multilateral Fund is managed by an Executive Committee which is responsible for overseeing the operation of the Fund. The Committee comprises seven members from developed and seven members from developing

countries. In 2012 the Committee membership includes Belgium, Canada, Finland, Japan, Romania, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (Vice-Chair), United States of America (developed countries) and Argentina, China (Chair), Cuba, India, Kenya, Jordan, Mali (developing country members) and is chaired by Mr. Xiao Xuezhong (China). The Committee is assisted by the Fund Secretariat which is based in Montreal, Canada. Activities are implemented by four international agencies (UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, World Bank) and a number of bilateral government agencies. Since 1991, the Multilateral Fund has approved activities including industrial conversion, technical assistance, training and capacity building worth over US \$2.9 billion that will result in the phase out of more than 460,000 ODP tonnes of consumption and production of ODS in developing countries. In September 2007 the Parties to the Montreal Protocol decided to accelerate the freeze and phase-out of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs). The Multilateral Fund intends to finance HCFC phase-out in the 146 developing countries eligible for its financial and technical assistance and as at the 67th meeting of the Executive Committee, 126 countries have national plans to phase-out HCFCs in place.

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