

## **A giant leap forward towards HCFC phase-out goal**

Policies to enable developing countries to freeze, reduce and eventually eliminate their consumption of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), a group of chemicals that not only damage the ozone layer but also significantly contribute to climate change, were agreed this week in Montreal. In developing the HCFC project guidelines that set out the eligibility and criteria for funding to enable countries to comply with the Montreal Protocol's HCFC phase-out timetable, all members of the Multilateral Fund's Executive Committee demonstrated their continuing determination and commitment to finding solutions. Despite the complexity and technical nature of the protracted negotiations that took place over a number of its meetings, the Executive Committee once more proved that governments can come together and work out concrete means to address global environmental issues.

The criteria for funding projects to phase-out HCFCs in the consumption sector were developed in direct response to the accelerated HCFC phase-out schedule set by the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on 21 September 2007. Manufacturing capacity in developing countries will be eligible for funding to convert to non-HCFC technology provided that it was installed before 21 September 2007. In addition facilities previously financed through the Multilateral Fund to move away from CFCs would also qualify for funding to convert from HCFCs if essential for a country's compliance with the Montreal Protocol HCFC freeze in 2013 and the 10% and 35% reduction targets in 2015 and 2020. Guidelines were also agreed to address the phase-out of HCFC consumption in the refrigeration servicing sector of low-volume-consuming countries to enable them to meet compliance targets.

The guidelines set out the principles that will be used in regard to the level of funding and how countries can set their starting point for aggregate HCFC reductions. They also include consideration of funding for the introduction of low global warming potential (GWP) alternatives to HCFCs.

The text of the HCFC guidelines can be found in the “Report of the Sixtieth Meeting of the Executive Committee” (document UNEP/OzL.Pro/ExCom/60/54) that will be available from the Multilateral Fund’s website in the near future ([www.multilateralfund.org](http://www.multilateralfund.org))

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The US \$2.6 billion Multilateral Fund is managed by an Executive Committee chaired in 2010 by Javier Carmago of Colombia) with Philippe Chemouny of Canada the Vice Chair. 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. Responsibility for overseeing the operation of the Fund rests with the Executive Committee comprising seven members each from developed (Belgium, Canada, France, Japan, Switzerland, Ukraine, United States of America) and developing countries (Colombia, Grenada, India, Morocco, Namibia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal). Since 1991, the Multilateral Fund has approved activities including industrial conversion, technical assistance, training and capacity building worth over US \$2.5 billion that will result in the phase out of over 450,000 ODP tonnes of consumption and production of ozone-depleting substances in developing countries.

For further information, please contact:

Julia Anne Dearing  
Information Management Officer  
Secretariat of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol  
Suite 4100  
1000, De La Gauchetière Street West  
Montreal, Quebec  
H3B 4W5, Canada  
Phone: (1-514) 282-1122  
Fax: (1-514) 282-0068  
E-mail: [secretariat@unmfs.org](mailto:secretariat@unmfs.org)

Website: [www.multilateralfund.org](http://www.multilateralfund.org)

