



Multilateral Fund
for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol



West Asian foam manufacturers assess impact of Kigali Amendment



Dubai, 21 November 2016 – West Asian polyurethane foam manufacturers met here at a United Nations forum to review their preparedness for switching to climate-friendly technologies following the historic October 2016 global agreement to phase down the powerful greenhouse gases that are also used in the industry.

The West Asia Second Regional Technical Forum for the Polyurethane foam manufacturers on sustainable alternatives & Round-table Meeting on the regional technical and policy challenges for the foam sector, organised on 20-1 November 2016 by UN Environment and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) under the patronage of the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, brought together representatives of the foam industry, technology providers and competent authorities in the region.

The Forum and Round-table were held on the sidelines of the Big 5 Building Exhibition in Dubai attended by the foam insulation industry which has seen a rising use of high-global warming potential hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) that have to be phased down under the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances the Deplete the Ozone Layer.

Adopted by the 28th Meeting of the Montreal Protocol Parties in Kigali, Rwanda, the Kigali Amendment has committed all countries to a time-bound phase-down of HFCs which are used

mainly by the refrigeration and air-conditioning industry and in foam insulation manufacture in place of ozone-depleting substances (ODS) being phased out under the Protocol.

The Technical Forum and Round-table aimed to raise awareness of the West Asian industry about technical developments relating to ozone- and climate-friendly alternative blowing agents used in foam manufacture in the light of the Kigali Amendment. It was also an opportunity to evaluate the best policy options to avoid conflicting policies, regulations and standards that could harm the business and flow of products between the countries in the region, and facilitate a smooth transition and uptake of climate-friendly blowing agents.

The Technical Forum included briefings by experts on the impact of the Kigali Amendment on the foam industry including the current and future technology trends at the global level. Other briefing sessions covered experiences gained so far in the phase out of ozone-depleting hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) by the foam industry under the Montreal Protocol and the ongoing work to update related standards including the Arab Code for Building Insulation. Policy and technical approaches to challenges in the foam sector were discussed at the Round-table along with national presentations on current Montreal Protocol policies for the foam sector. Participants also reviewed current regulatory and institutional frameworks in the region, the need for coordination with other stakeholders at national and regional levels as well as awareness and outreach in order to achieve smoothly the agreed phase out objectives.

The two events were part of the UN Environment Economy Division's OzonAction Compliance Assistance Programme support to West Asian countries in implementing their Montreal Protocol commitments.

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