

MARRAKECH COMMUNIQUÉ

CCAC 8th High Level Assembly - November 2016, Marrakech

We, the Ministers representing the Climate and Clean Air Coalition's State Partners, in cooperation with our non-State Partners, recognise that actions to reduce short-lived climate pollutants – black carbon, methane, and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) – can substantially slow down near-term climate warming and are a necessary complement to mitigation of carbon dioxide in order to achieve the temperature goals in the Paris Agreement and contribute to meeting many of the Sustainable Development Goals.

We are committed to implementing measures now that reduce short-lived climate pollutants, and call on all countries to take effective action in order to: slow the increasing rate of climate change that has seen 2015 and 2016 as the warmest years on record; improve health by cleaning the air we breathe, helping to reduce indoor and outdoor air pollution that results in up to 6 million premature deaths per year;¹ and secure food supplies and maintain people's livelihoods by avoiding up to 52 million tonnes of crop losses each year.²

For these reasons we encourage countries to take actions that reduce black carbon, methane and HFCs, including actions consistent with their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs); to work towards increasing finance and investment flows for these actions; to publicly report emissions of methane and HFCs according to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidelines; and to publicly report black carbon emissions.

We welcome, as a historic step in combatting climate change and as one of the most significant climate action taken at the global level in 2016, the Kigali Amendment of the Montreal Protocol to phase down HFCs, agreed in October 2016. We recognise that implementation of the Kigali Amendment can avert as much as 0.5 degrees Celsius of warming over the course of the century³ by phasing down HFCs and replacing them with low or zero GWP alternatives, with additional climate mitigation possible from improving the energy efficiency of refrigeration and air conditioning equipment. The Coalition is proud to have pioneered the first set of 15 national HFC inventories, to have co-sponsored conferences and case studies promoting climate friendly alternatives, and to have mobilized Partners to call for and take actions to achieve an ambitious HFC phase down amendment at an Executive Session of this Assembly in July 2016.

We also welcome the decision of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to limit sulphur content in marine fuels from 3.5% to 0.5% by 2020.⁴ Recognizing that black carbon is a growing source of short-lived

¹ WHO Global Urban Ambient Air Pollution Database (update 2016), http://www.who.int/phe/health_topics/outdoorair/databases/cities/en/

² UNEP & WMO (2011) Integrated Assessment of Black Carbon and Tropospheric Ozone, Nairobi, Kenya; and World Health Organization (2014) Burden of disease from Household Air Pollution for 2012.

³ Xu, Y., D. Zaelke, G. J. M. Velders, V. Ramanathan (2013), The role of HFCs in mitigating 21st century climate change. Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics 13: 6083–6089. [doi:10.5194/acp-13-6083-2013]

⁴ IMO sets 2020 date for ships to comply with low sulphur fuel oil requirement, <http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/MEPC-70-2020sulphur.aspx>

climate pollutants, including in the Arctic where it accelerates Arctic warming and sea ice decline, we call on the IMO to explore how to continue to make further progress to reduce these emissions from maritime shipping.

As a further contribution to achieving the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement, we now focus on concrete measures, outlined below, that Coalition Partners can take to reduce key sources of short-lived climate pollutants in the transportation and the oil and gas sectors, and encourage all relevant stakeholders to consider implementing these actions. Coalition Partners will collaborate and share experiences with State Partners requiring assistance in delivering on the commitments.

Action on black carbon: 1) Reduce black carbon emissions through cleaner diesel fuels and vehicles and 2) develop black carbon inventories and projections

We are committed to scaling up work on black carbon, or “soot,” a potent warmer and a major source of air pollution and health concern. We recognize that diesel vehicles are major contributors to air pollution and climate change, and that comprehensive, cost-effective action on both fuels and vehicles can reduce fine particulate matter and black carbon emissions from diesel vehicles to near-zero levels in many countries.

We endorse the Coalition’s Global Strategy to Introduce Low Sulphur Fuels and Cleaner Diesel Vehicles and encourage Coalition partners and other relevant stakeholders to implement its recommendations, including by: adopting, maintaining, and enforcing world-class diesel fuel quality and tailpipe emissions standards for on road light and heavy-duty vehicles in our markets. The following Coalition State Partners resolve to develop national implementation plans outlining timelines for the nationwide introduction of such standards, if such standards are not already in place:

Australia, Bangladesh, Benin, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Cote d’Ivoire, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, Germany, Guinea, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Mali, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Rwanda, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay

In addition, we recognize the importance of improving our understanding of the contribution of sources of black carbon emissions in order to prioritize actions and to track progress. The following Coalition State Partners resolve to commence development of or continue to refine by the end of 2017 black carbon inventories and projections including, as a first step, strengthening our capacities and efforts to do so (taking into account the guidelines under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution), and to share information on existing or planned black carbon mitigation actions with the Coalition:

Australia, Bangladesh, Benin, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Cote d’Ivoire, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Finland, Germany, Guinea, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Mali, Mexico, Moldova, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Rwanda, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay

Action on methane: Reduce methane emissions from oil and gas operations

The oil and gas sector is the largest industrial source of methane globally and the next big opportunity for climate reductions as cost-effective measures can be taken to significantly reduce these emissions. The following Coalition Partners resolve to reduce methane emissions from oil and natural gas extraction, transportation, and processing by, where applicable and where significant reductions can be achieved, developing and implementing national methane reduction strategies, regulations, policies, or enhanced actions including those which encourage energy efficiency and fuel shifts:

Australia, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States

Conclusion

Reducing short-lived climate pollutants is not just the responsibility of environment ministers. Commitment and actions across government departments, across governments, and by non-government actors are also crucial. We welcome the rapid entry into force of the Paris Agreement, demonstrating that we are already taking action to minimize impacts of extreme weather, drought, dirty air, and other effects of climate change on both present and future generations. Reducing short-lived climate pollutants will result in significant climate, environment and health benefits, and contribute to the achievement of the goals of the Paris Agreement within the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty – something that our children of today and tomorrow will thank us for.

We will encourage continued action by all countries including through the Coalition to continue to address short-lived climate pollutants, will consider opportunities for Coalition cooperation to facilitate the actions endorsed in this document, and we will report back on our progress by the High Level Assembly at the 23rd Conference of the Parties.