



Press release

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## **Climate and Clean Air Coalition Now Open to Private Sector Partners**

17 July 2014, Paris –

The Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC), at the regular meeting here of its Working Group of partners, took the significant step of welcoming partner applications from businesses and business associations.

Starting in 2012 as a partnership of six governments and the UN Environment Programme, the CCAC has grown quickly and now includes some 93 partners, including 40 governments and 53 non-state entities. Business has played an important role in many of the CCAC's initiatives to reduce short-lived climate pollutants, and the CCAC partners felt it was time to engage with business on the policy level.

“Having the private sector at the table is important for making not just a willing and a working coalition but also a winning coalition,” said Peder Michael Pruzan-Jorgensen, Vice President for Europe, Middle East, and Africa for the organization Business for Social Responsibility in addressing the Working Group. The Coalition partners agreed.

### **New Initiative on Health**

The Coalition adopted its first new initiative of 2014, which will focus on the health benefits from reducing SLCPs in cities. The World Health Organization, in presenting the proposal, noted that the fast growth of cities in developing countries, the growing concern over the health impact from indoor and outdoor air pollution, and the evidence of health benefits from reducing SLCPs all made the initiative timely.

Dr. Carlos Dora, Coordinator of the Department of Public Health and the Environment at WHO, noted that health issues are not often part of decisionmaking about air pollution at the city level. He believed the initiative could help to change that, and he saw the CCAC as an enabler of the connections needed across health, environment and sector policies.

### **CCAC Action at UN Secretary General's Climate Summit**

In other news, the CCAC announced that it would launch substantial new actions at the UN Secretary General's Climate Summit in New York in September.

“We have great faith that the SLCP agenda is delivering,” said Cynthia Scharf, a senior officer on the UN Secretary-General's Climate Change Support Team, as she welcomed the participation of the CCAC in the Summit. “The results are popular. It gives people hope.”

At the Summit, in its continued efforts to reduce short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs), the Coalition will launch a partnership with oil and gas companies to reduce methane emissions, a green freight global action plan, a campaign with key countries and leading industries to reduce hydrofluorocarbons, an expanded approach to dealing with municipal solid waste that will help reduce the high levels of black carbon and methane emitted in many cities, and new efforts to deal with some of the most serious sources of short-lived climate pollutants from agriculture.

“We launched the CCAC two years ago because we were eager to make a difference in reducing short-lived climate pollutants emissions now,” said Annika Markovic, CCAC co-chair and Sweden’s ambassador to the OECD. “We wanted to create a platform where countries could work together with industry, international organizations and NGOs, with a common objective. And we wanted to show that emissions reductions are effective not only in reducing near-term climate change but also in improving public health and agricultural yields. I am very happy that the CCAC will showcase our concrete actions at the climate summit in September, and that this group of now over 90 partners is eager to make a difference. We are doing it together, learning from each other and inspiring others to join in.”

## **Oil and Gas**

Minimizing methane emissions from upstream oil and gas production is one of four key global methane mitigation opportunities, according to the International Energy Agency. Oil and gas is the second largest source of global anthropogenic methane emissions. The CCAC’s Oil and Gas Methane Partnership, which has already been endorsed by three international investor groups with more than \$20 trillion in assets, intends to bring energy and commitment to this effort through joint action among governments and industry. It will be officially launched with the participation of energy companies at the Climate Summit.

## **Green Freight**

The transportation sector contributes about 19 percent of black carbon emissions in the world. Heavy-duty diesel vehicles such as those used for freight transportation have a disproportionate

impact on climate and air quality. The CCAC's Global Green Freight Action Plan, a voluntary, multilateral, multi-stakeholder global partnership, aims to accelerate the adoption of advanced technologies and strategies to save fuel and reduce costs for business and at the same time create significant reductions of black carbon as well as CO<sub>2</sub> reductions from the sector. The Action Plan will also help harmonize national, regional and mode-specific green freight programs already in existence or being developed.

### **High Global Warming Potential HFCs**

HFCs are potent greenhouse gases that are substitutes for ozone-depleting substances being phased out under the Montreal Protocol. While currently present in the atmosphere only in small quantities, their use is growing rapidly, increasing by as much as 10-15 percent per year. Without immediate action, these emissions are projected to continue to accelerate rapidly, thus creating significant additional pressure on global warming. The CCAC's initiative on Promoting HFC Alternative Technology and Standards is encouraging industry and governments to support a phasedown of HFC use through a number of avenues.

### **Municipal Solid Waste**

Landfills are the third largest anthropogenic source of methane, accounting for approximately 11 percent of estimate global methane emissions. The CCAC's initiative to Mitigate SLCPs from the Municipal Solid Waste Sector has been working with more than two dozen cities around the world to create momentum toward developing and implementing sustainable waste management practices to significantly reduce SLCPs. At the Climate Summit the CCAC will offer a strong commitment from a number of cities and national governments to scale up this effort.

### **Agriculture**

The agriculture sector is the largest source of methane emissions and produces significant portions of black carbon. The CCAC agriculture initiative will launch three efforts at the summit to deal with some of the most serious sources of short-lived climate pollutants.

### **Pilot Auction Facility**

In late 2012 the G8 requested that an international group of experts explore “whether and how public funds, utilizing per-for-performance mechanisms, may be used to incentivize reductions of methane emissions.” One of the key results, which will be formally announced at the Climate Summit, is the Pilot Auction Facility for Methane and Climate Change Mitigation (PAF), which will offer an innovative climate finance model to address the acute problem of methane-reduction projects that languish because of lack of funding.

“The CCAC is active on a multitude of fronts, each of which is contributing something significant to the world’s efforts to address short-lived climate pollutants,” said Bahijahtu Abubakar, CCAC co-chair and National Coordinator of the Renewable Energy Programme of Nigeria. “Speaking as a Nigerian, I have to say that the work that these partners from countries big and small, developing and developed, are doing is inspiring. We are going to push forward as fast as we can to do our part to help slow global warming and climate change, protect human health, use energy more efficiently, and save millions of tons of food crops from contamination.”

## **Partners in Action**

At its Working Group meeting, the CCAC also heard partner descriptions of work being conducted to help reduce SLCPs. Some examples include:

Nigeria’s bill, currently progressing through the National Assembly, to require gas companies to submit feasibility studies, programs or proposals for capturing gas for reuse. The government is also participating in a national clean cooking scheme to provide a million clean cookstoves by the end of the year.

Nigeria and Cote d’Ivoire are both attempting to replicate all 10 of the CCAC’s initiatives in their countries.

Russia’s new green shipping project, the St. Petersburg Initiative, which supports business investments in environmentally safe marine transportation

Morocco’s introduction of financial incentives to replace old vehicles and raise fuel standards

Switzerland’s work in Latin America to mitigate SLCPs from brick production

Mongolia’s actions to strengthen its position as the only developing country in Asia that has put in place legal measures to control the import of HFCs

The OECD’s report, recently released, titled “The Cost of Air Pollution: Health Impact of Road Transport”

The Nordic Environment Finance Corporation’s “Project Support Instrument” to help mobilize and channel financing for Arctic Council projects that prevent, abate and eliminate pollution, including black carbon

The CCAC announced its next high-level assembly of ministers and other chief executives on September 22 at the UN Climate Summit in New York. The Coalition also welcomed new partners International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (INECE) and World Meteorological Organization.

“Short-lived climate pollutants are among the most important contributors to global warming after CO<sub>2</sub>, and they are also air pollutants with serious consequences for human health, agriculture and ecosystems,” said Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization. “Reducing these pollutants can slow the rate of global warming and help save many of the millions of lives lost as a result of air pollution. By joining the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, WMO will contribute its scientific and technical expertise and networks, including the WMO Global Atmosphere Watch, to improve the observation of SLCPs and help to mitigate their effects on the planet and people’s health.”

Sweden and Switzerland announced contributions to the CCAC Trust Fund of 3 million Swedish Krona and 2 million Swiss Francs, respectively.

Helena Molin Valdes, Head of the CCAC Secretariat, said: “We have one and a half years before the big [UNFCCC COP21] meeting in Paris to address climate change. We have spent more than two years now showing what reduction of SLCPs can do for near-term climate change as well as human and environmental health, and we are happy that the importance of SLCPs is more widely recognised as a crucial complement to addressing long-lived climate forcers such as CO<sub>2</sub>. Our aim is to bring together governments, businesses, organisations and other entities to catalyze rapid and concrete action to address SLCPs as a global and collective challenge to protect the environment and public health, promote food and energy security, address air pollution and to help halve near-term global warming over the next couple of decades.”

The Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short Lived Climate Pollutants is a partnership of governments, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, the environmental community, and other members of civil society. Short-lived climate pollutants are agents that have a relatively short lifetime in the atmosphere—a few days to a few decades—but also a warming influence on climate as well as, in many cases, detrimental impacts on human health, agriculture and ecosystems.

**For more information on the CCAC, please see [www.unep.org/ccac](http://www.unep.org/ccac) or contact the CCAC Secretariat at [ccac\\_secretariat@unep.org](mailto:ccac_secretariat@unep.org).**

## **For complete coverage of the meeting, please see the report of the IISD.**

**Northeast and Southeast Asian Countries have most to gain from Action on Short-Lived Climate Pollutants, to address air pollution and near-term climate change, improve public health and food security and capitalize on clean energy opportunities.**

**Bangkok, 19 August 2014** – Government officials from North East and South East Asia, CCAC country partners from across Asia and international experts came together to discuss the challenge of short-lived climate pollutants for the region.

The High-Level Consultation sends a strong message that countries in the region have most to gain from decisive action on short-lived climate pollutants. Death tolls related to indoor and outdoor air pollution are highest in this region. The meeting examined measures in key sectors, including transport, agriculture, waste and residential cooking, heating and lighting, to achieve multiple benefits for health, climate, food security and energy access and efficiency, and agreed on the need to integrate short-lived climate pollutants action into sectoral policies and inter-ministerial processes, and work with and through regional frameworks and processes.

Short-lived climate pollutants, or SLCPs, such as black carbon or soot, methane and tropospheric ozone, can be dangerous air pollutants that harm human health, agricultural yields and ecosystems while also warming the climate in the near-term. Air pollution is a major challenge in the region, especially in urban areas, and its effect on climate change and consequent sea-level rise and rainfall patterns, make the challenge especially difficult. Another set of SLCPs—many types of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)—are used in air conditioning and refrigeration, and their use is increasing rapidly in the region. Replacing these harmful HFCs with safe alternatives could also bring significant near-term climate benefits. Overall, no region could save more lives and money from mitigating SLCPs than Asia.

A key next step for countries in the region to make rapid progress on SLCPs action is to better integrate climate change, air quality and other key sectoral policies and engage the private sector, notably through:

Conducting research on public health benefits from SLCP emissions mitigation in the transport sector to make the case for scaled up measures

Adopting air quality standards for cookstoves, heatstoves and lighting in the residential sector, taking into account local contexts.

Integrating waste management into climate change action on national and local levels.

Focusing attention on measures to tackle SLCP emissions from residue burning and slash and burn practices, and methane emissions from irrigated rice paddies, livestock manure management and enteric fermentation in the agriculture sector.

Implementing black carbon measures addressing the transport, residential and agricultural sectors could prevent about 1.9 million premature deaths from outdoor air pollution each year by 2030 in Asia, and avoid significant indoor air pollution as well. Reducing black carbon emissions could also slow the melting of glaciers in the Himalayas and support the South Asian monsoon to return to a less disturbed state. On methane, reducing emissions from coal mines could also bring significant crop benefits.

The meeting also agreed that another important element going forward is for countries to work with regional frameworks and processes to incorporate SLCP actions, especially:

the Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast and East Asian Countries

the relevant ASEAN processes

the development and investment programs of the Asian Development Bank

the implementation of the Bangkok Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific

and other key regional initiatives

The SLCP consultation was hosted by the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP ROAP) under the auspices of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC). It built on the outcomes of the 2013 Regional Intergovernmental Consultation on Near-Term Climate Protection and Clean Air Benefits in Asia.

Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, UNEP Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific remarked, “Air pollution is the single largest environment related health risk, especially in Asia. The social, environmental and economic costs are undermining progress towards sustainable development goals. The action areas of the Coalition - on waste management, on brick kilns and cook stoves, on HFCs and refrigeration technologies – are more relevant for this region than any other. We have the most to gain in terms of health, food security, and avoided local climate disruption as well as in terms of our region's contribution to achieving the global two degree goal.”

The Regional Forum on Environment and Health in Southeast and Northeast Asian Countries met on the next day. During the meeting, the Forum incorporated SLCPs within the forum's Work Plan for 2014–2016 and welcomed collaboration of their member countries in with the Climate and Clean Air Coalition.

Countries were invited to join the Climate and Air Coalition as partners as a means to get support for scaling up SLCP mitigation. The Coalition partners work together in more than ten action oriented initiatives, which includes reducing SLCP emissions and cater for health and other benefits in sectors such as brick production, heavy duty diesel vehicles, domestic cooking and heating, agriculture (manure management, open burning and paddy rice) or municipal solid waste.

The meeting called upon the CCAC to strengthen support in Asia, including help develop an integrated and action-oriented regional assessment of SLCPs and other atmospheric pollutants beginning in 2015. UNEP ROAP will monitor overall progress and support coordination of the efforts across the region.

Japan, one of the ten key donors and an active partner in the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, announced plans to pledge 1.7 million US dollars to the Coalition's Trust Fund in support to sustainable waste management activities and other SLCP reduction activities in Asia. Japan is a lead partner in the CCAC municipal solid waste initiative, which works with cities and countries in Asia and globally on city waste management assessments, plans and sharing of experience.

The CCAC is a voluntary multi-stakeholder initiative of over 90 Partners launched in 2012 to bring together countries and organizations committed to accelerated and widespread actions on SLCPs. The CCAC is a “coalition of the working” that helps stakeholders implement proven measures resulting in benefits ranging from clean diesel engines to sustainable cropping. By introducing these measures, countries can reduce the risks of passing climate tipping points, complement the urgent efforts needed to mitigate longer lived greenhouse gases (GHGs), especially carbon dioxide, and improve the health and well-being of millions of people.

Brunei, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam attended the meeting and were joined by leading institutions of the region including Asia Center for Air Pollution Research (ACAP).

Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Clean Air Asia, GIZ, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT), Kanazawa University, Regional Resource Center for Asia and the Pacific (RRC.AP), Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), international organizations including UNEP, UNESCAP, the World Bank, WHO and other experts, practitioners and stakeholders from across Northeast and Southeast Asia and abroad.

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