

The CCAC welcomes US Canada Joint Statement on Climate, Energy, and Arctic Leadership.

Paris, March 11, 2016: The Climate and Clean Air Coalition to reduce short-lived climate pollutants (CCAC) today welcomed a [joint-statement](#) by Canada and the USA outlining commitments by both countries to reduce methane and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), both highly potent short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs). Both countries will also work to improve the performance of heavy-duty vehicles, helping to reduce black carbon, an SLCP dangerous to human health and responsible for increased melting in cryosphere regions like the Arctic.

Helena Molin Valdés, head of the CCAC Secretariat said the alignment of USA and Canada to reduce emissions of these SLCPs is powerful and that fast action on SLCPs coupled with global action to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) is necessary to keep the world below the 2° Celsius target outlined in the Paris Agreement.

“The CCAC Secretariat welcomes the joint-statement by Canada and the USA. Reducing these dangerous short-lived climate pollutants will not only protect the climate but also improve air quality and help save millions of lives annually from air pollution,” Ms Molin Valdés said. “This coordinated effort by the USA and Canada will go a long way to ridding the world of these dangerous pollutants.”

The statement by Canada’s Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and US President Barack Obama will see both countries reduce methane emissions from oil and gas production by 40-45% below 2012 levels by 2025 and explore new opportunities for additional methane reductions. They will also “pursue G-20 commitments to reduce emissions of methane, including through private sector commitments and voluntary mechanisms such as the [CCAC’s] Oil and Gas Methane Partnership”. Methane has 84 times more climate forcing power than CO₂ over a 20-year time scale and is a precursor to tropospheric ozone (or smog) which is estimated to cause 150,000 deaths annually worldwide and affects the health of many more.

The two countries will adopt a Montreal Protocol HFC phasedown amendment in 2016 and support a range of activities that promote alternatives to high global warming potential HFCs and promote greener technologies, including in those countries facing challenges such as high

ambient temperatures. HFCs are powerful greenhouse gases found in refrigerators, air conditioning units and fire retardant foams.

The leaders will work together and with other countries to encourage robust leader-level G-20 commitments to improve the environmental performance of heavy-duty vehicles, including through the implementation of stringent domestic regulations on fuel efficiency and/or greenhouse gas emissions, air pollutant emissions and low-sulphur fuels and green freight programs.

The CCAC along with the Global Methane Initiative are holding the [Global Methane Forum](#) in Washington DC later this month to explore new technologies, policies, and opportunities for methane abatement strategies.

Canada and Chile are current co-chairs of the CCAC. The CCAC Secretariat is hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme.

ENDS

The Climate and Clean Air Coalition is a voluntary global partnership of 51 countries, 16 intergovernmental organizations, and 44 businesses, scientific institutions and civil society committed to catalyzing concrete, substantial action to reduce Short Lived Climate Pollutants (including methane, black carbon and many hydrofluorocarbons). The Coalition has [11 initiatives](#) working to raise awareness, mobilize resources and lead transformative actions in key emitting and cross cutting sectors. SLCP reduction must go hand in hand with deep and persistent cuts to carbon dioxide and other long-lived greenhouse gases if we are to stay under a 2 degrees Celsius warming limit.

CONTACT:

Tiy Chung, CCAC Communications Officer. Work: (+33) 1 44 37 14 21; Mobile: (+33) 6 26 71 79 81; email: tiy.chung@unep.org



Climate and Clean Air Coalition Secretariat
United Nations Environment Programme

1 rue Miollis, Building VII, 75015, Paris, France
T: (+33) 01 44 37 14 73; F: (+33) 01 44 37 14 74
E: ccac_secretariat@unep.org; W: www.ccacoalition.org