



Join us and a panel of leading experts to discuss:

Cleaning the air, saving lives and slowing near-term climate change

Friday 4 December 2015, 18:00–20:00
Hall 3, Bellona – CICERO pavilion, stand number 13

Carlos Dora – Coordinator, World Health Organization
Bahijahtu Abubakar – Federal Ministry of Environment, Nigeria
Drew Shindell – Chair of the CCAC Scientific Advisory Panel
Drew Kodjak – International Council on Clean Transportation
Hanne Bjurstrom – Ministry of Climate and Environment, Norway
Radha Muthiah – Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves

Cocktails & aperitifs at 7:30 p.m.

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Organised by the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-lived Air Pollutants (CCAC), the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the World Health Organization (WHO)

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) air pollution causes 7 million premature deaths every year as a result of exposure to outdoor (ambient) air pollution and household air pollution.

A new WHO report developed in collaboration with the CCAC, *Reducing Global Health Risks from Mitigation of Short-lived Climate Pollutants*, highlights the opportunities available for improving public health by reducing emissions of Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs) – black carbon, methane and tropospheric ozone – all of which contribute both to air pollution and climate change – as well as carbon dioxide.

New research suggests that air pollution-related deaths could be reduced by as many as 3.5 million annually by 2030, if a suite of 19 SLCP reduction measures were deployed globally. This would also slow down the rate of warming by 0.5 degrees Celsius by 2050.

As well as saving lives through reduced air pollution, SLCP mitigation measures yield other health benefits. For instance, transport policies can reduce pollution from vehicles, reduce traffic risks and support physical activity. Similarly, healthier food consumption including a diet rich in fruits, vegetables and other plant-based foods, can help address the worldwide epidemic of obesity while also reducing the trajectory of increased methane emissions due to soaring livestock production.

The event will present the evidence alongside solutions for reducing health and climate risks from SLCPs, focusing mainly on transport, household energy and urban health. It will also highlight opportunities for action under the Secretary General's *Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health* – a roadmap to end all preventable deaths of women, children and adolescents within a generation.

AIR POLLUTION, HEALTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Air pollution is responsible for one in eight premature deaths each year, making it the world's largest environmental health risk, and among the largest global health risks – comparable with “traditional” health risks such as smoking, high cholesterol, high blood sugar and obesity.

Some 4.3 million air pollution-related deaths are due to household air pollution and 3.7 million deaths are due to outdoor air pollution. The overlap between household and outdoor air pollution means total air pollution-related deaths annually are estimated at 7 million.

Most air pollution-related deaths are from heart disease and stroke, followed by chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, acute and chronic respiratory conditions and cancers – making air pollution a leading cause of non-communicable diseases today.

The air pollutant linked most closely to excess death and disease is PM_{2.5} (particles less than 2.5 micrometres in diameter), a significant proportion of which is black carbon – an SLCP that remains only briefly (up to 10 days) in the atmosphere.

Ozone is another leading air pollutant and SLCP that causes significant respiratory illness, including chronic asthma. Methane, another SLCP, is an ozone precursor. There is growing evidence that oxides of nitrogen (NOx), another major ozone precursor emitted by diesel vehicles, are also linked to significant health risks.

The new report, *Reducing Global Health Risks from Mitigation of Short-lived Climate Pollutants*, evaluated the health benefits of over 20 SLCP mitigation measures, identifying four with the strongest health and climate benefit opportunities (see table below).

FOUR SLCP MITIGATION ACTIONS WITH POTENTIAL TO PRODUCE MAJOR CLIMATE AND HEALTH BENEFITS			
Sector and mitigation action	Certainty of major SLCP-related climate benefit	Aggregate level of potential health benefit	Potential level of CO ₂ reduction co-benefit
Support active travel (aided by rapid mass transit)	High	High	High
Promoting healthy diets low in red meat and processed meats and rich in plant-based foods	High	High	Medium-high
Low-emission stoves and/or fuel switching to reduce solid fuel use	Medium-high	High	Medium
Stricter vehicle emissions/efficiency standards	High	Medium-high	Medium-high

Source (WHO, 2015)

WE NEED TO ACT NOW

By acting now to reduce short-lived climate pollutants, that are also air pollutants, we will see substantial and immediate gains in public health, saving millions of lives, as well as slowing near-term climate change.

For more information visit www.who.int/phe or www.ccacoalition.org