

CLIMATE & CLEAN AIR COALITION COMMUNIQUÉ

In a year in which the devastating and horrendous impacts of climate change have become ever-more apparent around the globe, and when the UN General Assembly recognized the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment (Res. 76/300), we the Ministers and Leaders of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) have met today to:

Take stock of progress since our last meeting;

Reaffirm and renew our commitment to reduce emissions of methane and other short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) quickly and decisively – as a complement to scaled-up action on carbon dioxide (CO₂) – noting that reducing SLCP emissions is the most effective pathway to avoid 0.6°C of predicted global warming in the near termⁱ and slow sea-level rise by 20% by mid-century,ⁱⁱ slowing the rate of Arctic warming by up to two-thirdsⁱⁱⁱ and the rate of global warming by half;

Reaffirm and renew our efforts to reduce air pollutants that also contribute to climate change, to build a healthier, safer and more prosperous world by working to promote the synergies between climate and air quality, and to harness multiple benefits from the fast mitigation of short-lived climate pollutants, including the protection of ecosystems, and thereby contribute to the delivery against the Sustainable Development Goals;

Launch new collaborative actions to further drive emissions reductions, as a concrete and practical affirmation of our commitment, noting the importance of mobilizing financing to deliver results.

Taking Stock

We note favourably that 2022 has seen a strong start on the implementation of the CCAC 2030 Strategy, with pledges of 40 million USD to the CCAC Trust Fund in the first year, and 6 million USD allocated to projects that respond directly to the expressed needs and priorities of our state Partners needs and capacity-building and for national planning for SLCPs, as well as 7 million USD of projects to support sector policies, and transformative mitigation actions. We note the importance of scaling-up financing to support SLCP reduction, and call upon the global and regional financial community to ensure adequate financial support is available, and to work with the CCAC to advance a pipeline of investment-ready projects and programs.

We welcome with appreciation the progress that has been made on the Global Methane Pledge. Over half of the top 20 methane emitters are now part of the Pledge, representing half of global methane emissions and nearly two-thirds of the global economy. The CCAC is a core implementing partner of the Pledge, serving as first port of call for participating countries and providing scientific advocacy and technical support. This includes support for the development of 14 national methane roadmaps in this year's call for proposals, as well as the launch of a national methane roadmap development programme open to all countries. The CCAC Methane Flagship, adopted at our last Ministerial meeting at the last COP, gave us a head start, and we are strongly committed to this work.

We have noted with appreciation the CCAC-UNEP Baseline CH₄ Emissions Projections through 2030 report, which highlights that the amount of methane in the atmosphere is increasing at record rates and makes an ever stronger case for urgent action:

- Under business as usual scenarios, methane emissions are projected to increase by 5-13% by 2030 from 2020 levels, whereas they need to decline by at least 30%.

- If global emissions were cut by 30% as set out in Global Methane Pledge, warming will be reduced by at least 0.2 degrees C between 2040 and 2070 compared to baseline projected methane emissions.
- In addition to keeping the planet cool, meeting the Global Methane Pledge would provide additional benefits worldwide through 2050, including:^{iv}
 - Prevention of roughly 5.6 million premature deaths due to ozone exposure
 - Avoidance of ~580 million tons of yield losses to wheat, maize (corn), rice and soybeans
 - Avoidance of ~\$520 billion (2018, US\$) in losses due to non-mortality health impacts, forestry and agriculture
 - Avoidance of ~1600 billion lost work hours due to heat exposure
 - Slow climate tipping points

We have noted favourably the effort to engage subnational governments, and call on all partners to solicit their engagement. We further welcome the efforts to include gender, youth, and justice considerations into our work.

We were very pleased to share the report of the 2022 “Africa integrated assessment on air pollution and climate change” funded by the CCAC. It is the first of its kind for the continent and takes an explicit sustainable development angle and looks at how SLCP action helps achieve the African Agenda 2063 “The Africa We Want”, particularly with regard to health and food security. We appreciate the cooperation with African Union Commission and UNEP, and welcome the Air Quality Programme of the African Union Commission to build on the Assessment.

We appreciate the outcome document of the 18th Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, as well as the ministerial discussion that took place on ‘the critical role of methane in keeping a safe climate future within reach,’ complemented by the support of the African Development Bank in its commitment to support countries on their efforts to reduce methane emissions.

We are very pleased with the strong leadership role the CCAC has adopted globally on Clean Air, especially the role played in raising further awareness in the context of the International Day on Clean Air for blue skies. We wish to see this support the important work on regional clean air plans and agreements. In this respect, we note the efforts supported by the CCAC, notably with UN ESCAP on a Pan-Asian modality for air pollution cooperation and on the Malé Declaration in South Asia, as well as ongoing cooperation with the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and the African Union Commission on their Plan on Pollution. We further acknowledge the common statement of the Chief Scientists of partners to the CCAC, notably WHO, IUCN, WMO and CCAC-convenor UNEP, which was issued on Clean Air Day 2022. We welcome this as a step to improve the science-policy interface and further scientific advocacy for action on air quality.

We welcome the ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol from at least 15 nation states in 2022. More than half of the first 20 Parties who ratified the amendment and thus brought it into force were CCAC State Partners. The total ratifications are now 144 out of 197 Parties. We call for immediate universal ratification and implementation of measures to reduce the global production and consumption of climate-warming HFCs. We strongly support the increase of energy efficiency in the cooling sector while transitioning away from HFCs, which can double the climate benefits of the Kigali Amendment.^v Accordingly, we are committed to the accessibility of the best available climate technologies in the cooling sector and support discussions under the Montreal Protocol to prevent market penetration of obsolete technologies, noting recent scientific advances in this area supported by the WMO/UNEP Ozone assessment. In addition,

taking into account areas not covered by the Kigali Amendment, including leakage in use and discharge to the air at disposal, we acknowledge the importance of controlling and reducing the fluorocarbons emissions throughout the lifecycle.

We are also very supportive of the role the CCAC has taken with the private sector. For example, the work on the guide to include air pollution into inventories and actions across supply chains. We welcome the cooperation with the World Economic Forum and its Alliance, and look forward to seeing how this can lead to co-creation of policies and positive feedback loops between ambitious country policies and ambitious company targets.

We welcome the launch of the Resilience and Sustainability Trust by the International Monetary Fund and look forward on how its implementation can help reduce the rate of warming in the near term. We stand ready to strengthen the partnership with the IMF and other international and regional finance institutions to integrate the assessments tools that we have developed at the CCAC and support their efforts to reduce SLCPs.

Commitment and Launch

We welcome with appreciation 5.75 million USD in pledges to the CCAC Trust Fund from Belgium, Japan, Monaco, Norway, and the United States of America. We acknowledge the intention of Finland and Netherlands to pledge and call on all those countries in a position to do so to help reach the fundraising goal of at least 150 million USD by 2025. We also recognize the Global Methane Hub for the contribution of 10 million USD to the CCAC Trust Fund.

We encourage all developing countries to respond to the CCAC's expression of interest process to identify potential new projects that address CCAC priorities – and for all countries to share their priorities and opportunities that the CCAC through its Hubs and secretariat can use to match-make.

We are also very committed to supporting **innovation**, and finding new ways to advance mitigation in the most efficient and effective ways. Building on our past successes to prove and promote new technologies. We will seek to expand our work with the private sector and state-owned enterprises. We welcome exploring the formation of a Technology and Economic Assessment Panel on Methane, or similar, as suggested by Senegal, to better understand and advise CCAC Partners on the landscape of innovative methane mitigation technologies, including methane removal and sector-specific methane reduction technologies.

We emphasize that the oil and gas sector will need to achieve the fastest and deepest methane emissions reductions to stay aligned with a 1.5C trajectory. As such, we will continue to work with the oil and gas sector, including both the private sector and state owned enterprises, and through national and sub national regulators, to realize the significant mitigation potential in this sector. The CCAC successfully launched the Oil and Gas Methane Partnership (OGMP) which – implemented by the International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO) – has grown and expanded. We will continue to pursue deployment of promising technologies in the waste sector, recognizing that interventions such as reducing food loss and waste, diverting organic material from landfills, and installing gas capture can support climate, health, development, and energy access outcomes. We acknowledge the agriculture sector has significant potential for emission reduction, often with strong food security and nutrition co-benefits, including through improvements in livestock productivity as well as innovative solutions on enteric fermentation.

We welcome the efforts of WMO and the broader greenhouse gas community to strengthen the GHG information basis for decisions on climate mitigation and collaborate on the development of a framework for sustained, internationally coordinated global greenhouse gas monitoring.^{vi}

We welcome the voice of a representative from "Fast Action on Climate Ensuring Intergenerational Justice (FACE Intergenerational Justice)" and strongly support exploring the development of a youth and justice strategy, led by youth, under the CCAC to ensure youth engagement and representation.

We request the CCAC partners to develop a concept for a programme or activities, including regional cooperation and agreements, on 'clean air action' to launch at the 2024 CCAC Ministerial.

And, we request the CCAC Scientific Advisory Panel to put forward a proposal on how we can highlight and better calculate the near-term climate benefits of our methane commitments, for instance through the use of GWP20 or temperature change over time in our NDCs.^{vii}

We end by expressing our heartfelt thanks to the CCAC Secretariat and to UNEP as the host of the Secretariat, and all Partners who are demonstrating such leadership towards collective action -- the embodiment of the power of delivering in partnership.

ⁱ Shindell D., *et al.* (2012) *Simultaneously mitigating near-term climate change and improving human health and food security*, *Sci.* 335(6065):183-189, 183; and Xu Y., *et al.* (2013) HYPERLINK "<http://www.atmos-chem-phys.net/13/6083/2013/acp-13-6083-2013.pdf>" *The role of HFCs in mitigating 21st century climate change*, *ATMOS. CHEM. PHYS.*, 13:6083-6089.

ⁱⁱ Hu A., *et al.* (2013) *Mitigation of short-lived climate pollutants slows sea-level rise*, *NATURE CLIMATE CHANGE* 3:730-734, 731.

ⁱⁱⁱ UNEP & WMO (2011) *Integrated Assessment of Black Carbon and Tropospheric Ozone*. Nairobi; and Shindell, D. *et al.* (2012) *Simultaneously mitigating near-term climate change and improving human health and food security*, *Sci.* 335(6065):183-189

^{iv} United Nations Environment Programme/Climate and Clean Air Coalition (2022). *Global Methane Assessment: 2030 Baseline Report*. Nairobi.

^v <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/33094/CoolRep.pdf>

^{vi} This effort is building on WMO's experience in coordinating surface- and space-based observation of both basic weather variables and minor atmospheric constituents, in international data exchange, relevant modelling and data assimilation efforts, and research

^{vii} Note the conclusions of the 2017 CCAC Scientific Advisory Panel's report on SLCP metrics and inventory development and the Multiple Benefits Pathway Framework.