

## Key Messages

### Guidance on Including Black Carbon & Other Air Pollutants in NDC 3.0

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#### *What is black carbon, and what other super pollutants impact air pollution?*

- Black carbon is a component of particulate matter formed during combustion processes. It contributes to warming by absorbing sunlight and melting ice and snow.
- Black carbon and tropospheric ozone, as well as methane (a precursor to ozone formation), are at the nexus between air pollution and climate change - **they not only exacerbate climate change but have serious health implications because of their role in worsening air quality.**

#### *Why is it important to include action on black carbon and air pollution in NDCs?*

Utilising an air quality lens to identify goals and measures to include in an NDC can:

- **Increase access to mitigation finance with local air pollution and sustainable development benefits**, allowing governments to harness a broader array of financing options;
- **Broaden the coalition of stakeholders supporting its implementation by showing the multiple climate, health, and other benefits** while strengthening institutional coordination within governments and international institutions;
- **Strengthen integrated reporting, monitoring, and tracking of greenhouse gas (GHG), super pollutants, and other air pollutant emissions** to inform future climate change planning and reporting and to increase capacity on air quality management, as necessary;

#### *What are the tangible ways to address black carbon and other air pollutants in NDCs?*

- **Include Specific Measures to Reduce Black Carbon and Tropospheric Ozone Precursors:**
  - As part of the NDC preparation process, countries may begin by **identifying and quantifying the black carbon reduction of measures already included in previous NDCs**. Next, countries can **assess all potential sectors and sources to identify additional measures that reduce emissions from black carbon rich sources of particulate matter and of tropospheric ozone precursors**.
  - To ensure a comprehensive approach to reducing non-CO<sub>2</sub> emissions progressively over time, **countries should also begin to assess, track, and identify opportunities to reduce the precursors to tropospheric ozone (e.g., nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide)**
- **Align Climate and Air Quality Commitments:**
  - Integrate national and global strategies, policymaking, financing, and implementation plans by **aligning NDCs with other climate and clean air strategies**.
  - Reflecting the ambition of countries to tackle air quality – **through regional agreements, ambient air quality standards and air quality plans and policies** – in NDCs helps to provide a more complete picture of national commitments to mitigate climate change.
- **Quantify and Include Human Health, Food Security, and Other Benefits:**
  - Given the shared sources between air pollutants and climate pollutants, **many greenhouse gas mitigation measures will also contribute to achieving air quality, human health and food security goals**.
  - At the national level, **including improvements to air quality in cost-benefit analysis can reduce the marginal abatement cost of measures**.
  - By helping justify additional measures, undertaking this analysis while prioritising and selecting measures for NDC 3.0 can **support increased ambition, and maximise co-benefits to air quality, human health, and food security**.