

Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short Lived Climate Pollutants

Overview

Key short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs), including methane, black carbon, tropospheric ozone, and many hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), are responsible for a substantial fraction of climate change with particularly large impacts in sensitive regions of the world like the Arctic, and have significant detrimental health and environmental impacts. Controlling SLCPs will have immediate, multiple benefits for human well-being. Reducing them will protect human health and the environment now and slow the rate of climate change within the first half of this century.

Recognizing that mitigation of the impacts of these SLCPs is critical in the near term, a number of countries have come together to address the issue in a coordinated manner. These countries have formed a Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short Lived Climate Pollutants that seeks to reduce SLCPs by: (1) raising awareness of SLCP impacts and mitigation strategies; (2) enhancing and developing new national and regional actions, including by identifying and overcoming barriers, enhancing capacity, and mobilizing support; (3) promoting best practices and showcasing successful efforts; and (4) improving scientific understanding of SLCP impacts and mitigation strategies. This effort is a partnership of governments, intergovernmental organizations, and representatives of the private sector, the environmental community, and other members of civil society, that are committed to accelerating and incentivizing action to address key SLCPs. The partnership initially will address methane, black carbon, and HFCs. At the same time, Partners recognize that action on SLCPs must complement and supplement all relevant efforts to address climate change, in particular efforts within the UNFCCC.

The Coalition is voluntary, and will be supported by a small secretariat hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The Coalition will be government-led and serve as a forum for assessing progress in addressing the challenge of SLCPs and for mobilizing resources to accelerate action for SLCP mitigation. The Coalition will also help to provide funds to help create the necessary enabling environment for action, and leverage greater private sector investment in SLCP mitigation.

The Coalition is open to governments and other stakeholders who are committed to taking action on SLCPs. Partners must be committed to mitigating SLCPs in their own countries, to the objectives of the framework, and to helping others take similar actions. Still, Partners may choose to take action in a variety of ways, recognizing that domestic priorities vary among countries. UNEP will play a key role in continuing its ongoing scientific assessment efforts, in hosting the Coalition's secretariat and ultimately in implementing an array of actions funded by the partnership.

A number of actors are already at work on near-term climate change and related public health issues and actions that provide other co-benefits. The Coalition will seek to raise the profile of those efforts and increase participation and support for them. Coordination

between the Coalition and other initiatives will be important to ensure that the Coalition adds value and avoids duplication with existing work.

Coalition Focus

Understanding of the science and current levels of action vary considerably among SLCPs and among countries. The Coalition will thus engage in targeted efforts at national, regional and global levels to foster greater understanding and broader recognition of the problems posed by SLCPs and the benefits of controlling them. The Coalition aims to reduce SLCPs and realize near-term climate, health, air quality and environmental co-benefits, by:

- Raising awareness of SLCPs and their impacts;
- Enhancing existing and developing new national actions to address mitigation gaps;
- Encouraging existing and new regional actions;
- Reinforcing and tracking existing efforts to reduce SLCPs, promoting opportunities for greater international coordination and developing and improving inventories;
- Identifying barriers to action and seeking to surmount them;
- Promoting best practices or available technologies and showcasing successful efforts to address SLCPs;
- Improving understanding of, and reviewing scientific progress on SLCPs, their impacts, and the benefits of mitigation strategies, and disseminating knowledge; and
- Mobilizing targeted support for those developing countries that require resources to develop their capacity and to implement actions consistent with national strategies to support sustainable development.

The Coalition will also focus on building capacity to address SLCPs and assisting countries and stakeholders to take action. The Coalition will aim to raise at least \$10 million in the first year for its activities, with a view to scaling up substantially thereafter. It will seek to coordinate its efforts with ongoing actions in other fora and it will work to catalyze action and leverage investments by others. Over time, the Coalition aims to establish a mechanism to channel funding and other resources through a common program, complementing and supplementing other ongoing efforts.

The Coalition will produce policy briefs and outreach materials and maintain a website to provide updated information on its activities. It will support regional meetings and national workshops to disseminate case studies, best practice guidelines, technical guidance or toolkits and help develop or enhance national inventories of SLCPs. It will also

develop, disseminate and promote model regulations and standards and help integrate relevant measures into regional or country planning efforts.

Because of the evolving scientific understanding of SLCPs, the Coalition will have recourse to a panel of scientific experts to keep abreast of changes in knowledge, to respond to questions, and to inform policy discussions. With the advice of the scientific panel, the Coalition may establish a broader roster of experts to respond in depth to issues in specific areas.

Structure of the Initiative

The Coalition will follow the structure according to the attached framework document. The Coalition will meet annually as a high-level Assembly to take stock of progress and plan future efforts. Initially, it will analyze where action is taking place and where it can be augmented. The Coalition will also meet more often at the Working Group level to advance specific actions and prepare for Assembly sessions.

Coalition meetings may serve, inter alia, to:

- Reinforce existing efforts and evaluate and report on progress under them;
- Launch new initiatives in priority areas;
- Seek new political commitments and enable partners to announce new policy initiatives and pledges of support for international mitigation efforts;
- Review the achievements of Coalition efforts and refocus them if needed;
- Assess overall progress within and outside the partnership;
- Work with UNEP to promote scientific assessment efforts and get updates on recent scientific progress at regular intervals;
- Provide guidance to the secretariat; and
- Approve budgets and Coalition activities.

The Coalition will initially be led by an Interim Steering Committee of six countries working closely with UNEP to prepare for meetings and facilitate start up activities. Once the Coalition is fully established, it may be desirable to shift to another arrangement, possibly with co-chairs and a Steering Committee, to take over this role.

Secretariat

UNEP will host a small secretariat comprised initially of up to four staff, including an executive secretary, hired under UNEP auspices. Further staff could be seconded from governments, the private sector or other elements of civil society in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations of the UN. The secretariat will provide organizational and logistical support for Coalition meetings, manage communications and public outreach (website, press releases, etc.), help to organize workshops or capacity building activities, draft papers and reports, develop an annual work plan and budget and ultimately

implement programs as agreed by the partners. A trust fund will be established by UNEP to help cover costs of the secretariat and any agreed programs or projects.

Role of Intergovernmental and Non-Governmental Organizations

Non-government actors play an important role in the Coalition as technical experts, conveners of stakeholders at the regional and national level, implementers, co-funders of program activities and as champions of the initiative's political and policy agenda. Intergovernmental and non-governmental actors will be welcome to attend partnership meetings, contribute ideas and suggestions for the annual work plans, and participate in its work.