



Thematic Track on Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs)

Friday, 6 February, 2015 | 1530-1730 hours



How can reduction of SLCPs contribute to achieving SDGs and a successful outcome in Paris?

A science and policy seminar with a focus on Short-Lived Climate Pollutants will be organized during the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit 2015. The seminar will focus on how addressing short-lived climate pollutants can have immediate, multiple benefits on human health, the environment and slowing the rate of climate change. Concrete examples of policies and measures from Europe and Bangladesh will be presented.

Reducing the emissions of SLCPs can play a crucial part in reaching the 2 degrees target. It can also contribute to achieve future Sustainable Development Goals regarding health, development and climate change. A distinguished panel will discuss the role of SLCPs in future international environmental policy with special emphasis on the opportunities that lie ahead in 2015.

The proposed seminar is organised by TERI, in collaboration with the Royal Norwegian Embassy and Swedish Embassy. It will involve key decision makers, researchers as well as policy advisors from Sweden and Norway.

Tentative agenda

15.30: Opening remarks

Lars Andreas Lunde, State Secretary (Deputy Minister) of Climate and Environment of Norway and Jan Olsson, Ambassador of Environment, Ministry of the Environment of Sweden

Short Lived Climate Pollutants: What is the Science?

The effects of SLCPs on air quality, health and the climate. *V. (Ram) Ramanathan, Distinguished Professor, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California at San Diego and member of Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) Scientific Advisory Board*

Policies and measures to reduce emissions and maximise benefits

Reducing SLCP in Europe - current and future policies. *Leif Holmberg, Swedish Environmental*

<i>Protection Agency</i>
Norway's National Action Plan on SLCPs. <i>Hanne Bjurstrøm, Special Envoy for Climate Change, Norway, and Co-Chair of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)</i>
16.45: Moderated panel discussion on SLCPs - How can reduction of SLCPs contribute to achieving SDGs and a successful outcome in Paris?
<i>Moderator: Hanne Bjurstrøm, Hanne Bjurstrøm, Special Envoy for Climate Change, Norway, and Co-Chair of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)</i>
<i>Panelists:</i>
<i>Abg Manuel Gerardo Pedro Pulgar-Vidal Otálora, Minister of Environment, Peru</i>
<i>Ségolène Royal, Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, France</i>
<i>Lars Andreas Lunde, State Secretary (Deputy Minister) of Climate and Environment of Norway</i>
<i>Achim Steiner, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (TBC)</i>
<i>Dr. Nata Menabde, WHO Representative, India (TBC)</i>
<i>Ashok Lavasa, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, India (TBC)</i>

Background about Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs)

Short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) are agents that have relatively short lifetime in the atmosphere – a few days to a few decades – and a warming effect on the climate. Short-lived climate pollutants are also dangerous air pollutants, with various detrimental impacts on human health, agriculture, forests and ecosystems. Addressing SLCPs can have both immediate and multiple benefits. Every 8th death in the world is due to air pollution and it is a huge cost for many countries. At the same time, reducing the emissions of SLCPs can slow the rate of climate change within the first half of this century.

Black Carbon (soot particles) are formed in poor combustion of fossil and biogenic fuels. Black Carbon contributes to climate change, but also has adverse effects on human health. Almost 20% of black carbon emissions in the world are due to transportation, with a remarkably large contribution from diesel vehicles. Heavy-duty diesel engines and equipment are significant sources of black carbon and other toxic and greenhouse gases. Their impact on air quality (and therefore human health) in large cities in many parts of the world is a serious issue as are their impact on the climate.

Methane (CH₄) contributes to global warming both directly and indirectly as a greenhouse gas and as one of the gases that contribute to ground-level ozone. **Ground-level ozone** (O₃) is formed by a reaction between nitrogen oxides, hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide. Ozone is harmful to the human respiratory system such as impaired lung function. **Hydrofluorocarbons** (HFCs) are man-made greenhouse gases used in air conditioning, refrigeration, solvents, foam blowing agents and aerosols. Although they represent less than one percent of the current total greenhouse gases their warming impact is particularly strong and, if left unchecked, HFCs could account for nearly 20 percent of climate pollution by 2050.

Co-benefits

Emissions of air pollutants and greenhouse gases often stem from the same type of activities. Measures that reduce air pollution can thus at the same time contribute to the mitigation of climate change, better health and less environmental damage. Measures that lead to improved air quality while also reducing greenhouse gases emissions provide more environmental and health benefits in terms of cost-benefits ratio.

International Mitigation Efforts

International collaboration to reduce emissions of the SLCPs is growing and takes many forms, both nationally, in bilateral formats between countries, as part of regional cooperations around the world, and within multilateral frameworks.

One initiative aimed at SLCPs is the *Climate and Clean Air Coalition* (CCAC) to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (www.unep.org/ccac/) that was launched in February 2012 by Bangladesh, Canada, Ghana, Mexico, Sweden, the United States, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with the aim of slowing the rate of climate change within the first half of this century while also protecting public health and the environment. The Coalition has grown rapidly and has as of today almost 100 partners, countries and organizations.