

Side Event on Protecting Climate and Improving Air Quality: Options for Controlling Short-lived Climate Forcers

Date: Thursday, December 8, 11:30 —13:00
Venue: Room Apies River
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Background: UNEP has just released a Synthesis Report on “Near Term Climate Protection and Clean Air Benefits: Actions for Controlling Short-Lived Climate Forcers”. The publication provides a bridge between science and policy, by highlighting the costs and the benefits of, and policy avenues for, introducing a package of measures at various levels that can reduce concentrations of methane, black carbon and tropospheric ozone, known as “short lived climate forcers”. These substances, in addition to having an impact on climate in the near term, are detrimental to human health, the environment, and crops. Action to address them, therefore, will lead to multiple benefits in the fields of environment, health, food security and development in addition to contributing to climate protection in the near term, a strategy that can complement the long term mitigation efforts that are ongoing under the climate regime. The report builds on previous scientific research, reflected in the “UNEP/WMO Integrated Assessment of Black Carbon and Tropospheric Ozone” and the related “Summary for Policy Makers”.

The development of the synthesis report was managed jointly by the Chief Scientist (Joseph Alcamo) and the Division of Environmental Law and Conventions of UNEP. The report has been written by an international team of 40 authors with coordination by the Stockholm Environment Institute, SEI. The development of the report was overseen by a steering committee with representatives from Bangladesh, Mexico, South Africa and Sweden, chaired by UNEP’s Chief Scientist and was reviewed by 60 external reviewers from 15 countries. The development of the report was funded by the Swedish Ministry of the Environment.

Objectives: The side event will provide an opportunity to discuss the findings of the UNEP report and possible action to address short lived climate forcers.

Agenda:

- 11.30 — 11.40 Introductory remarks - Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director.
- 11.40 — 11.50 Main findings of the Near Term Climate Protection Report - Joseph Alcamo, UNEP Chief Scientist and Report Steering Committee Chair.
- 11.50 — 12.15 Remarks by Hon. Lena Ek, Minister of the Environment, Sweden.
Remarks by Hon. Dr. Hasan Mahmud, Minister of Environment and Forests, Bangladesh.
- 12.15 — 13.00 Panel discussion on responding to the challenge of acting on short lived climate forcers.

The Panel will be composed of representatives of the following countries: Canada, Ghana (TBC), Mexico, Republic of Korea (TBC), South Africa, and USA.

A representative of the authors and civil society will also be part of the Panel.

Documentation: The report is available online at:

<http://www.unep.org/publications/ebooks/SLCF/>

Summary of UNEP’s “Integrated Assessment of Black Carbon and Tropospheric Ozone” is available online at:

http://www.unep.org/dewa/Portals/67/pdf/BlackCarbon_SDM.pdf

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE REPORT

UNEP:

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