Workshop Summary

Meeting Title: National Workshop on Phasing-Out Leaded Gasoline in Iraq

Date: 4th-5th December 2012

Venue: WHO-CEHA Premises - Amman, Jordan

A national workshop on phasing out leaded gasoline in Iraq was held in Amman, Jordan on 4-5 December 2012, in cooperation with the World Health Organization- Centre for Environmental Health Activities (WHO-CEHA), Asian Clean Fuel Association (ACFA) and the Partnership for Clean Fuel and Vehicles (PCFV).

The organization of the meeting was coordinated by the UNEP Regional Office for West Asia. Fifteen Iraqi decision makers and experts from Ministries of Environment, Oil, Planning, Interior and Transport participated in the workshop. Three Chief Executives of ACFA and experts from CEHA and the PCFV delivered key presentations during the Workshop. The Workshop was opened by Dr. Basel Al Yousfi, Director of CEHA.

During the Workshop, representatives from Iraqi ministries discussed the progress made since the first national workshop that took place in Cairo, Egypt on 20-21 April 2011. Representatives from the Ministry of Oil informed participants of plans for upgrade of refineries, and commissioning of new projects that would increase production of unleaded gasoline in the country. A significant achievement highlighted during the workshop was the formation of the National Committee for Sustainable Transport in late 2011, whose membership consists of representatives from concerned ministries, particularly the Ministry of Environment.

After two days of lively discussions and deliberations, participants agreed on a number of key recommendations that will form the road map for phasing-out leaded gasoline in Iraq. These included the following:

- Agreed target date to Phase-out leaded gasoline by the year 2015. Ministry of Oil to implement and Ministry of Environment to follow up on progress.

- Enact Sustainable Transport Legislation as proposed by the National Committee for Sustainable Transport. Ministry of Transport to implement and Ministry of Environment to follow up on progress.

- Increase national awareness programmes and campaigns on the dangers and health effects of leaded gasoline and high levels of sulphur in fuels. Ministries of Environment and Planning to coordinate the implementation of the programmes and campaigns.

- Request concerned UN agencies such as UNEP and WHO-CEHA, and partners such as ACFA and PCFV, to provide technical support to Iraq for phasing-out leaded gasoline.