



21-24 February 2011, Nairobi, Kenya

GC.26 / GMEF

26th session of the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum

DATE: Wednesday 23rd February 2011
TIME: 13.30 – 15.00
VENUE: Conference Room 12

SIDE EVENT:

Quick Impact on Climate Change: The Option of Reducing Short-lived Climate Forcers

Purpose: This side event has two main goals. The first is to present important new results from the latest UNEP/WMO scientific assessment of methane, tropospheric ozone and black carbon. These substances are called “short-lived climate forcers” because they contribute to global warming and also have a relatively short lifetime in the atmosphere. An assessment of current science confirms that reducing these substances can slow global warming over the short run, reduce regional climate change impacts, and provide health and agricultural benefits by reducing air pollution. The second goal of the side event is to present policy options that could become part of a comprehensive Action Plan for slowing climate change over the next two decades by targeting reductions of short-lived climate forcers.

Co-chairs: H.E. Mr. Andreas Carlgren; Swedish Environment Minister
H.E. Mr. Juan Rafael Elvira Quesada; Mexican Secretary of the Environment

Introduction

Speaker: Prof. Joseph Alcamo, Chief Scientist, UNEP

Part I.

Results from the UNEP/WMO Black Carbon and Tropospheric Ozone Assessment

10 min What are short-lived climate forcers and what impacts do they have on climate if left uncontrolled?

Speaker: Dr. Frank Raes, Head Climate Change Unit, European Commission Joint Research Centre, Ispra, Italy

10 min What are the benefits of reducing short-lived climate forcers?

Speaker: Dr. Johan Kuylenstierna, Director, Stockholm Environment Institute, UK



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Part II. The Policy Response

12 min **What are the possible elements of an Action Plan for Near-term Climate Protection and Clean Air Benefits?**

Speaker: Dr. Bradnee Chambers, Chief, Policy & Interlinkages Unit, UNEP/DELCC

30 min **Panel: What are the policy options for reducing short-term climate forcers?**

H.E. Mr. Andreas Carlgren; Swedish Environment Minister

H.E. Dr. Mohammed Hasan Mahmud; Bangladeshi Minister of Environment & Forestry

H.E. Mr. Daniel Reifsynder; Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, USA

Dr. Christian Blondin; Director, Cabinet of the Secretary-General and External Relations Department, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Geneva, Switzerland

Ms. Pam Pearson; International Cryosphere Climate Initiative (ICCI)

Ms Lorna Omuodo; Founder of the Vanilla Jatropha Foundation, Nairobi, Kenya

15 min **Questions and Answers**

