

The Action Plan



ACTION PLAN FOR THE PHASE-OUT OF LEADED GASOLINE in East Africa

Ninety-one participants representing governments, the private sector and civil society, met in Nairobi, Kenya, from 5 to 7 June 2002 to develop an action plan for the phase-out of leaded gasoline in East Africa.

Considering

that human exposure to lead is a major environmental health hazard which results in a broad range of serious and often irreversible health consequences, especially in children;

that leaded fuel prevents the introduction of cleaner engines and catalytic converters which are necessary to achieve significant reductions in air pollution;

Recognising

that lead phase out is the essential first step to a comprehensive air pollution control strategy in East African countries;

that by building linkages with existing and future initiatives as well as involving all the relevant stakeholders will ensure successful implementation of these strategies;

that most countries in the East African sub-region still use only leaded gasoline ;

that the undisputed health and environmental dangers of leaded fuels are a serious and growing threat in East Africa;

and that there is a broad consensus among government, industry and civil society partners in favour of urgently phasing out the use of leaded gasoline;

Taking Note of

the decision on phasing out of leaded gasoline at the UNEP Governing Council (Decision 21/6 of February 2001) and the Dakar Declaration on the phasing out of leaded gasoline in Sub-Saharan Africa (June 2001);

the priority given to the phase out of leaded gasoline world-wide during the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, August-September 2002);

and the three sub-regional Workshops on phasing out of leaded gasoline in Sub-Saharan Africa, held in Abuja (November 2001), Dakar (March 2002) and Cotonou (April 2002).

The participants agree

that in the East Africa context, considering health, environment, technology and economic factors, options are available to remove lead from gasoline;

that the only refinery in the sub-region is central to the phasing out of leaded gasoline in many countries in East Africa.

The Participants therefore recommend that the following actions be taken urgently to prepare for and execute the phasing out of leaded gasoline (actions are listed below with additional details given in the attached table):

1. for East African Governments to declare their intention to phase out the use of lead in gasoline and to organise a group of people to work on the specific modalities for the implementation of such phase out;
2. for multi-stakeholders to convene meetings in each country to develop road maps for the phase out of leaded gasoline (including fuel specifications, pricing and taxation, and enabling activities);
3. for respective authorities of East African Governments to work towards harmonisation of fuel specifications in the region to ease the introduction of unleaded gasoline and facilitate regional trade, recognizing different timeframes and needs;

4. the enactment of appropriate national legislation/ regulation to ensure more stringent fuel quality –including unleaded gasoline- and emission standards, and monitoring and enforcement of these standards;
5. the development of awareness campaigns to train and educate government officials, fuel pump operators, and service attendants, and others, to promote unleaded gasoline;
6. for industry (oil, automotive, and retailers) to declare that leaded fuel is not necessary in East Africa and to provide sound technical information and authoritative statements to government and public;
7. for Governments to remove any barriers to the provision of unleaded fuel, and for oil companies and retailers to take a leadership role in ensuring that unleaded gasoline is widely available throughout East Africa;
8. for Governments and international agencies to purchase unleaded fuel only for their own vehicle fleet consumption;
9. for civil society to encourage actions by governments and the private sector to accelerate the phase out of lead in gasoline;
10. to develop public awareness campaigns addressed to the whole population focussed on key health and environmental issues and reasons for phasing out leaded gasoline;
11. to develop awareness-raising campaigns addressed to car users, auto trade, mechanics, etc., focussed on vehicle performance, user benefits, etc. to dispel myths about unleaded gasoline;
12. to initiate programmes to gather and generate data and information in support of the awareness campaigns (ambient air quality, emissions, lead pollution, lead blood levels, vehicle population...);
13. for the National Environment Council in Kenya, as well as similar organisations in other East African countries, to put on their agenda the phase out of leaded gasoline.

To monitor progress in implementing this Action Plan,

a review, organised by UNEP, will take place during the second half of 2003 (or first half of 2004) in connection with the meeting of the African Ministers of Environment (AMCEN); as part of this review each government will prepare a short report on progress, IPIECA will prepare a report on actions taken by the

private sector, and civil society organisations will be invited to report on activities in relation to the action plan. UNEP will prepare a report of this review which will be sent to all participants of the East Africa Sub-Regional Workshop.

The international organisations that have supported this workshop, IPIECA, UNEP, USEPA, and The World Bank Group, will continue to support activities for the phase out of leaded gasoline in East Africa as well as in the rest of the world.

Nairobi, 07 June 2002