

Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles in LAC Recommendations for future action

On 3 and 4 November 2005, experts and other interested organisations representing governments, civil society groups, the private sector, and international organisations met to discuss the progress that is being made in the promoting of cleaner fuels and vehicles for better urban air quality in México. The meeting was jointly organized by SEMARNAT, CEMDA and the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles, with support from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the United Nations Environment Programme.

The participants agreed that much progress has been made in México and México City. However, there was also agreement that additional actions are necessary to further improve urban air quality.

The Participants recommend the following:

- * Mexico should go ahead with the implementation of ultra low sulfur gasoline and diesel, in specific the implementation of ultra low sulfur diesel in 2006 for the border region and 2007 (in the whole country);

- * Develop emissions standards for new vehicles to ensure vehicular emissions will further reduce;

- * and busfleets and other heavy diesel vehicles should be retrofitted with after treatment technologies to further reduce emissions.

It was also recommended that:

- * as the experience and lessons learned in México are valuable to many countries in Central and Latin America, a regional network should be set up that can support the introduction of cleaner fuels and vehicles. The network should be supported by the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles and SEMARNAT and other interested organizations. Tasks for the regional network can include the following:

- Develop a baseline today for fuels and emission standards for the region;

- Develop a knowledge database on best available technologies for reducing emissions from transport;

- Organize a regional workshop with all the stakeholders, in 2006, to promote the use of cleaner fuels and vehicles in the LAC region, using the lessons learned in Mexico and other countries;

- Set concrete targets for LAC, both regional and national, in the area of introduction of cleaner fuels and vehicles through the regional workshop;

Bring the issues of the need for cleaner fuels and vehicles to the policy and political level to facilitate decision making;

Promote the application and use of the lessons learnt to the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, headed by UNEP's Regional Office of Latin America and the Caribbean;

Promote other aspects of improving air quality, for example non motorized transport, infrastructural improvements, public transport and modal splits;

Create awareness by the public of the severe health and environment effects of transportation related air pollution. Communicate to the public the importance of an integrated approach to mobility, including cleaner fuels and vehicle technologies, non motorized transport, improved maintenance, traffic management, and more efficient and less polluting transport systems and modes. This can only be achieved if all stakeholders work together to achieve the common goals of a cleaner more sustainable transportation system.