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Industry Leaders, including Energy Companies, Forge Partnerships to Advance Climate Solutions and Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants

More than Two Dozen Cities Commit to Reduce Methane Emissions from Solid Waste

New York, 23 September – Multinational oil and gas companies have joined forces with governments and international environmental organizations to cut the emissions of methane, a potent greenhouse gas produced by the oil and gas industry, as part of the Oil & Gas Methane Partnership. Launched at today's Climate Summit, this Partnership is under the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC).

Partners of the Oil & Gas Methane Partnership include: ENI of Italy; Petróleos Mexicanos or Pemex; the U.S. gas company Southwestern Energy; Norway's Statoil Group; BG Group, the former British Gas, and Thailand's oil and gas company, PTT. The Natural Resources Defense Council and Environmental Defense Fund have also signed onto the initiative, as have governments from major oil and gas producing countries, including Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, The Russian Federation and the United States.

This announcement was one of five made today by industry leaders, governments and civil society organizations working to help reduce the production of short-lived climate pollutants and advance climate solutions from several industry sectors. The Industry Action Area Session laid out new and concrete plans to reduce these pollutants in oil and gas production, freight transportation, industries using hydrofluorocarbons, and municipal solid waste disposal.

"I am so glad to see concrete initiatives that will help reduce the release of short-lived climate pollutants into the atmosphere," said UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. "These announcements show how governments, corporations and civil society can work together to reduce emissions."

Short-lived climate pollutants, including methane, black carbon (soot), and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), are responsible for a substantial portion of the increase in global temperatures. International efforts to reduce these pollutants can have immediate impact and slow the increase in global temperatures expected over the next 35 years by as much as 0.6°C while benefiting people's health and the production of food. Significant action is needed especially by the oil and gas sector which is responsible for more than 20 per cent of the world's methane emissions, second only to the agriculture sector.

Oil & Gas Methane Partnership: The Oil & Gas Methane Partnership gives companies a systematic, cost-effective way to reduce their methane emissions and transparently demonstrate the impact of their actions to stakeholders. The steering group includes the companies listed above, with other energy companies expected to join, plus the Environmental Defense Fund and the governments of France, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The International Energy Agency has identified upstream methane emissions as one of four key mitigation opportunities that can be used before 2020 with existing technologies, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that U.S. companies in the Methane Partnership could cut their methane emissions from upstream operations in half.

“We see the CCAC Oil and Gas Methane Partnership as a very good platform for sharing good practises on how to manage and reduce emissions,” said Helge Lund, Chief Executive Officer of Statoil Group. “Our significant methane reduction achievement on the Norwegian Continental Shelf will form the basis for our contribution to this joint effort by partners from industry, government and civil society. This Partnership will further our ambition to remain among the most carbon-efficient oil and gas producers globally.”

Oil and Gas Climate Initiative: A second industry-led and voluntary initiative – the Oil and Gas Climate Initiative – was announced by Saudi Aramco on behalf of others engaged in the initiative, including BG Group, Eni, PEMEX and TOTAL. This diverse group of national and international oil companies, which compose a significant share of global oil and gas production, committed to be “part of the climate solution”. They aim to build a platform to share best practices within the industry, address key climate risks, and catalyse meaningful action and coordination on climate change. While in its beginning phase, the initiative aims to focus in areas where work is underway, such as energy access, renewable energy, energy efficiency, reduction of gas flaring and methane emissions, among others – followed by regular reporting on ongoing efforts.

Reducing Short-Lived Climate Pollutants from Municipal Solid Waste: More than 25 cities committed to develop and carry out quantifiable plans of action to reduce short-lived climate pollutants from the waste sector by 2020. The network is anticipated to expand to 50 cities by next year with the goal of 150 cities by 2020, and eventually to include 1,000 cities.

Solid waste landfills are the third-largest human-caused source of methane, making up about 11 per cent of estimated global methane emissions. The waste sector is also a significant source of black carbon (soot) as uncollected or illegally landfilled waste is burned and waste is transported by outdated heavy-duty vehicles. The World Bank projects that municipal solid waste streams will nearly double worldwide by 2025.

“Penang is proud to contribute to the global effort to address climate change through innovative solutions to this complex problem,” said Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Mayor of Penang, Malaysia. “Over the past few years we have been encouraging the diversion of organic waste away from the landfill and toward useful products such as compost and soil amenders. We are also encouraging waste separation at source and the establishment of zero waste communities. We are ready to lead!”

“The Climate and Clean Air Coalition has an important role to play in the next five years. We will raise the awareness and increase concrete action across sectors to address air quality as a public health, climate and development issue,” said Helena Molin Valdes, Head of the CCAC Secretariat. “We implement transformative initiatives in key polluting sectors, some of which are being launched here at the Climate Summit: the oil and gas methane partnership, the global green freight action plan, methane and black carbon reductions from waste and agriculture, and use of alternatives to HFCs. The technologies are there. We are keeping our foot to the accelerator and working hard to act now!”

Global Green Freight Action Plan: Global corporate leaders such as Deutsche Post, DHL and IKEA, and green freight programs such as Green Freight Europe and Eco Stars launched the Global Green Freight Action Plan today. This Plan is a new global coordinating mechanism that includes the support of more than 20 countries and about two dozen leading NGOs, multinational and intergovernmental organizations that aims to align and enhance existing efforts toward cleaner freight delivery.

The Action Plan will identify ways to incorporate black carbon, particulate matter and other air pollutant emission reduction calculations into green freight programs, and expand or improve individual programs in key countries and regions, particularly in developing economies where freight growth is projected to expand rapidly. By implementing the Action Plan, firms that ship or carry freight locally, nationally or internationally can use globally standardized, benchmarking tools and methods to optimize freight efficiency throughout their supply chains.

The transportation sector contributes roughly 22 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions and about 19 per cent of emissions of black carbon (soot), a powerful pollutant with significant adverse health impacts. The heavy-duty vehicles used in freight transportation in particular have a significant impact on climate and air quality, and vehicle activity is projected to grow significantly in the coming decades, particularly in emerging economies which brings extra value to green freight programs such as this.

"Companies are always looking for ways to save fuel and reduce cost. Lack of knowledge and global standards often prevents them from implementing smart technologies and other measures," said Sophie Punte, Executive Director of the Smart Freight Centre, a global organization promoting a more environmentally sustainable and competitive freight sector. "National green freight programs are a critical piece of the puzzle to make freight smarter. This initiative is an important step towards a more efficient and environmentally sustainable global freight sector."

Phasing Down HFCs: Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are highly potent man-made greenhouse gases used as replacements for ozone-depleting substances in industrial sectors, including refrigeration, air conditioning and insulation. They are the fastest-growing greenhouse gases in the world, increasing by 10 per cent to 15 per cent annually in some countries.

More than 20 countries and 10 international organizations today announced their support to begin formal negotiations of an amendment to phase down the production and consumption of HFCs under the Montreal Protocol, while emissions accounting and reporting would remain under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – stressing the need to begin formal negotiations in November 2014.

Supporters of the Joint Statement Phasing Down Climate Potent HFCs also commit to promote public procurement of climate-friendly low, global-warming-potential (GWP) alternatives and welcome complementary private sector-led efforts, including the formation of a Global Cold Food Chain Council and a Global Refrigerant Management Initiative on HFCs, with a goal of reducing global emissions by 30 per cent to 50 per cent within 10 years.

These announcements forms part of United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's call to keep global temperature increases to less than two degrees Celsius by reducing emissions, moving money, pricing pollution, strengthening resilience and mobilizing new coalitions. This is one of eight areas

PRESS RELEASE



CLIMATE SUMMIT 2014

CATALYZING ACTION

identified as critical and further developed during the Abu Dhabi Ascent, a two-day meeting held in the United Arab Emirates in May 2014.

View the Joint Action Statements and Action Plans for the Industry Action Area at <http://www.un.org/climatechange/summit/action-areas/> to learn the details of the commitments and the partners.

Websites:

<http://www.unep.org/ccac>

<http://www.un.org/climatechange/summit>



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