

**Official side event at the Sixth Session of the United Nations  
Environment Assembly  
26 February - 1 March 2024  
Headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme, in  
Nairobi, Kenya**

**Date and time:** Wednesday, 28 February 2024 from 6.30 to 7.45 p.m.

**Format:** In-person

**Location:** Press Room, UN Compound in Gigiri, Nairobi [NB location may be subject to change at short notice]

<b>Title of side event</b>
<b>Action to deliver cleaner air and climate mitigation for the health of people and planet</b>
<b>Lead entity (main organizer)</b>
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<b>Partner entities</b>
United States, UK, Sweden, Kenya, Colombia, Japan, Clean Air Fund, Council on Energy, Environment and Water, Global Methane Hub, WHO, UNECE, UNESCAP, AUC
<b>Thematic focus and expected outcome of side event</b>
<p>National governments and regional organizations can generate climate, health and ecosystems benefits by advancing mitigation of ozone, PM2.5 and superpollutants such as methane that drive climate change and air pollution. Government and regional representatives will be joined by leading philanthropies to share recent success and chart the path forward, with enhanced cooperation for implementation at scale.</p> <p>Air pollution is one of the greatest environmental risks to human health, well-being and livelihoods. Air pollution causes chronic disease, premature death, agricultural crop loss, ecosystem damage and biodiversity loss, and has a significant impact on climate. The World Health Organization estimates the combined effects of ambient air pollution and household air pollution in 2019 are associated with 6.7 million premature deaths annually. The World Bank estimates that the cost of health damage in 2019 caused by air pollution amounts to \$8.1 trillion a year, equivalent to 6.1% of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP).</p>

Speed is vital in reducing air pollution. Lives are being lost daily. The sooner harmful emissions are reduced, the better for all. Speed is also crucial in the fight against climate change. The planet has already warmed more than 1.0°C. According to the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), risks and projected adverse impacts from climate change escalate with every increment of global warming.

The UNEP-convened Climate and Clean Air Coalition will launch the CCAC Clean Air Flagship at COP28. The CCAC Clean Air Flagship will amplify and strengthen multi-level governance, cooperation and capacity on integrated climate and air quality solutions; strengthen science communication to support policy action and fill critical information gaps, especially on the economic cost and benefits of climate and clean air action; elevate air quality and climate agenda through advocacy; promote transparency to encourage private sector action on integrated climate and air quality management; and mobilize finance for air quality and climate agenda.

The CCAC Clean Air Flagship, in coordination with Our Common Air, a global initiative to accelerate clean air, led by the Clean Air Fund and the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, represents the vision and work by the air pollution, climate and health communities to coordinate action and messaging on the importance clean air. The urgency is now being recognized. National governments and regional organizations are meeting the call for action.

The main objectives of this side event are:

1. Highlight the multiple benefits from reducing air pollution, including SLCP mitigation for health, air quality, climate change, agriculture and biodiversity
2. Showcase best practices and next steps to implement mitigation of SLCPs related to policy and regulation, regional cooperation
3. Emphasize the importance of finance and role of philanthropies in driving mitigation
4. Provide a clear pathway for communication and cooperation among Ministries of Environment and their counterparts in Ministries of Health, Ministries of Energy, and other relevant Ministries at the national and regional scales

The expected outcome of this side event is increased momentum and closer coordination among governments, regional organizations, UN agencies and civil society in advancing a common platform for climate and clean air and scaling implementation to achieve mitigation.

## Agenda

### Master of ceremony

- *Ms. Martina Otto*, Head of CCAC Secretariat, UNEP

### Opening remarks (10 min):

- *Ms. Inger Andersen*, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme
- *Ms. Jennifer Littlejohn*, Acting Assistant Secretary Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, U.S. Department of State

### Minister statements (30 min):

- *H.E. Motome Takisawa*, State Minister of the Environment, Japan
- *H.E. Cabinet Secretary Roselinda Soipan Tuya*, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Kenya
- *H.E. Maisa Rojas Corradi*, Minister of Environment, Chile
- *H.E. João Paulo Capobianco*, Vice Minister of Environment, Brazil
- *H.E. Leila Benali*, Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development of the Kingdom of Morocco, UNEA6 President
- *H.E. Han Wha-jin*, Minister of Environment, Republic of Korea

### Panel: Enhancing regional cooperation (25 min):

Moderator: *Ms. Martina Otto*, Head of CCAC Secretariat

- *Ms. Tatiana Molcean*, Executive Secretary, UNECE
- *Mr. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko*, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission
- *Dr. Maria Neira*, Assistant Director-General a.i. Division of UHC/Healthier Populations at the World Health Organization (WHO)
- *Ms. Jane Burston*, Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Clean Air Fund

### Closing remarks (5 min):

- *H.E. Rebecca Pow*, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Minister of Nature, and Vice President on the UNEA Bureau, United Kingdom