



Press Statement:

September 30, 2021

RE: Uganda hosts Climate Change week: commits to improve air quality through monitoring Short-lived Climate Pollutants (SLCP)

Uganda was privileged to host the Climate Change Week from September 20-26, 2021. The Climate Change Week is an annual event that brings together leading climate professionals and communities to discuss practical solutions to climate change. It is a platform for partner states and entities to explore climate challenges and opportunities and showcase ambitious solutions to achieve the Paris Agreement temperature goals.

The phenomenon refers to a variation in the average weather conditions over a long period of time. Climate change may be caused by both natural and human (anthropogenic) factors including, deforestation, pollution, greenhouse gases that are released from burning fossil fuels, degradation of ecosystems such as wetlands etc.

The impacts of climate change have been manifested not only globally, but in Uganda as well. The country has experienced frequent and intense flooding, rising water levels, landslides and hailstorms among others. It is, therefore, important to institute mitigation measures to stabilize greenhouse gas levels and reverse the impacts of Climate Change.

Uganda remains a carbon sink, nevertheless ensuring that Climate Change mitigation and adaptation efforts are integrated in all development processes through Environment and Social Impact Assessments, Environment monitoring and Auditing and Environment compliance and enforcement.

The Climate and Clean Air Coalition

As part of the activities undertaken during the climate change week, Uganda participated in a meeting hosted by the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and committed to ensure improved air quality through effective monitoring of Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCP) and such as methane, ozone. This year's sessions focused on priorities that were identified earlier during the virtual Regional Roundtables and the outcomes of these will be carried forward to the Ministerial sessions later this year.

The CCAC is a partnership of countries that works with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) to support Climate Change adaptation and mitigation in developing countries. The CCAC is already supporting NEMA to finalize the National Air Quality Standards and other projects related to effective implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to achieve climate resilience in Uganda. The coalition is

also supporting the Ministry of Water and Environment to develop tools for implementation of NDCs.

Further discussions are ongoing with the CCAC regarding enhancing institutional capacity for climate resilience, improved air quality and healthy being in Uganda, through training and skilling of relevant institutions, technical support and financing.

About NEMA

NEMA is a semi-autonomous institution of the Government that coordinates, monitors, regulates and supervises environmental management in the country. NEMA spearheads the development of environmental policies, laws, regulations and standards, and guides Government to make sound environmental management decisions.

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For more information:

National Environment Management Authority
NEMA House Plot 17/19/21 Jinja Road
P. O. Box 22255 Kampala Uganda
Tel: +256 414 251064/5/8;
Email: info@nemaug.org; www.nema.go.ug