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**CLEAN AIR TASK FORCE SEES “ENCOURAGING WAY FORWARD”
AS UNEP RELEASES REPORT ON SHORT-LIVED CLIMATE FORCERS**

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STUDY REINFORCES DECADE-LONG EFFORT BY CATF ON SLCFS

BOSTON, February 23, 2011 – The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) today released the Summary for Decision Makers of its long-awaited report, “The Integrated Assessment of Black Carbon and Tropospheric Ozone.” The SDM of the report can be found at http://www.unep.org/dewa/Portals/67/pdf/Black_Carbon.pdf. Clean Air Task Force (CATF), which has been working on these “short-lived climate forcers” (SLCFs) for over 10 years, found much in the report to be optimistic about.

Key findings of the report include:

- The global climate is changing now, warming most rapidly in polar and high-altitude regions, where black carbon’s role in darkening of snow and ice exacerbates already dangerous climate trends.
- Black carbon and ozone are harmful air pollutants that can disturb tropical rainfall and regional circulation patterns such as the Asian monsoon, affecting millions of people on the subcontinent. These pollutants also lead to many premature deaths worldwide, and ozone can also reduce crop yields.
- In the United States and Europe, older diesel engines are responsible for about 60% of black carbon emissions, and are the fastest-growing source of black carbon emissions in developing countries.
- Curbing emissions of black carbon, along with methane and tropospheric ozone, could cut projected climate warming by 0.5 degrees Celsius, or about 0.9 degrees Fahrenheit, by 2070. Such cuts could be made with existing technology and through current political structures, and would have immediate and multiple benefits for human health and that of the planet.

“The very good news is that, unlike carbon dioxide and other long-lived greenhouse gas emissions, where cuts will require many decades before temperature reductions can be measured, mitigation strategies for reducing SLCFs can be implemented quickly, and positive results can be expected over a much shorter time frame,” said Ellen Baum, CATF Senior Scientist who has been looking at the science and policy of SLCFs since 2000. “The UNEP study conclusions support our work in this field, and we look forward to working with them and other multi-nationals, national governmental institutions and the NGO community for their implementation.”

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According to Baum, CATF secured support for critical research that fed directly into the study and is focusing its current research efforts examining how the measures in the UNEP report might be converted to successful, on-the-ground mitigation efforts. Over the last 10 years, CATF has focused its work both in the U.S. and globally.

In the U.S., CATF and its partners have built the Diesel Clean-Up Campaign, which has endorsers in all 50 states working to reduce diesel pollution. Top federal priorities include:

- A “Clean Construction” provision in the new Transportation Bill reauthorization – a funded requirement that construction equipment used in federally-funded infrastructure projects include black carbon controls;
- Funding in the FY12 budget for the highly cost-effective Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA), recently reauthorized in the 2010 “lame duck” session of Congress;
- Creating a “credit for clunkers” program (i.e. a low-interest loan program for cleaner trucks).

“The UNEP analysis further underscores the important and achievable opportunity black carbon reductions provide for near-term climate mitigation, and further bolsters our case for adoption of Clean Construction and other diesel pollution reduction policies,” said CATF’s Brooke Suter, director of the Diesel Clean-up Campaign.

Around the world, CATF’s extensive work on SLCFs includes:

- In November, 2010, CATF organized with Bellona-Russia a meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia to examine transport of black carbon to the Arctic from winter and spring fires in northern latitudes. CATF continues to work with Russian, European and North American scientists to better understand emissions and transport from fires and to recommend practices that could reduce emissions from those fires. With government and NGO partners, pilot projects will take place this year in Russia to reduce springtime agricultural burning.
- For several years, CATF has obtained funding for research by the University of Washington to sample and determine sources for deposition of black carbon in the Arctic and snow-covered regions of China. This work is instrumental for targeting black carbon reductions to benefit these regions.

- CATF provides administrative support to measuring brick kiln black carbon emissions on a worldwide scale, working with Greentech Knowledge Solutions (based in Delhi), Enzen (in Bangalore), Entec-Ag (based in Hanoi) and the University of Illinois. Brick kilns are a large contributor to black carbon, and improved kilns are available and are very likely to reduce black carbon emissions. However, comprehensive measurements are needed to quantify the reduction potential.
- For several years, CATF has supported work on the air quality benefits from methane reductions. The organization is now exploring technology applications that could result in significant emissions reductions; developing recommendations for investment strategies; how nation-specific laws and regulations could support emission reductions; and identifying potential pathways to remove or avoid impediments to reducing emissions. Methane reduction strategies for oil and gas, coal and waste sectors will be issued in the next few months.

“We see the UNEP report as a possible watershed moment in the global effort to curb black carbon, methane and tropospheric ozone as potent climate-forcing agents,” said Baum. “The study outlines an encouraging way forward to reduce these substances, with an almost immediate effect on rising global temperatures, giving us just a tiny bit of breathing room to redouble our essential efforts on carbon dioxide emissions.”

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Clean Air Task Force is a non-profit environmental organization with offices throughout the United States and in China that works to protect the earth’s atmosphere by improving air quality and reducing global climate change through scientific research, public advocacy, technological innovation and private sector collaboration. For more information, please visit www.catf.us.