The Need for Fast Near-Term Climate Mitigation to Slow Feedbacks and Tipping Points

Critical Role of Short-lived Super Climate Pollutants in the Climate Emergency

Background Note

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About the Institute for Governance & Sustainable Development (IGSD)

IGSD’s mission is to promote just and sustainable societies and to protect the environment by advancing the understanding, development, and implementation of effective and accountable systems of governance for sustainable development.

As part of its work, IGSD is pursuing “fast-action” climate mitigation strategies that will result in significant reductions of climate emissions to limit temperature increase and other climate impacts in the near-term. The focus is on strategies to reduce non-CO₂ climate pollutants, protect sinks, and enhance urban albedo with smart surfaces, as a complement to cuts in CO₂. It is essential to reduce both non-CO₂ pollutants and CO₂, as neither alone is sufficient to provide a safe climate.

IGSD’s fast-action strategies include reducing emissions of the short-lived climate pollutants—black carbon, methane, tropospheric ozone, and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). Reducing HFCs starting with the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol has the potential to avoid up to 0.5 °C of warming by end of century. Parallel efforts to enhance energy efficiency of air conditioners and other cooling appliances during the phase down of HFCs can double the climate benefits at 2050, and by 2060 avoid the equivalent of up to 460 billion tonnes of CO₂.

About the Center for Human Rights and Environment (CHRE/CEDHA)

Originally founded in 1999 in Argentina, the Center for Human Rights and Environment (CHRE or CEDHA by its Spanish acronym) aims to build a more harmonious relationship between the environment and people. Its work centers on promoting greater access to justice and to guarantee human rights for victims of environmental degradation, or due to the non-sustainable management of natural resources, and to prevent future violations. To this end, CHRE fosters the creation of public policy that promotes inclusive socially and environmentally sustainable development, through community participation, public interest litigation, strengthening democratic institutions, and the capacity building of key actors.

CHRE addresses environmental policy and human rights impacts in the context of climate change through numerous advocacy programs including initiatives to promote fast action climate mitigation policies to contain and reverse climate change, to reduce the emission of short-lived climate pollutants such as black carbon, HFCs and methane, to protect glaciers and permafrost environments for their value as natural water storage and basin regulators, due to their melt impacts on sea level and its influence on ocean currents and air streams, as well as for their global albedo value and for the many other roles glaciers play in sustaining planetary ecological equilibrium. CHRE also fosters corporate accountability and human rights compliance to address the social and environmental impacts of key climate polluting industries such as oil and gas (including hydraulic fracturing), mining, paper pulp mills and artisanal brick production.
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