

Chair's Summary of the Recommendations made by African Petroleum Ministers at the Cleaner Fuels Meeting held on 29 - 30 November 2022 at UNEP Headquarters, Nairobi Kenya

Introduction

Cleaner fuels are a prerequisite to reducing pollutants and climate emissions from vehicles. The Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles (PCFV) has been promoting lead-free petrol and low sulphur fuels simultaneously with the introduction of stricter vehicle emission control technologies since 2002. With the successful elimination of automotive leaded petrol worldwide in 2021, the focus is now on reducing the sulphur level in petrol and diesel fuels to 50 parts per million (ppm) or below, and a minimum of EURO 4/IV vehicle emission standards globally. The PCFV partners agreed in 2006 to support a global shift to low sulphur fuels to 50 ppm or below.

In Africa, there has been considerable progress towards lowering sulphur in fuels and limited progress on the adoption of cleaner vehicles. At sub-regional level, the East African Community (EAC) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have adopted regionally harmonized low sulphur petrol and diesel fuels and an equivalent EURO 4/IV vehicle emission standard. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) sub-region has adopted a Ministerial decision for low sulphur diesel to be implemented by 2022.

Despite having these adopted harmonized standards at sub-regional level, today only twenty (20) of the fifty-four (54) African countries - Morocco, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Djibouti, Ghana, Benin, Cape Verde, Mauritius, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Seychelles, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Zambia – have achieved 50 ppm or lower diesel fuel and in some cases also petrol fuel. In addition, only two countries, Morocco and Rwanda, have implemented Euro 4/IV vehicle emission standards. Several countries have however moved to intermediate levels of sulphur in fuel as they progress towards 50 ppm Sulphur fuels.

A two-day high-level African Petroleum Ministers meeting was held at the UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya on **29 - 30 November 2022**. The objective of the high-level meeting was to share experiences, discuss challenges and identify opportunities for Africa to fully implement cleaner fuels as a first step to be followed by the adoption of cleaner vehicle standards. The meeting was jointly organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as the Secretariat of the PCFV, and the Netherlands Government, a founding member of the PCFV.

Twenty-four (24) African countries; Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, The Gambia, Togo, Uganda and Zimbabwe, attended the meeting.

Also, in attendance were:

- regional economic bodies namely the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), East African Community (EAC), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), and the European Union (EU);
- representatives from the Netherlands, Belgium, Portugal, and Sweden;
- the oil and vehicle industry represented by Ipieca, Petroleum Institute of East Africa (PIEA), Afton Chemicals, BP, African Refiners & Distributors Association (ARDA), South African Petroleum Industry Association (SAPIA), Shell, TotalEnergies, and the African Association of Automotive Manufacturers (AAAM);
- and non-governmental organizations represented by Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region & Europe (CEDARE), Sustainable Transport Africa (STA), and the Environmental Compliance Institute (ECI).

The following are the recommendations of the High-Level African Petroleum Ministers Meeting on Cleaner Fuels

- 1) Oil *importing* countries are urged to:
 - a. adhere to regionally agreed petrol and diesel fuel quality standards;
 - b. prepare and adopt national low sulphur petrol and diesel fuel standards in the absence of sub-regional standards;
 - c. target *1 July 2023* for national implementation of 50 ppm petrol and diesel fuel standard.
- 2) Oil *refining* countries with existing refineries be granted waivers to upgrade their facilities and comply to 50 ppm petrol and diesel fuel standards.
- 3) African countries that are *importing and refining* fuel are urged to import 50 ppm or below by 1 July 2023 as refineries are upgraded in line with sub-regionally agreed target dates.
- 4) *Sub-regional economic communities* are urged to implement and develop sub-regional standards – Economic Commission of West African States (ECOWAS) and the East Africa Community (EAC) to implement existing sub-regional harmonized low sulphur standards, and the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), the Economic Community for Central Africa States (ECCAS) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to develop sub-regionally harmonised low sulphur fuel standards.
- 5) The *regional bodies*, in particular the African Union Commission (AUC) and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in collaboration with the sub-regional economic communities, to facilitate a continental transition to cleaner fuels – 50 ppm or below petrol and diesel fuel standards.
- 6) *Countries exporting oil* to Africa are urged to export cleaner fuels with maximum 50 ppm sulphur – with a target date of *1 July 2023*.

- 7) *Oil companies* are urged to support the shift to cleaner fuels in line with the targets agreed by the PCFV, by providing cleaner, low sulphur fuels only.
- 8) *Vehicle companies* are urged to support the shift to cleaner vehicles in line with the targets agreed by the PCFV, by providing EURO 4/IV or better vehicles only.
- 9) African countries are urged to also implement a minimum of *EURO 4/IV vehicle emissions standards* to reduce vehicle emissions and improve air quality.
- 10) Used vehicles exporting countries and importing African countries are urged to adopt regulations that will ensure only *quality used vehicles* are imported into Africa. African countries are urged to cooperate with used vehicles exporting countries and regions, in particular the EU, when updating their end-of-life vehicle regulation.
- 11) The *non-governmental organisations* and the media have a role to play by providing information and carrying out public outreach on cleaner fuels benefits.
- 12) Support should be given, including financing, to the upgrades of African refineries to allow them to produce cleaner fuels.
- 13) African countries are urged to regularly *check the quality of the fuel* in their countries and publish the results.
- 14) There is a need to support capacity building for switching to cleaner fuels and vehicles in Africa, including in the areas of fuel testing, technology transfer, and refinery upgrade.
- 15) African countries are also urged to prepare and implement sustainable transport solutions that include active and public transport modes and electrification of mobility.
- 16) UNEP, as PCFV Secretariat, to submit the recommendations of this meeting to all invited meeting participants and other relevant organisations, and to publish these recommendations on the UNEP/PCFV website.

Find meeting agenda, list of participants, workshop documents here:

<https://www.unep.org/events/conference/high-level-african-petroleum-ministers-meeting-cleaner-fuels>