The Rt Hon Alok Sharma, MP
COP26 President

The Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng, MP
Secretary of State at the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

May 9, 2022

Request for UK Government leadership in advance of COP27

Thank you for your efforts to convene leaders from around the world to put methane front and center at COP26. With the UK's leadership, the successful launch of the Global Methane Pledge (GMP), with more than 110 countries supporting to date, proves that our global community is committed to slowing down global warming and meeting the 1.5C target pledged under the Paris Climate Agreement.

But, as shown by the recently released IPCC Working Group III report, we're running out of time to make the transformative changes necessary to meet this commitment. Just recently, the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) found in new analysis that atmospheric levels of methane spiked by a record amount in 2021 and are increasing at the fastest-ever recorded rate. This is combined with the fact that carbon dioxide emissions hit their highest level in recorded history. As the IPCC as well as UNEP/CCAC's Global Methane Assessment have shown, methane emission reductions are our best tool for immediately slowing down global warming in the next two decades.

While COP26 harnessed tremendous high level political attention from around the world for methane mitigation, we must see concrete progress in advance of COP27, or we risk losing the momentum created in Glasgow.

On behalf of the UK and international NGO community undersigned here, we request that the UK continue to demonstrate leadership on methane reductions, both domestically and internationally, by taking the following actions:

- Incorporate specific methane mitigation targets into its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).
- Broaden its commitment under the GMP through the development of a robust National Methane Action Plan, outlining specific targets and critical pathways for rapid methane emissions reductions.
- Initiate a process for developing strong domestic methane policies for the energy sector that will reduce emissions from production (offshore and onshore), processing, transmission and distribution of natural gas.
- Launch new efforts to reduce emissions in the waste sector through stronger landfill gas capture policies and organics diversion.

- Accelerate RD&D for livestock methane reduction techniques, including feed additives, following the UK's National Food Strategy recommendations.
- Strengthen its commitment under the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) by working with development financial institutions (DFIs) to push for scaled-up finance for methane mitigation.
- Support the broader efforts of the CCAC via a financial commitment of $3 million USD to the Trust Fund. This amount is identical to the commitments made by Canada and Switzerland.
- Continue to encourage additional countries to sign onto the Global Methane Pledge.

As a global leader on this issue, failure to act by the UK will send a negative signal to the rest of the world. We need to take immediate and effective action on methane to limit warming and strongly encourage the UK Government to continue to lead in this effort.

Sincerely,

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