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## Arctic nations agree to act on pollutants to decrease warming, melting in region

Tromsø, Norway – Ministers of the Arctic Council nations (the US, Russia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Iceland) agreed at their meeting in Tromsø, Norway, to move aggressively forward on efforts to limit black carbon, methane, and tropospheric ozone in order to slow the impact of global warming on the Arctic region.

“People concerned about the rapid deterioration of the Arctic region because of warming and melting there have something to celebrate,” said Arctic authority Brooks Yeager, vice president for policy at Clean Air - Cool Planet (CA-CP). “Short-lived forcers (SLFs) and their role in climate change in the Arctic was a major part of this meeting, and the ministers agreed to create a task force that will look at furthering the science and implementing immediately available solutions.

“Science has been telling us for some time that these so-called ‘short-lived forcers’ are speeding up warming and melting in the Arctic,” Yeager said. “This in turn has exacerbated climate change in the rest of the globe, and caused huge changes to ecosystems in the Arctic region, endangering species, natural resources, and cultures.”

Clean Air - Cool Planet and the Clean Air Task Force (CATF) have worked together over the past five years to combine science expertise with policy experience to help support the declaration that was approved today by the Council ministers.

Speaking after the conclusion of the ministerial Wednesday, the immediate-past chair of the Arctic Council, Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Jonas Gahr Støre, said the agreement on SLFs was a major outcome, according to Yeager.

“He said the Council will want to take the issue to the COP in Copenhagen, which is very good news for those of us who’ve been working on getting attention for these solutions,” Yeager said.

Denmark took over leadership of the Council from Norway at the close of the meeting.

For more information on the role of SLFs, also known as short-lived pollutants, visit [www.arcticwarming.net](http://www.arcticwarming.net).

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