

Foreword

On June 26-28, 2001 a regional conference was held in Dakar, Senegal, on the subject of phasing-out leaded gasoline in sub-Saharan Africa. This conference, organized by the World Bank in the framework of the Clean Air Initiative in sub-Saharan Africa, was attended by delegates from 25 countries. One of the major output of the Dakar conference was a unanimous agreement to eliminate lead from gasoline as soon as possible, and at the latest by 2005.

Five sub-regional Actions Plans, framing national clean air implementation programs, were drafted by groups of countries. The sub-regional group led by Nigeria was the first to start the implementation process, on the basis of the features of the oil industry prevalent in that country.

This Working Paper gives the proceedings of a national conference organized by the Nigerian Authorities in Abuja on November 15-16, 2001. The main results of the conference was the adoption of a two-step approach :

- reduction to 0.15 g Pb/l by the end of 2002, a project currently undertaken by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC);
- total phase-out of leaded gasoline by year 2004.

This Working Paper is the first of a series on the follow up and monitoring of the elimination of leaded gasoline in sub-Saharan Africa. Each sub-regional group will have its own agenda and milestones but Nigeria plays a prominent role in African oil industry. Its stated policy and program to phase-out leaded gasoline is most relevant to other countries of the continent and should contribute to improving air quality in the urban areas of sub-Saharan Africa.

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