



Roundtable "Methane Emissions in KAZAKHSTAN: Current Situation and Necessary Measures for Reduction"

Astana city, April 12, 2023.

This week a roundtable was held, which was initiated by the Center Cooperation for Sustainable Development in the Republic of Kazakhstan (hereinafter - the Center), with the financial support of the Diplomatic Mission of the U.S. Embassy in Kazakhstan, as part of the implementation of the project **"Assistance for Methane Reduction in Kazakhstan"**.

Representatives of government agencies, international organizations, businesses in the field of agriculture, energy and waste management, as well as representatives of financial institutions and associations were involved. The purpose of the event was to discuss the current situation and necessary measures to reduce methane emissions in Kazakhstan, as well as opportunities and prospects for



Kazakhstan to join the Global Methane Commitment. During the discussion, the participants shared their experience, knowledge and research, as well as presented various proposals and solutions for more effective control and reduction of methane emissions.

In the process of organizing the roundtable, important and topical issues related to methane emissions in Kazakhstan were considered. These issues included:

- Discussion of the current situation on methane emissions in Kazakhstan, including the contribution of livestock to total greenhouse gas emissions;
- Consideration of Kazakhstan's goals to reduce methane emissions and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060;
- Possibility of Kazakhstan joining the Global Methane Commitment;
- Demonstration of the content of the similar review "Methane emissions in Kazakhstan: current situation and necessary measures for reduction", developed by the experts of the Center.

The discussion of these issues allowed all participants to reveal their potential and share their point of view on practical ways to address the management of the second most important anthropogenic gas, methane (CH₄).



For example, the following recommendations were voiced during the discussion:

- On inclusion of methane in the list of greenhouse gases subject to quotas, along with CO₂ and making additions to the Rules of state regulation in the sphere of emissions and removals of greenhouse gases;
- Develop and implement incentives for the use of coal mine methane in economic sectors (e.g., eliminate the ban on commercial use of methane);
- Develop targets for reducing methane emissions and include them in strategic documents of the Republic of Kazakhstan at the national and local levels;
- Determine investment preferences to attract investments for construction of biogas plants;
- Develop a plan to stimulate agricultural producers by providing state support measures for beef cattle breeding for biogas production (combined processing of livestock waste).

The roundtable served as a useful platform for discussing the current situation and collecting recommendations from those directly in possession of information. It is important to note that the share of methane emissions from all sectors of Kazakhstan's economy is 12.4% of



total greenhouse gas emissions in 2020, with the global warming potential of methane 28 times stronger than CO₂. The participants of the roundtable were able to express their common opinion on the need to take measures to reduce methane emissions in various sectors of the economy today in support of the Strategy for achieving carbon neutrality until 2060, which calls for the implementation of practices aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions from sectors of the economy and contributing to climate change mitigation, as well as international commitments of Kazakhstan.

Methane, as a strong greenhouse gas, plays a significant role in climate change. Its emissions into the atmosphere contribute to the greenhouse gas effect, leading to global warming and climate change. However, regulating methane emissions offers unique opportunities to mitigate the negative effects of climate change and utilize it as an additional source of energy. It is important to develop measures to improve production and waste management, as well as to develop innovative technologies to capture and utilize methane as an energy resource. Thus, regulating methane emissions has a double benefit: by limiting its impact on the climate, it is possible to



take a step towards using it as a sustainable energy source, which will contribute to more sustainable and environmentally friendly development.

The key task of the roundtable was to convey the idea to representatives of economic sectors about the possibility of developing the energy sector and apply methane as an additional source of energy, for example, by installing biogas plants like QazBioEnergy LLP.