

## **Transforming a sector – N<sub>2</sub>O abatement in nitric acid production**

### **Declaration on N<sub>2</sub>O Mitigation in Nitric Acid Production**

The international community has agreed to the common goal of keeping global warming below a threshold of 2°C. Countries and stakeholders are working on measures in all sectors. However, science tells us that we are still facing a large mitigation gap in order to remain on a 2° consistent pathway.

In view of the climate change challenges, we cannot allow emissions that can be avoided with moderate efforts to continue.

N<sub>2</sub>O emissions in nitric acid production can be abated relatively easily and at a low cost. Abatement technology is available and can be installed quickly in existing plants. Nitric acid is primarily a raw product for nitrogen fertilizers. Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) is created as an unwanted by-product in nitric acid production and frequently vented to the atmosphere without any treatment. It has a GHG effect 265 times that of CO<sub>2</sub>. A rough estimate puts the currently unabated GHG potential from nitric acid production at well above 100 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents annually. Abatement technology is however available and can be installed quickly in existing plants. However, a significant part of the nitric acid producing installations worldwide, especially but not only in developing countries and economies in transition, are not abating yet – or even stop once started N<sub>2</sub>O destruction due to ongoing costs for abatement.

The signatories affirm their commitment to help ensure abatement of N<sub>2</sub>O from nitric acid production with the aim to globally phase out these emissions as soon as possible.

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Date, Signature