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SUMMARY REPORT

From Recovery to COP26: The Contribution of Sustainable Cooling

A Brief history of the Cool Coalition

Launched at the First Global Conference on Synergies between the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement, the Cool Coalition is a global multi-stakeholder network that connects a wide range of key actors from government, cities, international organizations, businesses, finance, academia, and civil society groups to facilitate knowledge exchange, advocacy and joint action towards a rapid global transition to sustainable cooling. In September 2019, the Cool Coalition became one of the official outcomes and "Transformation Initiatives" put forward by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General for the UN Climate Action Summit in New York. The Cool Coalition has already 100 partners driving change in the cooling sector including UK who pledged to share knowledge, advocate and act on sustainable cooling.

Context of the Session

This event was organized in the framework of the London Climate Action Week Digital, 1-3 July 2020 which will "brought together world-leading experts and policy makers to drive the national and international Covid-19 climate policy response, prioritizing green recovery."

The objective of the session was to demonstrate how sustainable cooling can help governments meet near-term stimulus objectives while also meeting commitments they made as a part of the Paris Agreement, Kigali Amendment, and Sustainable Development Goals, which are all crucial for a better recovery. The session was chaired by Dan Hamza-Goodacre, part of the COP26 Champions Team and K-CEP Non-Executive Director, co-hosted by the UK Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the UK Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), the UNEP-led Cool Coalition and supported by E3G and the Kigali Cooling Efficiency Program (K-CEP).

At the event, the UK Government released a document that describes its efforts on sustainable cooling at home and abroad, and opportunities for action as countries build back better from COVID-19 while looking forwards to COP26. The guide has been developed by the UK Government in collaboration with UK's Carbon Trust and K-CEP, as a contribution to the Cool Coalition.

Report of the Session

Opening: Rt Hon Lord Goldsmith, Minister of State for Pacific and the Environment, defined the current global crisis as "the latest symptom of our dysfunctional relationship with the natural world". He stated that "delivering cooling can be either a huge part of the problem or a huge part of the solution" and that we need to ensure access and enable a transition to sustainable cooling.

He briefed participants on UK's current efforts in in solar-powered storage for vaccines, the establishment of an African Center of Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold Chain in Rwanda, and the publication of a UK-Cool Coalition sustainable cool guide to show good practice for governments, businesses, industry and cities. Lord Goldsmith stated that "technology is one part of the story" in the battle against climate change and "demand for nature has never been higher". He explained there are cooling benefits of trees and water for cities within the UK and around the world concluding "there is no doubt that cities around the world are already leaning on trees."

Lord Goldsmith stated that "cooling underpins all five themes that we've chosen for COP26," and should therefore be integrated in the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) being submitted by 2020. "This is the moment for a seismic shift. As we rebuilt, as every country in the world is going to have to do on the back of coronavirus, we can now make decisions that turn this experience to the good, by taking this chance to make environmental sustainability and resilience the lens through which we map out a green and fair and resilient recovery" he concluded.

India: Rameshwar Prasad Gupta, Secretary of the Ministry of the Environment, Forest and Climate Change presented India's efforts in developing a comprehensive National Cooling Action Plan (ICAP). This document, launched in 2019, enables synergetic action across sectors to meet growing cooling demand while, by 2030, reducing cooling demand across sectors by 20-25%, refrigerant demand by 25-30%, and cooling energy requirement by 25-40%.

Secretary Gupta noted that targets will be met through energy and refrigerant efficiency, R&D, training of over 100,000 servicing sector technicians, and by building on existing country-wide programs. He stressed that the main strength of India's NCAP is the engagement of all relevant stakeholders and an inclusive development.

He highlighted the need to include cooling in recovery plans and to pay special attention to the most vulnerable segments of society ad "cooling access of vulnerable population is essential for economic growth and development".

"Covid-19 (…) has made us again realize the importance of self-reliance and resilience. Resilient infrastructure necessarily includes affordable housing, supply chain logistics and cold chains, transport, manufacturing and livelihoods. Cooling is intrinsic to all of these." Secretary Gupta concluded with an invitation to countries developing their NCAP to reach out to India for support.

Denmark: Climate Ambassador Tomas Anker Christensen described his country's efforts in sustainable cooling to maintain climate ambition and "build back better and greener". He stated that the current crisis is a once in a generation chance to deliver a climate-friendly and climate-proof future for all, that cooling is key in this framework, and it encompasses all prescriptions and sectors for a healthy and green recovery.

Ambassador Christensen claimed that cooling is "a smart place to invest to create jobs, increase productivity, health and combat climate change at the same time". He highlighted that

Denmark recently announced a national target of emissions reductions to 70% by 2030, plans massive investments in energy efficiency in buildings, and is exploring district cooling technologies based on existing district heating systems.

The Ambassador concluded by re-stating Denmark's commitment to the Cool Coalition, of which both the Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Lord Mayor of Copenhagen are Cool Champion, and to ensure that cooling is put firmly on the international agenda. He highlighted the need to further documents the benefits of sustainable cooling, and to develop concrete policy recommendations on cooling as part of transition strategies and NDCs.

Presentation by the Economist Intelligence Unit: Jonathan Birdwell delivered a presentation on the role and benefits of energy efficiency in supporting green recovery and on the specific contribution of sustainable cooling. As the current crisis is mobilizing more than 9 trillion dollars for stimulus packages, it is an opportunity for governments to take action on climate while creating jobs, at a low political and financial cost.

He demonstrated how energy efficiency and sustainable cooling interventions create 77 jobs per every ten million dollars in spending, have a high multiplier effect, as they allow for redirecting cut costs to other expenditures, they can be rapidly rolled out and have very low skill requirements, while having a positive social impact.

While EE and cooling match indicators for economically and environmentally sensible interventions, in the over 350 stimulus packages analyzed by the EIU, just under 7% encourage them. He then called for an increased effort from governments in prioritizing cooling and EE in longer term strategies to benefit both the climate and the economy.

United Kingdom: Kate Hughes, Director of International Climate Change at BEIS, described efforts such as the country's world leading F gas regulations to reduce the use of HFCs, the extension of controls to pre-charged equipment and the inclusion of strict controls on the handling of a HFCs throughout their lifecycle. Internationally, she underscored the provision by the UK of over $3 million to the World Bank and UNEP on projects to accelerate the climate benefits of the Kigali phase down in developing countries.

Director Hughes emphasized that COP26 was an opportunity to raise awareness and international action on product efficiency, to eliminate the least efficient products from the global market. "To do this, we'll be working closely with the IEA and our co-leads in the SEAD initiative", which aims at mobilizing action for energy efficiency through coordination across countries and the global marketplace to bring these benefits much more quickly, also key for the recovery phase. She also mentioned the UK industry-led World Refrigeration Day initiative, which will be the starting point for additional global collaboration on the topic of "Cold Chain 4 Life", aiming at ensuring sustainable cold chains, reducing food loss and waste, and decarbonized containment networks.

As the Head of the Mission Innovation Secretariat and Chair of its Steering Committee, the UK is playing an important role in accelerating clean energy innovation through international collaboration and its pledge to double spending on clean energy innovation to £400m by

2020/2021. The UK is exploring opportunities for sustainable cooling as it looks towards the launch of phase 2 of Mission Innovation.

Director Hughes also highlighted that the UK is also doubling its international climate finance to £11.6billion over the next five years, including £1billion for clean energy innovation to support research, development and demonstration in developing countries under the Ayrton Fund, as announced by the UK Prime Minister last year.

France: Francesco Gaeta, Director of European and International Affairs at Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition of France, stated that "a smart transition of the cooling sector can avoid up to 0.8 degrees Celsius of global warming by the end of the century" and that "every faction of the degree counts to reach the Paris agreement objectives". As such, "France is very committed to make the cooling sector greener and more efficient."

He mentioned the implementation of tax incentives to foster the deployment of cooling alternatives, and the enhanced cooperation with customs to fight against the illegal trade of HFCs. France also promotes energy efficiency with savings certificates, labelling and eco-design of cooling equipment, as well as smart building design, thermal renovation, nature-based solutions in cities, and education for wise use of air conditioning.

Director Gaeta encouraged countries to ratify the Kigali Amendment, to join the Biarritz Pledge for fast action on efficient cooling, and to contribute to the ongoing drafting of a document on cooling and the COVID recovery, a joint effort between the CCAC Efficient Cooling Initiative and the Cool Coalition.

Finally, Director Gaeta announced a new financing window in the framework of the French Facility for the Global Environment, calling for projects aimed at supporting innovation in sustainable refrigeration and air conditioning in developing countries, in particular in Africa. The contribution will range between half million and three million euros per project, and it is open until October 2020.

Rwanda: Faustin Munyazikwiye, Deputy Director General of the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (Ministry of Environment) presented his government's efforts to support the transition to sustainable cooling, both domestically and nationally. He stressed the role of Rwanda's national cooling strategy, which provides the framework of action and "identifies priority interventions to optimally address Rwanda's growing needs for cooling" to ensure a national green growth pathway.

In this framework, MEPS and labels for ACs and refrigerators will enter into force in January 2021, while awareness campaigns for both users and decision-makers are underway to inform the public about the new regulations, financing mechanisms, and the benefits of energy efficiency in general. This is coupled with efforts to develop the capacity of various intervenors to ensure the entry into force of these policies.

Innovative financing mechanisms are also included in the strategy: on-bill financing will allow users of cooling products to access high-efficiency product and pay them back through the

utility bill, while other mechanisms will allow consumers to lease efficient equipment. Deputy Director Munyazikwiye concluded by announcing new efforts on cold chains, in partnership with UNEP, UK DEFRA, University of Birmingham and Rwanda's REMA. "The center of Excellence will help to develop post-harvest technologies, business models, and technicians to ensure availability of the cold chain of food and medicines."

Viet Nam: Nguyen Dang Thu Cuc, the National Ozone Coordinator of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment highlighted the impact of extreme temperatures and lack of access to cooling on Viet Nam's development, livelihoods and resilience, as farmers are forced to work at night and lose half of their capacity in the process.

At the same time, she underscored that demand is rising rapidly in the country, with an annual growth rate of 25 percent in between 2012-2017. This will contribute greatly to global warming, creating a feedback loop, which is why Viet Nam is putting in place strategies to mitigate the impact of cooling on energy, as well as exploring ways to reduce the need for cooling in urban settings.

"Cooling deserves more attention and support for it to effectively contribute to effective implementation of NDC targets" said the Ozone Coordinator of Viet Nam. "We are taking necessary steps to join the Cool Coalition, which we need to enhance our understanding, knowledge and cooperation with other countries agency and organizations" she concluded.

Closing: Satya S. Tripathi, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Head of New York Office at UNEP, delivered closing remarks saying that we cannot lose focus on the climate challenge:

- Sustainable cooling is critical to ensure health and livelihoods, and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the climate goals all at the same time, in the next 10 years. It is key to avoid increasing the burden on nature: we need is sustainable cooling approaches that are efficient and climate friendly.
- We cannot afford short-term trade-offs between sustainability and economic growth. They must go hand-in-hand. We must integrate sustainable approaches to cooling into COVID-19 responses to make sure they are both resilient and integrate ambitious climate action. We need to leverage sustainable cooling to stimulate the economy and build a strong foundation for a clean and resilient longer-term recovery.

Mr. Tripathi called on governments, the private sector and civil society to make climate friendly cooling a priority, building virtuous partnerships that bring the best of technology, the best of intent, motivation and partnerships at the grassroots with communities and civil society, working with sustainable finance, making money in the billions and the trillions scale available.

"We need to keep innovating and finding new ways to ensure that our need for cooling works with nature and not against it." As the Secretariat of the Cool Coalition "UNEP applauds all its members and we are committed to action and to sharing best practices, policy actions that can be including in stimulus packages. Together we can make a difference," he concluded.

Key takeaways from the session:

- Ensuring access and a transition to sustainable cooling are essential to ensure a healthy, resilient and green recovery, while achieving the SDGs and the Paris climate goals.
- Recovery plans present an opportunity to accelerate the uptake of sustainable cooling, as related interventions create jobs, increase resilience and health, have a positive economic multiplier, are simple and fast to roll out, and address social vulnerabilities and inequality.
- Countries are only minimally including energy efficiency and sustainable cooling interventions in their recovery packages: this needs to change if we are to rebuild back better, greener, and more resilient societies.
- We cannot afford short-term trade-offs between sustainability and economic growth: they must go hand-in-hand. We must integrate sustainable approaches to cooling into COVID-19 responses to make sure they are both resilient and integrate ambitious climate action. We need to leverage sustainable cooling to stimulate the economy and build a strong foundation for a clean and resilient longer-term recovery.
- The United Kingdom, India, France, Rwanda and Viet Nam are among the pioneer countries exploring and deploying innovative technologies, strategies and financing mechanisms to ensure thermal comfort and access to sustainable options while limiting the environmental externalities of cooling.
- New opportunities to advance action on sustainable cooling are rising, as finance is being unlocked through the K-CEP NDC facility for cooling and the French Facility for the Global Environment. Countries are encouraged to share knowledge, advocate and develop their own guide to highlight their actions on sustainable cooling.