



## SUMMARY REPORT

### Cool Down to Speed Up Climate Action and a Green Recovery

**Video Recording:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wug\\_nTVfNCc&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wug_nTVfNCc&feature=youtu.be)

#### [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 over 100 partners driving change in the cooling sector who pledged to share knowledge, advocate and act on sustainable cooling.

#### [Context of the Session](#)

This event was part of a webinar series, hosted by Denmark and Ethiopia, showcasing the energy transition initiatives launched last year at the UN Climate Action Summit. The webinar series presents results achieved by the initiatives and describes how they can support national efforts to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic, while contributing to Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The world has changed radically in the year since the Secretary-General’s Climate Action Summit, when the Cool Coalition was launched. Today, we are facing an unprecedented global health crisis and the worst economic downturn in decades. While the COVID-19 pandemic has the potential to unravel important achievements on both the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement, the recovery from the pandemic also carries the opportunity of a transformation of global energy systems that can accelerate climate action and development.

The energy transition can play a key role in securing the achievement of a global green recovery, and cooling is an essential part of it. According to the latest science, coordinated international action on energy-efficient, climate-friendly cooling could avoid as much as 460 billion tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions – roughly equal to eight years of global emissions at 2018 levels – over the next four decades. On the other hand, cooling underpins the ability of societies to function effectively, keeping food, medicines and vaccines at the right temperature, while enhancing productivity and comfort at home, school and work during high temperatures. Cooling has also come to the fore as one of the essential services facilitating people’s wellbeing during both lockdowns, as well as once a vaccine will become available.



As countries chart a way out of the COVID-19 pandemic, cooling can deliver short-term emergency needs, and support long-term economic recovery, while contributing to sustainable development and building greater resilience to future shocks. Today's high level event gave the opportunity to leaders from the countries, international organisations, companies and financial institutions to highlight what they are doing to ensure a transition to efficient and climate friendly cooling and to provide their point of view on what is needed to speed up action in this important area of work.

## [Report of the Session](#)

**Dan Hamza-Goodacre, Non-Executive Director of K-CEP, part of the COP26 Champions Team,** and Chair of the event, started the discussion by underscoring the need to take the opportunity of the recovery to act on cooling. While much has been achieved by Cool Coalition members since the UNCAS in terms of awareness raising, knowledge products and finance mobilisation, a lot more needs to be done to tackle the cooling challenge.

He then gave the floor to **Tomas Anker Christensen, the Climate Ambassador for Denmark,** to who opened the event by underscoring how, today, "we have a once in a generation chance to change gear to go where we want to be: a sustainable, carbon neutral, climate resilient and inclusive future, in line with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. Going green must be at the centre of our recovery efforts Cooling is an important part of this equation". In fact, 20% of total electricity used in buildings is now used for space cooling appliances, which has led to emissions from space cooling to triple since 1990, he said quoting IEA data. Acting on cooling can, therefore, reduce costs for power production, consumers and society as a whole, while helping to strengthen resilience by reducing food waste by 20%, strengthening cold-chains and reducing heatwave risks for vulnerable populations.

Ambassador Christensen highlighted the need for coordinated international action to act on cooling to reduce emissions, and reminded the audience on the important role of the Cool Coalition in: *calling for high ambition and documenting the benefits of sustainable cooling; promoting the creation of innovative and strategic partnerships and inclusion of civil society and private sector actors; pushing for the uptake of a whole-of-society comprehensive approach to promote an inclusive and just cooling transition for all.* The Ambassador concluded his remarks by calling for enhanced efforts to deliver on efficient, climate-friendly cooling on the way towards COP26.

**The Rt Hon Lord Zac Goldsmith, UK Minister for Pacific and the Environment** intervened through a video recording. He stated that the UK is a proud Champion of the Cool Coalition and urged others to join the group. He then reminded the audience on how the current crisis shed light on our vulnerabilities, not only in terms of economy, but also on how we treat the environment. "This is a wakeup call to profoundly reset our relation to the natural world: the crisis itself is almost certainly the consequence of our abuse of nature, and we know this crisis will be dwarfed by climate change and environmental degradation". He continued by underlining the need to act on cooling to reduce risks produced by these ongoing crises. In fact, because of rising temperatures, cooling is now "everybody's problem", with the poorest suffering the most and with already over 1 billion people struggling to access cooling.



“Cooling matters”, he said, and explained how the UK is leading on innovation for solar-powered storage for vaccines and on sustainable cold chain technology in Rwanda and India. While these efforts will increase the resilience of vulnerable populations and farmers, Lord Goldsmith reminded the audience that “we cannot solve climate change without restoring and protecting nature on an unprecedented scale”. “Globally, a 100-million-dollar annual investment in urban tree planting could create enough shade to cut average temperatures by 1 degree for 77 million people. As such, the UK, through Cities4Forests, is helping cities in India, Madagascar, Indonesia, Mexico and Brazil make trees part of nature-based solutions for adaptation. He urged cities, countries, private and public sector stakeholders to learn from existing best practices to cooling collected in the UK-Cool Coalition sustainable cool guide launched in July. Lord Goldsmith also mentioned the joint efforts with the IEA on the SEAD initiative, which aims at mobilizing action for enhanced energy efficiency in cooling appliances ahead of COP26, which, coupled with the implementation of the Kigali Amendment, can cut up to 0.8C of warming by 2100.

He explained the 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,”. He also stated that, “as co-hosts of COP26 we will be asking governments to come with ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions and, as part of that, we want to see real determination to deliver affordable, sustainable cooling solutions.” “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 stated. Lord Goldsmith concluded by stating that sustainable and affordable cooling solutions are necessary parts of the response to the current health and ecological crises.

**Then, Selwin Charles Hart, UN Special Adviser to the Secretary-General and Assistant Secretary-General for Climate Action, delivered a Firestarter.** He started by underscoring the need to follow the UN Secretary-General’s recommended principles on recovering better, especially after the alarming findings of the United in Science 2020 Report on climate change and its impacts: CO2 concentrations are the highest ever and are heading in the direction of pre-pandemic levels following a temporary decline. In order to meet the Paris Agreement goals, we need to integrate climate action within recovery plans by investing in green jobs, divesting from polluting industries and fossil fuel. We need to take climate risk into account in all financial decisions, doubling down on international cooperation and multilateralism to recover better together, leaving no-one behind in a just transition.

Mr. Hart congratulated the Cool Coalition for accelerating the transition to sustainable cooling, by supporting the inclusion of cooling emission reductions in climate plans, by ensuring access to cooling is integrated into resilience strategies, and by providing examples of effective ways to create cooling-related green jobs through recovery plans. He closed by challenging the Cool Coalition and its members to increase their efforts by doubling the number of government members from both national and subnational levels, secure 26 x COP26 commitments from governments and industry on the pathway to net-zero, and engage at least one private sector



company from each of the high-emitting countries to join the Cool Coalition before COP26. “You have the power to shave almost half a degree off global warming: you can help ensure that global cooling helps tackle global heating” he concluded.

A panel discussion followed Mr. Hart’s intervention where all speakers were invited by Dan Hamza Goodacre to deliver opening remarks and answer the following questions: What do you think is needed to accelerate action at the scale and speed required to meet the 1.5-degree target? What is needed from your peers? How can the Cool Coalition as a partnership support your efforts and help accelerate action on sustainable cooling?

**H.E Tin Ponlok, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Environment of Cambodia**, kick-started the panel discussion by explaining how cooling is a matter of sustainable development in the country. Heat stress was in fact identified as an important factor for reduced productivity in the manufacturing and construction sectors in Cambodia, as well as for farmers. H.E Ponlok explained that, while rural areas struggle to access cooling, in urban areas the growth in cooling use is contributing to stress on power grids and rise in emission levels. This means that it is imperative to transition to sustainable cooling for all to tackle all these challenges at once, he underscored.

Cambodia is becoming an early mover in the region in taking on the cooling challenge, by including cooling into their updated Nationally Determined Contribution, by developing a comprehensive National Cooling Action Plan with the support of the Cool Coalition. Cambodia was also the first country in ASEAN to complete the enabling activities for HFC phasedown with UNEP, required for the implementation of the Kigali Amendment, which Cambodia is now processing for ratification. In order to ensure that cooling interventions, such as building codes, MEPS and sustainable cold chains, can be integrated in the updated NDC implementation, Cambodia will need technology and financial transfers, as well as capacity building. H.E Tin Ponlok concluded by calling for continued cooperation through the Cool Coalition to further intended action on cooling.

**Javier Manzanares, Deputy Executive Director of the Green Climate Fund**, reminded the audience of the great emissions reduction potential of energy efficiency, refrigerants transition and climate friendly cooling, underscoring the Fund’s commitment to facilitate action on these fronts. “But cooling is not only a climate challenge” he underlined the fact that “it is a development challenge” as it affects the livelihoods and wellbeing of 2.3 billion people who lack access to cooling, making them unable to adapt to climatic changes. While technology and solutions exist, Manzanares states that much more efforts need to be put into implementation. He stated that increased cooperation, knowledge sharing, awareness raising on benefits of action on cooling, and comprehensive approaches are needed to ensure that we tackle the cooling challenge, for which the work of the Cool Coalition is fundamental.

Manzanares then explained that the GCF, as a catalytic fund, is following a two-pronged approach to support the upscaling of clean cooling action. The first is supporting the creation of an enabling environment by supporting countries in moving from just policy to planning, to develop minimum energy performance standards and labeling, building codes, and national cooling action plans through GCF Readiness non-reimbursable grants.



The second is to support implementation by working with partners on: integrated and cross sectoral approaches, new business models, replicable and scalable projects, establishing new markets/market trends, and sustainable financial products. He concluded by stating that the GCF stands ready, together with the Cool Coalition and Cool Coalition members, to help countries raise their ambition, formalize their commitments, develop a strategy, specific targets and baselines to tackle the cooling challenge, and apply for GCF funding to act on cooling and ensure a climate-proof future for all.

**Kate Hampton, Chief Executive Officer of the Children's Investment Fund Foundation**, outlined the global philanthropic Foundation's decade-long efforts in enabling progress in increasing access to sustainable cooling for all. Given the critical role of cooling for the climate challenge and for human well-being, CIFF has made additional 20 million available last year to strengthen crucial policies in India, China and the EU, bringing together energy efficiency and ozone experts to get the double win in cooling. Hampton emphasized that "identifying solutions that create opportunity for synergies across multiple issues is at a premium", and that countries need to identify opportunities that have high social-economic-environmental returns and multiplier effect, when planning recovery strategies. She also underlined the need to have an integrated strategy for the energy transition, investing more in energy efficiency and demand-side efforts, rather than focusing entirely on supply-side interventions.

"Cities and countries need to take this challenge head on", Hampton continued, and called on more governments to include cooling in their recovery plans and develop National Cooling Action Plans to ensure that a comprehensive strategy for cooling is set in place. Hampton also challenged industry players and manufacturers to scale-up their sustainability efforts and commit to net-zero and all financial players to increase long-term financing mechanisms to facilitate investments in efficient and climate-friendly cooling. Hampton proposed a "surge of ambition" in the buildup to COP26. She suggested this could include net zero commitments from cooling technology businesses; cooling commitments in countries' nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and public plans to integrate cooling in net zero commitments by cities, investors and others. She concluded by calling for increased action from the Cool Coalition to "keep up the will, attention and urgency" of acting on cooling among challenges that the world is facing now.

**Tabreed's CEO Bader Al Lamki**, whose company joined the Cool Coalition since its launch, highlighted the company's commitment to sustainable cooling solutions and ongoing efforts to scale-up the uptake of energy efficient district cooling in the UAE, India, and globally. "Cooling might be a blind spot in global climate action, but it has not been so in the UAE" he said, with specific focus being given to cooling for more than 20 years. Because of that, Tabreed has today 83 district cooling plants in the Gulf region and India that help avoid 1.2 million tons of CO2 equivalents per year.

Since joining the Cool Coalition last year, Tabreed has been action-driven with the aim to speed up the transition to climate-friendly cooling, Al Lamki explained. The company has since expanded its services, helped reduce 400.000 tons of CO2 equivalents in the context of the UAE through financial investments and buy key partnerships, is now serving key infrastructure in the region while increasing operational efficiency, and was awarded the ISO15001 certificate for energy management.



He pointed up the need to take a system-level approach to climate-friendly cooling, of joining forces through international coalitions to raise awareness on sustainable cooling solutions and collaborate with decision makers to put in place policies that encourage and facilitate the uptake of district cooling, where feasible. “While the cooling challenge is alarming, solutions exist and you can count Tabreed in for helping to scale them up”, Al Lamki concluded.

**Pablo Moreno Head of Corporate Affairs of leading manufacturer Mabe**, stated that his company is working to produce appliances to adapt to a resource-scarce future, where the level of energy efficiency and the refrigerants used can both sustain the business model and take care of the planet at the same time. “Sustainability is the way to promote innovation and collaboration while shifting to finding a new equilibrium” in line with the Paris and the Montreal objectives. He explained how the company is moving towards sustainable and efficient cooling appliances by phasing down HFCs and replacing them with alternatives that allow to reduce the global warming potential by 98%, as well as increase the efficiency of their production processes.

He suggested additional work needs to be done in ensuring that sustainable cooling technologies can be affordable and available to the most vulnerable, including through innovative financing systems, and to enhance efforts for market surveillance to track progress and ensure compliance to existing policy instruments. “Change is possible, and the technology is already available. All we need is to be more aggressive and ambitious” Moreno concluded, and invited other companies and countries to join the Cool Coalition and match Mabe's efforts to ensure sustainable cooling technologies for all.

**Satya S. Tripathi, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Head of New York Office at UNEP** wrapped up the event by calling for enhanced action on cooling to protect the most vulnerable and nature, echoing Hart's challenge for action towards COP26. He underscored the need to act fast by reminding of the United in Science 2020 Report data that show that we will reach 1.4C of warming compared to pre-industrial levels within 5-10 years, not of the century. The sooner we can move away from inefficient and fossil-fuel dependent cooling, the quicker we can ensure a transition to a more liveable future, he said, calling on countries to end all subsidies to fossil fuels and emission intensive businesses.

While action on cooling is fundamental for climate mitigation, increase access to sustainable cooling is also key to ensure adaptation and enhanced livelihoods for all, Tripathi stated. He underlined the importance of cooling for climate action and sustainable development by telling an anecdote: as President Clinton asked him in 2007 about the things that changed the fate of Singapore, former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew included the provision of efficient cooling for the whole population to ensure high productivity, together with gender equality and equal resources for all.

Tripathi closed his remarks by echoing Mr. Hart's challenge towards COP26, inviting the Cool Coalition to keep up the good work on this important topic, and inviting countries and companies to step up the challenge of delivering efficient, climate friendly cooling for all.