Tackling the Cooling Challenge with National Cooling Action Plans

- **Side Event: 24 November 2020, 9:00 – 10:00 am CET**
- **32nd Meeting of the Parties of the Montreal Protocol, 23-27 November 2020**
- **Running time: 60 minutes**
- **Co-organizers: UN ESCAP, UNEP-led Cool Coalition, K-CEP**

Key Takeaways

- **NCAPs are useful tools to drive alignment and integrative action across multiple sectors of cooling**, link technological choices in cooling sectors to energy efficiency and access to cooling, while reducing environmentally harmful impacts of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol, maximizing the socio-economic benefits, integrate existing policies and institutions related to cooling, bring together different actors required to increase effectiveness of actions through a comprehensive approach

- **If you fail to plan, you plan to fail**: Meeting growing cooling demand in a sustainable and climate-compatible manner is a cross-sectoral and whole-government task. It requires in depth analysis and a wide range of data. NCAPs are important tools to assist countries in understanding and defining cooling priorities and plan in the long term, across ministries and relevant stakeholders.

- **Achieving the Kigali Amendment is not sufficient:** we need to get to net-zero in the cooling sector to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement and shape a climate-proof world. In the context of the Race to Zero, a Pathway to Net Zero Cooling will be published by the COP26 Champions Team and Cool Coalition partners in December to support the processing of getting to net-zero.

- **NCAPs help identify pathways to reach national targets and international commitments**: NCAPs help study present and future market and energy trends in the cooling sector. This helps integrate comprehensive action on cooling in energy and climate planning, and align these policies with emissions reduction needs and refrigerant transition plans.

- **Cooling is not only a matter of equipment-based projections**: The COVID-19 vaccination challenge and the need to reduce food loss and waste have underscored the need to look at cooling comprehensively. To plan comprehensive action, countries must first understand what cooling needs the population has for their comfort and safety, for food and nutrition, and for healthcare. The Cooling for All Needs Assessment can support the development of a cooling needs and access baseline, which then helps aggregate policy, technology, service and finance options in NCAPs.

- **Solutions must be economically, socially and environmentally sustainable**: Implementation strategies to tackling the cooling challenge in a holistic manner must be equally comprehensive, mitigating demand, leveraging synergies and system-approaches, and following a protect, reduce, shift, improve, leverage approach.

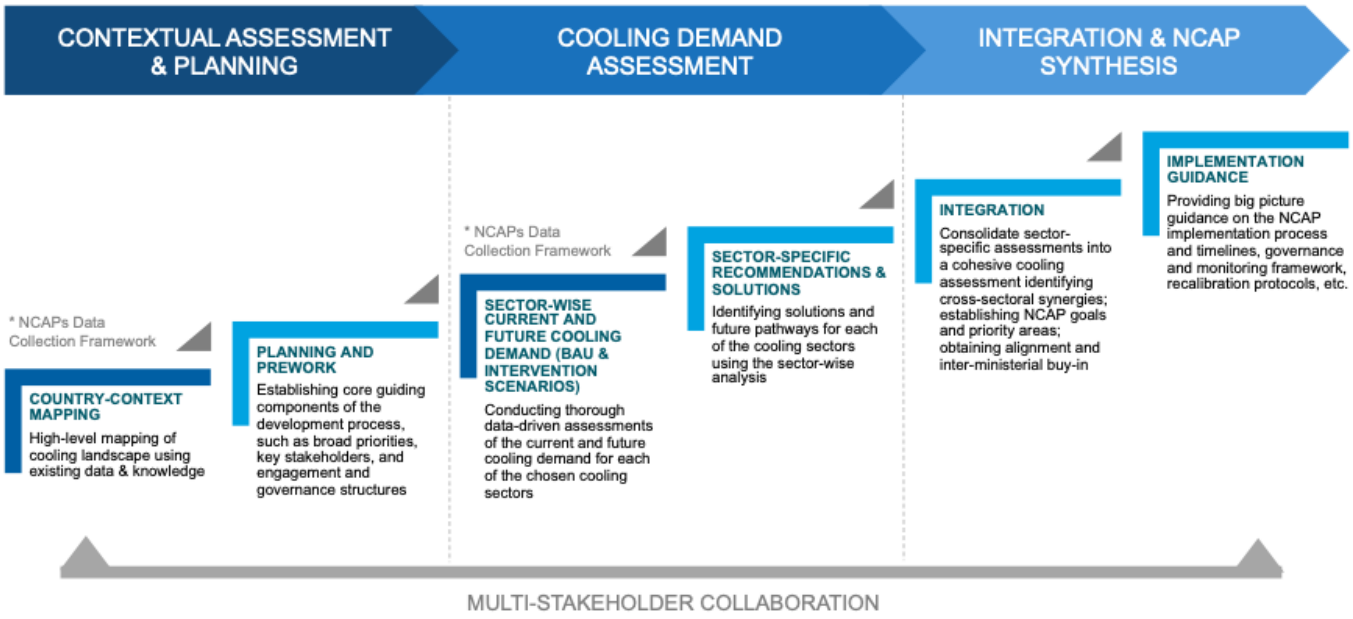
- **A number of countries took up the challenge of NCAP development**: 20+ countries are developing NCAPs. This is a significant undertaking that needs public and private collaboration, is resource intensive, relies on a wide range of data that is often difficult to collect and on scarce know-how. Based on these challenges and ongoing efforts, several NCAP pioneers have joined forces to develop a comprehensive guiding framework for NCAP development.

- **One-size NCAP doesn't fit all**: A holistic and comprehensive NCAP is ideally the aspirational goal, but an impossible immediate reality for many. The methodology is meant to provide guidance while

affording high levels of discretion and flexibility for developers. This allows to adapt NCAPs to countries' unique context, priorities and needs, as well as political and manufacturing environment, availability and quality of data and existing knowledge-base, resource availability/constraints.

- **Integrated approach should be the norm for addressing cooling**: when developing NCAPs, countries should think holistically and plan strategically to, first, reduce the cooling load to the extent possible, then serve the cooling loads efficiently and with low-climate impact, and optimize cooling operations and behaviors.

- The **broad steps in an NCAP development process** can be summarized as follows:



- **Cambodia is the first country to use the NCAP methodology**: Cambodia is developing an NCAP in collaboration with UNEP and ESCAP using the forthcoming methodology. For the country, which is experiencing high rates of economic development, the NCAP will help identify comprehensive actions to reduce energy use and emissions from cooling, as well as expand access to cooling services. After a high-level country mapping and determination of the scope and priorities of the NCAP, the development team is currently collecting sector-level data, which will be analyzed and serve as the basis of the NCAP, set to be submitted by April 2021.

- **Ongoing action is worth of praise, but more countries should develop NCAPs:** Climate change has not stopped for COVID19. Greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere are at record levels and continue to increase. Sustainable solutions are needed to tackle the climate crisis and achieve sustainable development. NCAPs are fundamental tools for countries to address the climate challenge and ensure a green recovery.

- **The NCAP methodology has the potential to help accelerate action on cooling**: The hope is that the holistic methodology will facilitate the development of effective and comprehensive NCAPs for countries and implementers. Ozone officers and country representatives are perfectly placed to kickstart and lead the development of NCAPs, and Cool Coalition members stand ready to support your efforts in being the agents for change in the cooling sector.

Next Steps:

- The NCAP Methodology development team is in the process of finalising the work hereby presented. The methodology will be made available in January 2021 for partners and countries that want to take action on cooling by developing an NCAP.
- We encourage country representatives and partner organisations to provide inputs and/or share the questions with our team through our contact points below.
- Our team also invites parties interested in developing an NCAP to reach back to us for additional support and guidance.

For more information:

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- Ksenia Petrichenko, Economic Affairs Officer, UN ESCAP, Ksenia.Petrichenko@un.org
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About the Cool Coalition

The Cool Coalition is 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 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 efficient and climate-friendly cooling. The Cool Coalition promotes an 'avoid-shift-improve-protect holistic and cross-sectoral approach to meet the cooling needs of both industrialized and developing countries through urban form, better building design, energy efficiency, renewables, and thermal storage as well as phasing down HFCs.

About the Kigali Cooling Efficiency Program (K-CEP)

The Kigali Cooling Efficiency Program (K-CEP) is a philanthropic collaborative that works in tandem with the Kigali Amendment of the Montreal Protocol by helping developing countries transition to energy-efficient, climate-friendly, and affordable cooling solutions. Under the Kigali Amendment, 197 countries committed to cut the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) — potent greenhouse gases used in refrigeration and air conditioning — by more than 80 percent over the next 30 years. This effort has the potential to avoid up to 0.4° C of global warming by the end of the century, and up to 0.5° C if the phasedown is accelerated. K-CEP focuses on the energy efficiency of cooling in order to double the climate benefits and significantly increase the development benefits of the Kigali Amendment to phase down HFCs.

About the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) serves as the United Nations' regional hub promoting cooperation among countries to achieve inclusive and sustainable development. The largest regional intergovernmental platform with 53 Member States and 9 associate members, ESCAP has emerged as a strong regional think-tank offering countries sound analytical products that shed insight into the evolving economic, social and environmental dynamics of the region. The Commission's strategic focus is to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is reinforced and deepened by promoting regional cooperation and integration to advance responses to shared vulnerabilities, connectivity, financial cooperation and market integration. ESCAP's research and analysis coupled with its policy advisory services, capacity building and technical assistance to governments aims to support countries' sustainable and inclusive development ambitions.