

## COP26 Event Summary “Be Bold: Sustainable Cooling for All”

**Date:** 11 November 2021

**Time:** 14:00-14:45 GMT

**Location:** SDG7 Pavilion, Glasgow, UK

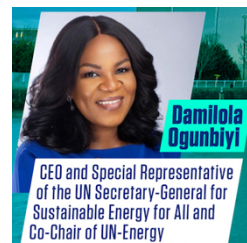
**Organizers:** Sustainable Energy for All Initiative, UN Environment Programme-led Cool Coalition

### Key Messages

- Lack of access to cooling affects 1 in 8 people. one billion are at risk of extreme heat stress if global temperatures rise to 2°C. the time for action on access to sustainable cooling is now.
- National and local governments' and business commitments on cooling need to translate into implementation that is effective in keeping the world cool while achieving net zero in time.
- Delivering sustainable cooling finance in least developed countries in line with just, inclusive, and equitable energy transitions is essential to deliver access to sustainable cooling for all.
- Making sustainable cooling technologies the first choice for consumers is key to deliver on the energy transition and ensure access to sustainable cooling for the planet and the people.
- The Cool Coalition efforts to accelerate the transition to efficient, climate friendly cooling with a comprehensive approach due to the cross-cutting sectoral nature of cooling for all contribute to the Paris Agreement, Montreal Protocol, and the Agenda 2030.
- [Beat The Heat: A Sustainable Cooling Handbook for Cities](#) hopes to encourage cities to take comprehensive action, leverage trigger points, mainstream cooling in other strategies.

### **Keynote “Sustainable Cooling Solutions for All”: Damilola Ogunbiyi, CEO and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All, Co-Chair of UN-Energy**

Damilola Ogunbiyi opened the event by highlighting the immediate importance of sustainable cooling to achieve energy access for all. She emphasised that sustainable cooling is not a luxury in a warming world and that it is a matter of equity, with lack of access to cooling affecting 1 in 8 people. Collaborating with partners to find sustainable solutions and building capacity for their adoption solutions are priorities in the efforts to deliver on SDG7. Further, the need to meet the cooling demand sustainably is critical and pivotal to reducing global emissions and increasing resilience to climate change.



Ensuring energy access and sustainable cooling for all are of paramount importance as global temperatures rise, one billion people could be affected by heat stress from extreme heat if global temperatures rise to 2°C. Damilola noted that financial support to ensure technologies and innovation are made available are key, as well as utilising low-tech solutions, such as nature-based and passive cooling. She concluded by stressing the call to action for sustainable cooling and the responsibility of all sectors to collaborate to deliver on the transition to energy efficiency and climate-friendly cooling.

### **Keynote “Keeping it Cool: From the Climate Action Summit, to COP26 & beyond”: Niklas Hagelberg, Climate Change Coordinator, UN Environment Programme**

Niklas Hagelberg started his keynote by highlighting the urgency of addressing the cooling puzzle, stating that it is critical to take action on sustainable cooling to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals and our climate goals. Niklas noted that, if left unchecked, emissions from cooling are expected to double by 2030 and triple by 2100. At the same time, he noted that over 1.5 million people die each year because of the lack of cold storage and refrigerated transport for vaccines. Sustainable cooling, cold chains, and access to cooling for all are essential to protect our planet and people.

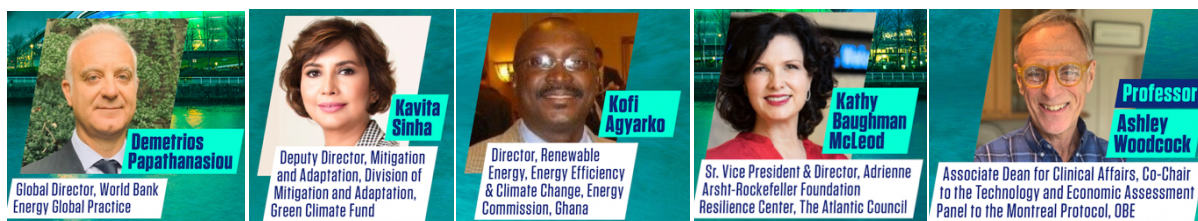


Niklas Hagelberg continued by demonstrating the role of the UNEP-led Cool Coalition which is a joint effort of over 120 governments, cities, businesses, development organizations, and civil society groups launched at the Climate Action Summit in 2019. The Cool Coalition aims to tackle growing cooling demand, while contributing to the Paris Agreement, Montreal Protocol, and the Agenda 2030 with a comprehensive approach and cross-cutting action, key due to the cross-sectoral nature of cooling.

Niklas thanked Damilola Ogunbiyi and SEforAll for their continued support and partnership in action towards cooling and within the Cool Coalition. To note, 53 countries have or are in the process of submitting enhanced NDCs that include sustainable cooling action. Additional achievements include: the UK Government has announced its support to UNEP African Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold-chain (ACES), 25 countries that have committed to develop national cooling action plans, 16 cities have committed to tackle extreme heat with sustainable urban cooling, Multilateral Development Banks committed at least USD185 million to stimulate investments in sustainable cooling, and the many pledges made to drastically enhance products efficiency through the SEAD initiative.

Niklas concluded with a call to action emphasising that cooling is becoming increasingly critical to strengthening our resilience to a warming world. National, local, and business commitments to reducing emissions urgently need to translate into implementation to keep the world cool and achieve net-zero in time.

### **Panel Discussion: Delivering Sustainable Cooling Solutions in 2022**



Brian Dean introduced the panel and posed the first question Kavita Sinha, who spoke about the financial mechanisms that are available with a four-pronged approach from the GCF, including the Readiness package and the new Cooling Facility developed with the World Bank. Kavita echoed sentiments from Damilola Ogunbiyi that action on cooling is not only a climate mitigation strategy but also a climate resilience opportunity. She illustrated that 50% of productivity would be lost in South-East Asia and Africa from heat stress where the most of extreme heat is felt.

Kavita Sinha demonstrated that passive and nature-based cooling strategies are important to sustainable cooling because of the rapid need to cool the planet where financial support for technologies can only go so far. Kavita Sinha then gave a broader perspective on why high-level and policy commitments matter in developing investment pipelines and increase access to finance for countries as well as the upcoming efforts to connect with policymakers through UNEP-led Cool Coalition to encourage NCAP development and NDC implementation that includes cooling.

Brian Dean moved to Demetrios Papathanasiou to give his view on sustainable cooling in an equitable energy transition within the role of the World Bank and the new Cooling Facility in nine countries. Demetrios Papathanasiou explained that delivering sustainable cooling finance in least developed countries in line with equitable energy transitions is essential to creating access to sustainable cooling for all. The Cooling Facility, from the Bank's perspective, is an important first step and that the Bank will continue to engage in pushing forward for sustainable cooling for all who need it.

Brian Dean turned to Kofi Agyarko to speak about Ghana's experiences and best practices. Kofi began by explaining that Ghana decided to face the challenges of cooling with a proactive approach. This led to collaborating with the Cool Coalition and the institution of a working group to counter used products illegal imports into Africa, which reflects and brings forward the aspirations of Ghana. Since then, the Cool Coalition has become an amplifier of the voice of Ghana, Mr Agyarko said. He spoke about Ghana's ECOFRIDGES initiative which partners with UNEP-U4E and BASE and others, offering an affordable way

of purchasing climate friendly and efficient RACs. Mr Agyarko concluded by articulating that Ghana is prepared to be an active participant in the fight against climate change through action on cooling.

Brian Dean directed the next question to Kathy Baughman McLeod about the role of the new Chief Heat Officers in Miami-Dade County, Athens, and Freetown. Kathy highlighted that extreme heat is the number one climate-driven hazard. The importance of dedicated awareness and strategies to combat heat in cities is critical with extreme heat being a silent killer. Kathy referenced a 2020 study that showed there was a \$100 billion impact on workers in 2020 due to heat stress and, in the US, 20 times more people were killed by heat than any other climate hazard. She explained the role of the Chief Heat Officers in preparing communities for extreme heat and mobilising similar action in other cities to create awareness of extreme heat, heat stress, and promote access to sustainable cooling for all.

Further, Kathy spoke about the intervention strategies within cities to implement sustainable solutions and cooling strategies, which will be supported by [Beat the Heat: A Sustainable Cooling Handbook for Cities](#). This is a policy toolkit that is actionable and available to everyone: she encouraged people to get in touch with the Cool Coalition about the Handbook and begin strategizing to help create heat resilience in communities as the planet warms. Kathy Baughman McLeod explained that the Handbook is there to encourage cities to take comprehensive action, take advantage of trigger points and mainstream cooling in other strategies. She concluded by explaining the role of the Extreme Heat Alliance and its partnership with the Cool Coalition, and about the upcoming efforts to encourage cities to take up the toolkit to proactively address extreme heat.

Finally, Brian Dean turned to Professor Ashley Woodcock for his opinion on the technologies available to countries to enable the sustainable cooling transition and what is needed to facilitate this process further. Professor Woodcock responded by emphasising the role of the Kigali Amendment and Montreal Protocol, for countries to comprehensively deliver on these commitments. He stated the need to expand action of the cooling community to tackle the challenge comprehensively alongside the importance of support to innovation to identify and develop most sustainable technologies for cooling.

Overall, the requirement for effective financing support, the scale up of successful business models, and to push companies and countries to work together to make most sustainable technologies the first choice for consumers is key to deliver on the energy transition and access to sustainable cooling for planet and people.