

Summary Report

14th Clean Energy Ministerial and 8th Mission Innovation meeting Side Event: Sustainable cooling for a just and equitable energy transition

July 20, 2023, 10:45 – 12:15 (IST)
Goa, India



1. Introduction

Description

Sustainable cooling is essential for meeting climate and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), or what is increasingly discussed as a “sustainable, just and equitable energy transition”. For the 736 million people living in extreme poverty and the roughly similar population without access to electricity, this represents a great challenge – one increasingly recognized and becoming a subject for climate finance.

The importance of sustainable cooling as a condition for the SDGs and climate goals appears belatedly to be receiving the attention it deserves. But with the clock ticking on the SDGs and a closing window for meeting the Paris climate goals, we have to move faster. This means rapidly scaling up investment in innovative cooling technologies and business models that make lifesaving cooling solutions affordable for all – and sustainable for the planet. In a warming world, we cannot deliver a sustainable, just and equitable energy transitions without them.

Presenting the latest data from [Chilling Prospects 2023](#), this session showcased the latest data from the Chilling Prospects Report 2023 and brought together a panel of government representatives, private sector members, and philanthropies who highlighted the actions necessary to build momentum around the Global Cooling Pledge in the run-up to a Cool COP28.

Speakers

Ms. Lily Riahi	Global Coordinator, Cool Coalition, UNEP
Mr. Brian Dean	Head of Energy Efficiency and Cooling, SEforALL
Mr. Rahma Alshamsi	Lead – Hard-to-Abate, Energy Transition Team, COP28 UAE

Mr. Arijit Sengupta	Director in charge of International Cooperation, Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power, Government of India
Ms. Sneha Sachar	India Cooling Lead, Clean Cooling Collaborative
Mr. Ravindra Dolare	President, Ecozen Solutions
Ms. Saumya Malhotra	Programme Officer, Climate, Children's Investment Fund Foundation
Mr. Yves-Laurent Sapoval	Senior Advisor, Directorate for Housing, Urban Development and Landscapes, France
Ms. Beate Kværnes Langset	Counsellor- Climate and Environment – Royal Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi

Key Takeaways

1. The world urgently needs sustainable cooling to combat heat stress and protect against extreme heat. Access to cooling must be expanded in a climate-friendly manner to ensure the well-being and productivity of billions of people.
2. SEforALL's Chilling Prospects 2023 report highlights the risks associated with lack of cooling, especially for urban and rural poor. Four key calls to action include promoting pro-poor cooling innovation, nature-based cooling solutions for cities, and gender-responsive solutions.
3. COP28 UAE's Global Cooling Pledge aims to reduce the need for mechanical cooling while improving energy efficiency and increasing access to sustainable cooling. Signatories commit to various targets and domestic actions to achieve these goals.
4. India's Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) and France's efforts on building codes and passive cooling demonstrate the importance of national strategies in achieving sustainable cooling.
5. Phasing down HFCs is crucial for sustainable cooling globally. International cooperation, public awareness campaigns, and support from philanthropy and private sectors play vital roles in addressing the cooling challenge.
6. Governments must provide the right framework, incentives, and financial support to encourage innovation and collaboration in developing affordable and reliable cooling solutions.
7. Financing options and green funds can facilitate private sector involvement in sustainable cooling R&D.
8. Behavior change among consumers is essential to adopt sustainable cooling solutions, which can be achieved through public awareness campaigns and education.

2. Read Out

Welcome and opening

Ms. Lily Riahi – Global Coordinator, UNEP Cool Coalition - extended a warm welcome. This June was the hottest June ever recorded. In a warming world, cooling is needed to protect us against this heat stress to keep us healthy and productive, keep food fresh and vaccines stable. But access to cooling cannot be expanded on a business-as-usual basis: as cooling is a top driver of electricity and peak demand. There is a need to accelerate the transition to sustainable cooling which is key for climate adaptation and mitigation.

Presentation - Chilling Prospects 2023 and access to cooling forecast to 2030

Mr. Brian Dean – Head of Energy Efficiency, SEforALL - presented SEforALL Chilling Prospects 2023 report. Extreme heat is regularly making headlines: food prices are increasing because of lack of cold chain, and humans are approaching limits of survivability. We need to better understand these risks. Urban and rural poor are most at risk – in 77 countries analysed 1.12 billion people are at high risk due to lack of access to cooling.

Simultaneously, lower-middle income groups are contributing to air-conditioner (AC) growth from 1 billion to 5 billion ACs – driven by increasing wealth and population. This group also requires government intervention so that they do not buy inefficient, low-cost, mature ACs – and instead buy higher efficiency cooling equipment.

SEforALL has four Calls to Action from this report:

- 1) In the run up to COP28, catalyse new commitments towards pro-poor cooling innovation, integrated electrification planning, and financing for data and technical support.
- 2) Addressing human and climate risk by reducing the need for cooling for lower-middle income groups, through better insulation and shading for example.
- 3) Protecting vulnerable urban dwellers through the use of nature-based solutions to cool cities. SEforALL and the Cool Coalition call on cities to join the Nature for Cool Cities Challenge (<https://coolcoalition.org/pilot-projects/nature-for-cool-cities-challenge/>).
- 4) There is a need for gender responsive solutions. To aid on this, this is the first Chilling Prospects report that disaggregated data by gender, which will help target solutions for the most vulnerable.

Presentation - International collaboration towards the Cool COP 28

Mr. Rahma AlShamsi – Lead - Hard-to-Abate, Energy Transition Team, COP28 UAE – showcased the COP28 UAE **Global Cooling Pledge** and invited countries to support the initiative, which is being supported by the UNEP-led Cool Coalition. The Cool Coalition is 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 2019. The Coalition’s 120 partners have collectively taken forward the biggest coordinated surge of action on efficient, climate -friendly cooling.

The **Global Cooling Pledge** intends to reduce the need for mechanical cooling and improve energy efficiency, whilst simultaneously increasing access to sustainable cooling. The intent of this Pledge was formally released by the COP28 UAE Presidency in January 2023 at the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week. Since then, there have been extensive consultations to develop the Pledge.

Collective targets for Signatories include commitments to establish efficiency performance standards, model building energy codes, a national cooling action plan or equivalent strategy, and encourage procurement standards and nature-based solutions for cooling. Further, the Signatories of the Pledge will agree to additionally implement two or more relevant domestic actions from a ‘menu of policy options’, as appropriate.

Signatories to the **Global Cooling Pledge** will be announced at COP28, and between now and then there will be a concerted effort to finalize the Pledge and secure commitments during Regional Climate Weeks, amongst others.

Panel discussion - Enabling an effective environment for sustainable cooling towards COP28 and beyond

Mr. Arjit Sengupta – Director in charge of International Cooperation, Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power, Government of India – thanked the UAE for announcing Cool COP28 given the importance of sustainable cooling for India. India faced the highest peak load ever this summer around 240gw largely driven by increased usage of ACs. Cooling is not a luxury and is now a necessity. Arjit highlighted India's Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) which was launched in 2019 as the comprehensive roadmap for sustainable cooling for the next 20 years. It includes recommendations and a framework for improved standards and labelling programme for AC, enhancing building codes to reduce passive cooling and expand district cooling and sustainable cold chains.

Mr. Yves-Laurent Sapoval – Senior Advisor, Directorate for Housing, Urban Development and Landscapes, France – focused on pro-poor solutions and passive cooling solutions.

France's 2003 heatwave provided a wake-up call for the government. This has resulted in changes to regulation – including introducing building codes and envelopes to regulate thermal comfort, and the promotion of natural ventilation in design. He encouraged the promotion of sustainable cooling solutions that are affordable and available. He also stressed the need for international cooperation, for example through the **Global ABC Buildings Breakthrough** initiative.

Ms. Beate Kværnes Langset – Counsellor- Climate and Environment – Royal Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi – stressed the need for HFC phasedown. She remarked that although one would not immediately associate the need for cooling with Norway, heatwaves are increasing which encouraged Norway to focus on accelerating the transition to sustainable cooling globally. Norway introduced a system of **licensing export and import of controlled substances, such as taxing the import and production of HFCs and developing incentives for HFC with lowest GWP to increase the use of natural refrigerants**. Norway is also collaborating with India to support the latter in ratifying the Kigali Amendment.

Ms. Saumya Malhotra - Programme Officer, Climate, Children's Investment Fund Foundation – highlighted that CIFF is supporting the Government of India on its work to promote sustainable cooling, such that children are not collateral damage to the climate change crisis. She noted the need to ensure sufficient finance to support implementation of ICAP. Philanthropy to climate, and specifically cooling, is extremely limited. She therefore called for a need to increase finance, particularly from philanthropists, into this space so that climate is better integrated into the development agenda. She also stressed the need to galvanize localized solutions to addressing the cooling challenge.

Ms. Sneha Sachar – India Cooling Lead, Clean Cooling Collaborative – focused on the two roles that philanthropy plays in addressing the cooling challenge as both a catalyst and an integrator. In the former, she gave the example of how philanthropic efforts catalyzed the development of the 5x Global Cooling Prize which challenged industry and academia to develop a more sustainable cooling alternative to low-cost, inefficient, room air- conditioning equipment. For the latter, philanthropy is integral to bringing together dispersed initiatives and leveraging synergies so that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

Mr. Ravindra Dolare – President, Ecozen Solutions – spoke about how private sector can develop affordable, reliable cooling solutions when governments put in place the right framework to encourage innovation. He stressed the need for more investment in R&D and support required from the government to facilitate collaboration between industry and research to develop innovative technological solutions. Investment could include low interest financing options and green funds available to the private sector to boost innovation.

He also highlighted the need for a clear policy framework from government with clear objectives and timelines to reduce emissions and achieve the SDGs. He suggested that this could be connected to financial incentives for the private sector to support collaboration.

He concluded with the need for supply side solutions to be met with demand side changes so that consumers change their behavior and adopt sustainable cooling solutions. This could be achieved through public awareness campaigns to facilitate behavioural change.

Concluding remarks

In their final remarks, the esteemed panellists reiterated the need for behavioural change and raising awareness, alongside international collaboration on sustainable cooling. They called on countries, subnational governments, the private sector and academia to support the **Global Cooling Pledge**.

3. Communication

Website

- <https://coolcoalition.org/14th-clean-energy-ministerial-and-8th-mission-innovation-meeting-cem14-mi-8-side-event-collaboration-for-advancing-global-action-on-sustainable-cooling/>

Linkedin

- <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7087803669907177474>;
- <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7087501172701282304>

Twitter

- <https://twitter.com/ActOnCooling/status/1681897220528807937?s=20>

4. Pictures



Family picture with all speakers



Mr. Ravindra Dolare, President, Ecozen Solutions



Ms. Lily Riahi, Global Coordinator, UNEP-Cool Coalition



Ms. Sneha Sachar, India Cooling Lead, Clean Cooling Collaborative



Mr. Rahma AlShamsi, Lead - Hard-to-Abate, Energy Transition Team, COP28 UAE