

Summary Report

14th Clean Energy Ministerial and 8th Mission Innovation meeting High-level dialogue: Sustainable Cooling

July 21, 2023, 14:30 – 15:45 (IST)
Goa, India



Session Highlights

- COP28 President-Designate and the UAE's Special Envoy for Climate Change called on all countries to join the Global Cooling Pledge in the lead up to COP28. The Pledge is gaining momentum, with more than 20 early country supporters.
- Ministers and high-level government, UN and industry leaders reinforced the COP 28 President-Designate call to endorse the Pledge and enhance global collaboration on sustainable cooling for climate adaptation, mitigation, and the transition to a resilient, renewable energy system.
- Increasing access to sustainable cooling is a critical development and climate issue. 1.12 billion people face high risks to their health and productivity due to a lack of access. Today cooling accounts for 7% of global GHG and this will double by 2050 without strong policy action.

Event Summary

The Government of India, as G20 President, and the Government of the United Arab Emirates, which holds the UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) Presidency, put cooling firmly on the international energy agenda at [the High-Level Dialogue on Sustainable Cooling](#) on Friday, 21 July, which was part of the Clean Energy Ministerial-Mission Innovation Summit in Goa, India.

At a time when unprecedented heatwaves are gripping many regions of the world, the event highlighted the urgent action needed to deliver sustainable cooling solutions that will protect people without hastening climate change. A transition to efficient and climate-friendly cooling could prevent the equivalent of eight years' worth of global emissions but rapid action is needed.

Several ministers and high-level government and industry representatives rallied behind the UAE COP28 Global Cooling Pledge, its calls to action on sustainable cooling, and the steps the global community must take to achieve a "Cool COP28", specifically one that sparks commitments towards improving sustainable cooling access. The [Global Cooling Pledge](#) is an initiative led by the COP28 Presidency and supported by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) led [Cool Coalition](#) and its partners, including [Sustainable Energy for All Initiative](#) (SEforALL) and [the International Renewable Energy Agency](#) (IRENA).

"This voluntary pledge offers state and non-state actors a unique chance to enhance voluntary commitments to climate mitigation, adaptation, resilience and investments towards sustainable

cooling,” highlighted Ms. Ligia Noronha, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office UNEP. Previewed earlier this year, it calls for progress on nature-based solutions, super-efficient appliances, food and vaccine cold chains, district cooling, and National Cooling Action Plans, among others.

Dr. Sultan al Jaber, COP28 President-Designate and the UAE’s Special Envoy for Climate Change, said, “We have a unique opportunity to deliver a significant collective response to the cooling challenge via this very important initiative – the Global Cooling Pledge. This Pledge aims to improve efficiency and increase access to sustainable cooling. It is gaining momentum, with more than 20 early supporters, including India and Denmark.”

The COP 28 President-Designate was joined by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Indian Minister of Science and Technology, Dan Jørgensen, Danish Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy, Rohit Monserrate, Mayor of Panaji and international energy sector leaders to call on governments to join the Global Cooling Pledge in the lead up to COP 28.

Speaking on behalf of the Government of Denmark, Dan Jørgensen, Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy and Cool Champion, declared, “It is clear that achieving universal access to sustainable cooling requires international corporation, dedicated climate finance, and leadership from key players.” He then urged decision-makers from government, private sector and civil society to raise awareness and advocate for a global approach to sustainable cooling.

Key Takeaways

Recent record-breaking temperatures, including some exceeding 50 degrees Celsius, accentuate the need for progress on sustainable cooling for all.

We need cooling to keep people healthy, vaccines stable, food nutritious, energy grids stable, economies productive, and environment clean.

Cooling is a top driver of electricity and peak demand and one of the biggest contributors to global warming. The demand for cooling is now greater than the demand for heating.

1.12 billion people face high risk due to a lack of access to cooling, a decrease of just over 20 million since last year. This is largely in poor rural areas of Sub-Saharan Africa and in the growing cities in high-temperature regions of the Global South.

International cooperation on sustainable cooling is needed to achieve the energy transition and the development of a resilient, clean electricity grid, while providing thermal comfort for all.

Addressing the cooling challenge requires a multi-sectoral, inter-agency coordination and policies to bring low-cost solutions to market.

In addition to improving energy efficiency of cooling alongside government commitments to phase down HFCs under the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, improved design of buildings and districts, passive and nature-based solutions can increase access to affordable sustainable cooling

India’s G20 Presidency and UAE’s COP28 Presidency present an opportunity to increase ambition on sustainable cooling and bring forward commitments to action– including on energy efficiency, promoting behavioral change, and financing.

India has made significant progress on policies and plans for cooling such as launching India’s National Cooling Action Plan. India’s lessons learned and experiences could be shared with other countries.

CEM and G20 countries can endorse the Global Cooling Pledge, leverage existing platforms such as UNEP Cool Coalition to advance international cooperation, and take opportunities to scale up sustainable cooling.

Speakers

Mr. Abhay Bakre	Director General, Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Power
H.E. Dr. Sultan Al Jaber	Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and President COP 28, Government of United Arab Emirates
H.E. Dr. Jitendra Singh	Minister of Science and Technology, Government of India
H.E. Dan Jørgensen	Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy, Denmark
Ms. Ligia Noronha	UN Assistant Secretary-General and Head of UN Environment Programme, New York Office
Mr. Ravi Purushothaman	President, Danfoss India
Ms. Rosalinde van der Vlies	Director, European Commission and Vice-Chair of Mission Innovation Secretariat
Ms. Anna Stephenson	Deputy Director, UK Department of Energy Security and Net Zero
Mr. Philippe Benoit	Professor, Columbia University
Ms. Damilola Ogunbiyi	CEO of SEforALL, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All
Ms. Lily Riahi	Global Coordinator, Cool Coalition, UNEP