

35th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol (MOP 35)

Side Event – Championing Sustainable Cooling towards a Cool COP28

Wednesday 25 October 2023

Organized by: COP28 UAE Presidency, United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP-led Cool Coalition, U.S. State Department (tbc)

Location: Room CR-14, Nairobi, Kenya

Time: 14:00–15:00 (GMT + 3)

Duration: 60 minutes

Description & Objectives of the Session

Cooling is one of the most critical blind spots in today's climate debate and one of the biggest contributors to global warming. Cooling uses refrigerants - many of which are controlled by the Montreal Protocol. If left unchecked, emissions from cooling are expected to double by 2030 and triple by 2050, driven by heat waves, population growth, urbanization, and a growing middle class.

Against this backdrop and recognizing the adaptation and mitigation benefits of sustainable cooling, the COP28 Presidency of the United Arab Emirates is spearheading the Global Cooling Pledge with support from the UNEP-led Cool Coalition. The Global Cooling Pledge can serve as a step toward catalyzing global and national cooling sector actions that also support the achievement of SDG 7, SDG 13, NDC targets, and the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol. The implementation of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol to phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) could avoid up to 0.5 °C of global warming by the end of this century. By achieving the Global Cooling Pledge, the climate benefits can be doubled while mitigating 60% of cooling-related GHG emissions – or 62 billion tonnes equivalent between 2022-2050. It will also improve access to cooling for resilience to rising heat, greater food security, and local development.

This side-event “**Championing Sustainable Cooling towards a Cool COP28**”, organized by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) COP28 Presidency, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the UNEP-led Cool Coalition, the U.S. State Department, Ozone Secretariat (tbc) and the Ministry of Forest and Environment of Kenya (tbc) – aims to build momentum for global action and increased ambition on sustainable cooling by mobilizing countries to join the Global Cooling Pledge. It will do this by showcasing the COP28 Presidency's efforts to a 'Cool' COP28. The event will include high-level interventions from countries, industry and international financial institutions on their actions on sustainable cooling and their perspectives on the Global Cooling Pledge ahead of COP28.

Contacts for the Event:

- Sophie Loran, Global Communications and Advocacy, Climate, UNEP, sophie.loran@un.org
- Clement Charnailat, Cool Coalition Secretariat, UNEP, clement.charnailat@un.org

Background on the Global Cooling Pledge:

In January 2023, the COP28 President Designate and UNEP Executive Director announced the development of a Global Cooling Pledge. This voluntary Pledge intends to raise ambition and international cooperation through collective targets for reducing emissions, improving energy efficiency and climate friendly approaches to cooling, and increasing access to sustainable cooling for the most vulnerable. It calls for policy progress and action on super-efficient appliances, smart buildings, nature-based solutions, food and vaccine cold chains, renewable energy for rural, remote, off-grid among others.

The Pledge has been developed drawing on the UNEP-led Cool Coalition's technical expertise and stakeholder consultations with over 100+ non-state actors and nearly 40 countries. The consultations concluded at the G20 Energy Ministerial / CEM14 High-Level Dialogue on Cooling, where the COP28 President called on all countries to join the Cooling Pledge.

The COP28 Presidency and the Cool Coalition have since set up a country advisory group to negotiate and finalize the Pledge text. The Pledge will be launched with signatories on 5 December at the Energy and Just Transition Day at COP28. Achieving the Pledge targets would cut emissions by approximately 78 billion tonnes CO₂e between 2022 - 2050, improve the lives of hundreds of millions, and realize huge financial savings.

To join the Global Cooling Pledge, countries or stakeholders write a formal letter to the President Designate of COP28 UAE and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme.

The letter should:

- State endorsement of the Global Cooling Pledge
- Identify a primary point of contact for follow up by the UNEP led Cool Coalition on the Pledge
- State if interested to join the UNEP led Cool Coalition

Letters should be addressed to:

- H.E. Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and President COP 28, Government of United Arab Emirates
- Inger Andersen, Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme

and copied to Mikael Melin at COP28 UAE, mikael.melin@cop28.com and Lily Riahi at UNEP-led Cool Coalition, unep-coolcoalition@un.org.