



**Middle East and North Africa**  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia | 8 - 12 October 2023  
Hosted by the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



**UN**  
environment  
programme



## MENA Climate Week 2023 (MENACW)

### *High-Level Dialogue - Towards a Cool COP*

*09 October 2023*

**Organized by:** United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNEP-led Cool Coalition, Climate Champions Team

**Location:** Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

**Room:** Zone 5.3 - Meeting Room

**Time:** 11:00 – 12:30 (GMT+3)

**Duration:** 90 minutes

#### **Description:**

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is already the hottest and driest on the planet. Yet temperatures continue to rise, and heatwaves are becoming more frequent due to climate change. Without coordinated international action on emissions in the region, by 2100 temperatures could rise by up to 6.4°C.

Higher temperatures are triggering a notable increase in peak electricity demand during summer with more extensive use of air conditioners in the region. Access to sustainable cooling solutions is therefore crucial for ensuring the well-being, productivity, and resilience of communities and economies.

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 implementation of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol to phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) could avoid up to 0.4 °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 event aims to demonstrate leadership and progress from the MENA region in accelerating the transition to sustainable cooling in the run up to a Cool COP28. It will showcase regional commitments to the Global Cooling Pledge and also present an opportunity to strengthen the linkages between the Global Cooling Pledge and the Sharm-el-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda.



## Objectives:

- **Raise awareness of sustainable cooling and share best practices:** Increase understanding of the importance of sustainable cooling in MENA's climate action agenda and its potential to contribute to sustainable development goals by sharing best policy frameworks, regulations, and financial mechanisms for acceleration of sustainable technologies and realization of the benefits of sustainable cooling.
- **Increase awareness on the Global Cooling Pledge to catalyze commitments from MENA countries:** By showcasing champion countries and priority actions in the MENA region, the event will aim to secure concrete commitments on sustainable cooling at COP28.
- **Facilitate collaboration:** Provide a platform for stakeholders, including policymakers, businesses, researchers, and civil society organizations, to exchange knowledge, ideas, and experiences, fostering partnerships and collaboration for sustainable cooling initiatives and investments in MENA.
- **Strengthen linkages:** between the Global Cooling Pledge and Sharm-el-Sheikh Adaptation agenda.

## Contacts for the Event:

1. **Sophie Loran**, Global Communications and Advocacy, Climate, UNEP, [sophie.loran@un.org](mailto:sophie.loran@un.org)
2. **Clement Charnailat**, Cool Coalition Secretariat, UNEP, [clement.charnailat@un.org](mailto:clement.charnailat@un.org)
3. **Luciano Caratori**, Climate Champions Team, [lucianocaratori@climatechampions.team](mailto:lucianocaratori@climatechampions.team)

## Proposed Agenda:

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

Agenda item	Speakers	Timing
Opening Remarks	<b>Mr. Sami Dimassi</b> , Regional Director and Representative of the UN Environment Programme for West Asia, UNEP	5 minutes
Keynote Speech  Catalyzing commitments from MENA to the Global Cooling Pledge in the run up to COP28	<b>H.E. Razan Al Mubarak</b> , UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP28	8 minutes
<b>Ministerial Policy Dialogue:</b>  <b>Catalyzing Regional Commitments on Sustainable Cooling</b>  Moderated by Mr. <b>Rahma AlShamsi</b> , Lead - Hard-to-Abate,	<b>H.E Leila Chikhaoui</b> , Minister of the Environment of Tunisia  <b>H.E Leila Benali</b> , Minister of Energy Transition & Sustainable Development of Morocco	40 minutes



<p>Energy Transition Team, COP28 UAE</p>	<p><b>H.E Muawieh Radaideh</b>, Minister of Environment of Jordan</p> <p><b>H.E Yasmine Fouad</b>, Minister of Environment of Egypt</p> <p><b>H.E Mehmet Özhaseki</b>, Minister of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change of Türkiye</p> <p><b>H.E. Nasser Yassin</b>, Minister of Environment of Lebanon</p> <p><b>H.E. Shahira Wahbi</b>, Head of Housing, Water Resources and Disaster Reduction Department, League of Arab States</p>	
<p><b>Announcement:</b></p> <p>Sharm-El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda to include a global 2030 outcome target for cooling.</p>	<p><b>Ms. Lily Riahi</b>, Global Coordinator, Cool Coalition, UNEP</p> <p><b>Ms. Mariam Allam</b>, Lead of the Adaptation Agenda Climate Champions Team</p>	<p>5 minutes</p>
<p><b>Panel Reflections:</b></p> <p><b>Enabling a Regional Transition to Sustainable Cooling</b></p> <p>Moderated by <b>Mr. Ayman Eltalouny</b>, Head of Saudi Environment Sustainability Programme, UNEP</p>	<p><b>Mr. Khalid Al Marzooqi</b>, Chief Executive Officer, Tabreed</p> <p><b>Ms. Beatrice Maser</b>, Director for the Middle East and North Africa region, IFC</p> <p><b>Mr. Jauad El Kharraz</b>, Executive Director of the Regional Center for Renewable Energy &amp; Energy Efficiency</p> <p><b>Ms. Andrea Voigt</b>, Head of Global Public Affairs, Danfoss Climate Solutions</p> <p><b>Mr. Walid Kaddachi</b>, Strategic Development Director, Carrier Transicold</p>	<p>27 minutes</p>



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<p>Wrap Up &amp; Closing Remarks</p> <p>Next steps on catalyzing commitments from MENA to the Global Cooling Pledge in the run up to COP28</p>	<p><b>Mr. Ayman Eltalouny</b>, Head of Saudi Environment Sustainability Programme, UNEP</p>	<p>5 minutes</p>
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