

28th session of the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 28)

Side Event – District Cooling: Delivering A Net-Zero Energy Future and Urban Heat Resilience

05 December 2023

Organized by: United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP-led Cool Coalition

Supported by: Tabreed

Location: Location: COP28 UNEP pavilion, Zone B7, Building 87, Thematic Arena 4, Blue Zone

Time: 14:30-15:15 (GMT: +04:00)

Duration: 45 minutes

Description & Objectives:

Cities are highly vulnerable to rising temperatures from climate change and this is made worse by the urban heat island effect. By 2100, cities across the world could warm by 4.4°C, impacting human health, productivity, and quality of life. As citizens turn to air conditioning (AC) to beat the heat, emissions from energy-use and refrigerants increase rapidly and power grids are strained as inefficient AC units turn on during peak periods. For the billions without AC units they must suffer in hot cities made even hotter by heat expelled from AC units and with unreliable power supply during heatwaves. To address these issues, local governments and industry worldwide are increasingly turning to district cooling as a low carbon model for AC needs that can build resilience in the power grid, reduce urban heat-island, and provide affordable cooling.

Convened by UNEP and the Cool Coalition, this side event will hear from national and subnational governments, industry and finance on their efforts and challenges to scale district cooling and key benefits, including emission reduction, climate and energy system resilience, and reduction of urban heat island. The panel will discuss how to accelerate uptake of district cooling in new markets and the role of government in this effort. Critically, the panel will discuss how district cooling can be delivered in harmony with efforts to reduce the upfront need for AC through passive cooling in buildings and heat-resilient urban design, as well as the integrated policies and business models to unlock this. This comprehensive approach to cooling is laid out through the commitments in the Global Cooling Pledge - one of the nine non-negotiated declarations, pledges, and charters that constitute key outcomes for the COP28 Presidential Action Agenda.

Contacts for the Event at COP28:

- **Ms. Shikha Bhasin, UNEP** +91 98111 61977 (WhatsApp)
- **Mr. Rob Thornton, President, IDEA** +1 508 2457369
- **Mr. Jerome Malavelle, UNEP** at +33 6 22 60 28 22

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- **Mr. Sudheer Perla, Tabreed** +971509230724

Agenda:

Master of Ceremony and Moderator: Mr. Rob Thornton, President, International District Energy Association

Agenda item	Speakers	Timing
Opening Remarks	Mr. Jerome Malavelle , Coordinator, NDC Action programme, Global Climate Actions Unit, Energy & Climate Branch	5 minutes
Video on district cooling - Tabreed		2 minutes
Panel Discussion District cooling: delivering a net-zero energy future and urban heat resilience. Moderated by Mr. Rob Thornton, President, International District Energy Association	Shri. Abhay Bakre , Director General, Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Government of India Ms. Diep Nguyen-van Houtte , Senior Manager, Climate Business Dept, IFC Mr. Khalid Al Marzooqi, CEO Tabreed Mr. Sebastián Camilo Carranza Tovar , Director of Climate Change and Risk Management, Ministry of Environment, Govt. of Colombia	35 minutes
Wrap Up & Closing Remarks	Dr. Satish Kumar , President and Executive Director, Alliance for an Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE)	3 minutes

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