

GLOBAL COOLING PLEDGE



COP28UAE



Launch of the Global Cooling Pledge

Summary Report

5 December, 2023, 1830 – 2000 GST

Al Waha Theatre, Blue Zone, COP28, Dubai

Streaming link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfjIEUJ2th0&t=1s>

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- December 5 - Energy, Industry and Just Transition Day - marked the launch of the Global Cooling Pledge, a joint initiative of the COP28 UAE Presidency and the UNEP-led Cool Coalition.
- The Global Cooling Pledge represents one of the key outcomes and pillars of the COP28 UAE Presidency's Action Agenda and marks the world's first collective effort to improve energy efficiency and reduce emissions from the sector.
- The Pledge raises ambition for countries to work together to reduce global cooling-related emissions by 68% by 2050, improve energy efficiency of cooling technologies by 50% by 2030 and to increase access to sustainable cooling for the most vulnerable – all of which is needed to keep the 1.5°C goal in reach.
- The Pledge targets were underpinned by the science and modelling in UNEP's new 'Global Cooling Watch Report: Keeping it Chill: how to meet cooling demands while cutting emissions'.
- The launch event celebrated the 66 countries that have endorsed the Global Cooling Pledge, alongside over 50 private sector, financial institutions, and international organizations that have committed to support implementation of the Pledge.



- The event was opened by UNEP Executive Director, Inger Andersen, with John Kerry, United States Special Presidential Envoy for Climate providing a Keynote Speech calling for countries to join the Pledge.
- Ministers from Denmark, Rwanda, Ghana, Maldives, UK, Japan, and Germany provided their perspectives on how their countries are raising ambition on sustainable cooling.
- The Ministers were joined by Ms. Damilola Ogunbiyi, CEO and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All and Ms. Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr, Mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone who called for cities to also join the Global Cooling Pledge.
- The UK government announced a new fund with IFC with up to USD25 million allocated for sustainable cooling.
- Going forward, the UNEP-led Cool Coalition will support countries in implementing the commitments of the Pledge and will oversee monitoring of Pledge commitments.

OPENING REMARKS

Inger Andersen, Executive Director, UNEP opened the event by highlighting the importance of cooling in a warming world. Cooling is needed to protect ourselves, keep food and vaccine value chains viable, and economies productive. Cooling capacity is set to increase three-fold by 2050 which will strain our electricity grids and is a challenge for the energy transition. The COP28 UAE Global Cooling Pledge is a real opportunity to increase access to sustainable cooling and reduce emissions. She shared that the new UNEP Global Cooling Watch report shows that concerted actions on passive cooling strategies, energy efficiency standards, and faster action on refrigerant phase down timetable agreed to under the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol can reduce cooling emissions by over 60 per cent by 2050 and save USD 22 trillion to stay on track with the 1.5-degree goal. Inger called for cities to also join the Global Cooling Pledge, and industry to support its implementation by ensuring better efficiency for our cooling equipment.

“What we need is to do it better and to do it now. And that is why the COP28 UAE Global Cooling Pledge Presidency is so important. It is a real opportunity to increase access to sustainable cooling and reduce emissions.”

Inger Andersen, UNEP

KEYNOTE SPEECH

John Kerry, United States Special Presidential Envoy for Climate highlighted how sustainable cooling acts as an adaptation and mitigation strategy and how the Global Cooling Pledge provides a pathway to reduce cooling-related emissions across all sectors and increase access to sustainable cooling. Coordinated international action on sustainable cooling could save 78 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent between now and 2050. He stressed that this is important because extreme heat is now the deadliest weather event in the US, and this is true of many other countries - with 500,000 people a year are dying because of extreme heat. John Kerry noted that he was pleased that the Pledge calls for countries that have not yet ratified the Kigali Amendment to join, and congratulated the UAE for ratifying – because of the Global Cooling Pledge. He called for other countries that have not already done so to ratify the Kigali Amendment.

He also showcased the Global Cooling Prize - a ground-breaking competition which led to the development of an air-conditioning unit that has five times less climate impact than standard air-



conditioning units in the market today. He added that there are already prototypes from the competition in the market today.

“This Global Cooling Pledge can have a profound impact on lives around the world and on our larger quest of holding the Earth’s temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius. This is really laying out a roadmap for how we go further than...the Kigali Amendment.”

John Kerry, US

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES: RAISING AMBITION ON SUSTAINABLE COOLING

- **H.E Dan Jørgensen**, Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy, Denmark
- **Ms. Damilola Ogunbiyi**, CEO and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All
- **H.E Dr. Jeanne d’Arc Mujawamariya**, Minister of Environment, Republic of Rwanda
- **H.E. Thoriq Ibrahim**, Minister of Climate Change, Environment and Energy, Maldives
- **H.E. Dr Matthew Opoku Prempeh**, Minister of Energy, Ghana

H.E Dan Jørgensen, Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy, Denmark stressed that we cannot ignore the issue of extreme heat - 12,000 people are dying each year because of heatwaves; 1/3 of the population live in areas where heat is threatening their health for more than 20 days a year; people are dying because of lack of cold chain for vaccines; and lots of food is being wasted due to lack of cold chain. This is one of the areas where we do know what to do, we do have the technology and where it should be possible to find the funding.

His Excellency called for efforts to be made on improving energy efficiency in cooling equipment. Danish companies have lots of experience in supplying sustainable cold chains for food and vaccines globally. He added that sustainable cooling is a critical tool for adaptation and mitigation – and so when investors are looking for a climate change solution to invest in, sustainable cooling makes sense.

“People look at investments [in sustainable cooling] as expensive...but most investments that you do in energy efficiency are paid back very, very fast.”

H.E Dan Jørgensen, Denmark

Ms. Damilola Ogunbiyi, CEO and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) mentioned that her work involves dealing with Sustainable Development Goal 7 – one can’t live a dignified life without having access to cooling and access to electricity in an efficient and affordable way. Unfortunately it is often women, children and vulnerable groups that suffer the most from lack of access to cooling – especially when extreme heat is resulting in deaths. Extreme heat has been affecting countries in the Global South for a long time. She called for countries to include cooling and improvements in energy efficiency in the energy transition from the outset.

Damilola remarked that there are also lots of innovative and different technologies that can be adopted across the whole value chain, including by SMEs. She called for more sustainable results based financing models from development finance institutions in cooling, and also more home-grown solutions to encourage better affordability and greater access.

“When we talk about a just and equitable energy transition we need to include cooling ”

Ms. Damilola Ogunbiyi, SEforALL

H.E Dr. Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya, Minister of Environment, Republic of Rwanda noted that 40% of food production in Africa is lost between farm and market due to lack of sustainable cold chains. Rwanda wants access to sustainable cooling for the most vulnerable people. The urgency of the climate change challenge is compounded by rising temperatures and more frequent heatwaves which necessitates comprehensive and transformative action. She noted that as this is a global challenge and this needs a global solution and that is why Rwanda signed the Global Cooling Pledge. Her Excellency showcased how Rwanda is home to cooling solutions through initiatives such as the Africa Centre for Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold Chains. She urged countries to ratify the Kigali Amendment and the Global Cooling Pledge to protect humanity.

"If you have ratified the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol you should sign the Global Cooling Pledge because it goes together."

H.E Dr. Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya, Rwanda

H.E Thoriq Ibrahim, Minister of Climate Change, Environment and Energy, Maldives said that the Paris Agreement target of 1.5 degrees Celsius is very important for small island states like the Maldives and the Global Stocktake currently tells us we are exceeding this. He called for bigger countries to help smaller countries to adapt to the effects of climate change. His Excellency mentioned that the Maldives spends 13% of GDP importing fuel, most of which is used for generating electricity and a major part of that goes to cooling. The Maldives want to find solutions that are more efficient to save on electricity for cooling and to reduce cooling-related emissions, so that savings can be used elsewhere. The country has a slogan that if you have a air conditioner (AC) at home it is cool at 25 degrees – which is how they are promoting energy efficiency and a reduction in emissions.

"We want to find solutions that are more efficient so that we can save on electricity for cooling and reduce emissions, and the money saved can be used for something very useful, and that is why we signed the Global Cooling Pledge."

H.E Thoriq Ibrahim, Maldives

H.E Dr Matthew Opoku Prempeh, Minister of Energy, Ghana announced that it is in the country's self-interest to be a part of the Global Cooling Pledge because Ghana is already facing a huge rate of urbanization – over 50% of the Ghanaian population live in cities. The country also faces electricity challenges and sees huge food wastage because of lack of cooling. He called for countries to also join the Pledge, because it is in all of our interests.

His Excellency showcased how Ghana has already put minimum energy performance standards in place for ACs, freezers, and refrigerators. The country is also training government officials in green procurement practices as they represent the biggest purchasers of cooling appliances in the country. He encouraged countries to set up building codes and regulations to improve energy efficiency of buildings. His Excellency called for support to develop a testing lab for regulators to test energy performance standards of cooling equipment and on rebate schemes for cooling equipment.

"We have an international obligation and commitment to uphold and be a part of to maintain temperature increase up to 1.5 degrees Celsius."

H.E Dr Matthew Opoku Prempeh, Ghana

COOLING AS AN ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION TOOL

- **H.E Graham Stuart**, Minister of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, UK
- **H.E. Stefan Tidow**, State Secretary, Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), Germany
- **H.E. Yutaka Matsuzawa**, Vice Minister, Global Environmental Affairs, Japan
- **Ms. Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr**, Mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone

H.E Graham Stuart, Minister of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, UK said that as the Earth warms there is an increasing need for cooling. Cooling currently accounts for about 7% of emissions, and this is set to increase – hence we must address this now. The UK showcased what it is already doing to promote sustainable cooling. This included funding for Rwanda's Africa Centre for Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold Chains – which is a one-of-a-kind centre dedicated for sustainable cold chains and post-harvest management. As well as, the £1 billion (equivalent to approx. USD 1.2 billion) Ayrton Fund to support research and development in innovation to help bring costs down to make sustainable cooling affordable and accessible to all. His Excellency also announced a new fund with IFC with up to £20 million (equivalent to approx. USD 25 million) allocated for sustainable cooling. He highlighted the importance of working together to improve energy efficiency of cooling systems and to lower temperatures in our cities through better design, and to swap to climate-friendly refrigerants. His Excellency also called on countries to join the Global Cooling Pledge, and to harness the power of governments and private sector working together to accelerate the transition to sustainable cooling.

"The UK and IFC are going to continue their successful partnership on a new fund with up to £20 million allocated for sustainable cooling."

H.E Graham Stuart, UK

H.E. Stefan Tidow, State Secretary, Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), Germany noted that this year has been the hottest since records began, and cooling will play an important role for adaptation and mitigation. The Global Cooling Pledge represents an opportunity to shape the the global cooling sector and ensure that the renewable energy and efficiency measures are integrated and consistent with the 1.5 degrees goal. He called for a switch to climate and environmentally-friendly refrigerants as quickly as possible. Germany has been campaigning for many years for a switch to natural refrigerants so it is an important signal that signatories to the Global Cooling Pledge have committed to ratify the Kigali Amendment – he called for those that have not ratified, to do so. His Excellency noted that in October 2023 the European Union agreed to further accelerate HFC reduction steps and to phase-out HFCs by 2050. Sustainable cooling is critical for climate adaptation and for dealing with more frequent heatwaves. German municipalities are developing heat action plans, and nationally the government is in process of adopting a climate adaptation law which includes measures to respond sustainably to increasing temperatures. The government is also adopting nature-based climate solutions, which are very important for cooling.

"The Cooling Pledge represents a real opportunity to shape the global cooling sector and ensure that the renewable energies and efficiency measures are integrated in a manner consistent with our 1.5 degrees goal."

H.E. Stefan Tidow, Germany



H.E. Yutaka Matsuzawa, Vice Minister, Global Environmental Affairs, Japan echoed Mayor Yvonne-Aki Sawyerr's call for cities to also join the Global Cooling Pledge, especially as city activity accounts for 70% of global GHG emissions and cities are key players to achieve the 1.5 degrees goal. Japan showcased its leadership in sustainable cooling: it is adopting heat pumps and inverters for cooling which are super energy efficient, together with low-GWP refrigerants. His Excellency also noted the importance of life cycle management of refrigerants to keep 1.5 degrees Celsius within reach. Japan has already established an initiative on fluorocarbon life cycle management together with 15 countries and international organizations. He noted that Japan would like to work with UNEP on the Pledge.

"Heat pumps and inverters are super energy efficient, and together with low-GWP refrigerants and life-cycle management of refrigerants, is critical for the 1.5 degrees goal."

H.E. Yutaka Matsuzawa, Japan

Ms. Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr, Mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone provided the perspective from cities that have joined the Global Cooling Pledge. 75% of cities are cutting emissions faster than their national government counterparts. Cities can come behind the Global Cooling Pledge by improving building codes and regulations, and to improving building design to incorporate passive cooling measures. Cities can also foster nature-based cooling solutions, for example in 2020 Freetown launched an initiative called 'Freetown the Treetown' to plant and grow a million trees in and around the city. Freetown has also recently done a heat-mapping around the city to identify the heat islands – which was then used to plant 250,000 trees in heat islands to cool down the neighbourhoods. The accessibility and affordability of ACs is not there in many cities in the Global South, so passive cooling solutions such as market shade cover can benefit. Cities can also bring in a Chief Heat Officer responsible for beating the heat.

"The Pledge has not just been signed by countries, it's also been signed by cities...City action on cooling will help us all stay cool."

Ms. Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr, Freetown