


 **Monday
14 July, 2025**  **1:00-2:45 PM
EAT**  **Conference Room 10
UNON Compound, Nairobi**



Dialogue on Sustainable Cooling for Inclusive Extreme Heat Adaptation in Africa

Cities, Buildings and Cold Chain

Africa is one of the most vulnerable regions to rising temperatures and heatwaves, with approximately 300 million people currently exposed to life-threatening heat stress. Cooling habitats and securing food supplies is essential to protect health, livelihoods, and economic progress, especially for vulnerable populations.

The Secretary General's Call for Action on Extreme Heat urges countries to pursue inclusive, climate-friendly, and science-based solutions to counter the growing intensity of heat. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), through Cool Coalition and the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC), collaborates closely with more than 80 countries and development partners in the Global South, to maximize heat adaption, while cutting cooling related emissions. Together, they fast-track application of passive implementation of passive cooling (with minimal or zero electricity), highly energy-efficient technologies, and climate-friendly refrigerants.

The **Dialogue on Sustainable Cooling for Inclusive, Extreme Heat Adaptation in Africa** will showcase successful, transferable insights from UNEP-Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation's (SDC) BeCool Program on passively cooled buildings, heat-resilient urban planning, and energy-efficient cold chain infrastructure in India. Interactions between UNEP and policymakers from AMCEN countries during the Dialogue aims to identify effective policies, innovative financing mechanisms, and scalable technologies to accelerate the adoption of sustainable cooling across Africa.

India Cooling Program and BeCool Project

UNEP and SDC have partnered to implement the BeCool Project, under the framework of Cool Coalition-led India Cooling Programme, aimed at supporting urban heat adaptation and sustainable cooling through passive cooling with sustainable building materials, heat-resilient urban design with nature, sustainable cold chains for food system resilience, and accelerating the market for district cooling.

BeCool aims to rapidly accelerate uptake of passive cooling in India's built environment, so it is more sustainably and affordably cooled and more resilient to rising extreme heat. It works with national and sub-national governments for:

- **Scientific urban heat island mapping and integration of passive and nature-based cooling** into urban planning.
- **Strengthening building codes** to mainstream passive cooling.
- **Financing mechanisms to stimulate investment** in passively cooled affordable housing.
- **Capacity-building** programmes targeting real estate developers, architects, engineers, and urban planners.



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Cool Coalition

The Cool Coalition is a UNEP-convened global network of over 250 governments, cities, businesses, and financial institutions working together to advance sustainable cooling as an adaptation strategy to extreme heat. It promotes a triple strategy of passive and nature-based solutions, energy efficiency, and the phase-down of climate-warming refrigerants. The Coalition serves as the Secretariat of the Global Cooling Pledge, the first international commitment to reduce cooling-related emissions by 68% by 2050, while expanding access to affordable and sustainable cooling.



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Global Cooling Watch

The Global Cooling Watch is UNEP's biennial flagship publication on sustainable cooling. It provides the most authoritative, data-driven assessment of current and projected cooling needs globally, and examines how cooling demand intersects with climate, development, and public health priorities. Launched at COP28, the publication tracks progress against global goals, such as the Global Cooling Pledge, and outlines pathways to deliver sustainable, equitable, and climate-friendly cooling for all.



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Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC)

With over 382 members, including 71 countries, the UNEP-led GlobalABC is the leading global platform for governments, private sector, civil society, research, and intergovernmental organizations committed to a common vision: A zero-emission, efficient and resilient buildings, and construction sector. Key initiatives include the Intergovernmental Council for Buildings and Climate (ICBC), now with 47 members and 17 observers, which aligns reforms, shares policies, and scales proven solutions, fostering collaboration among countries, and Buildings Breakthrough (BBT), a technical coalition of front-runner countries and partners working to make near-zero emission and resilient buildings the global norm by 2030.



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Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction

The Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction (Buildings-GSR) is a flagship publication by the GlobalABC that provides an annual snapshot of the progress of the buildings and construction sector on a global scale and reviews the status of policies, finance, technologies, and solutions to monitor whether the sector is aligned with the Paris Agreement goals. It also provides stakeholders with evidence to persuade policymakers and the overall buildings and construction community to take action. Its most recent release marked the ninth edition.



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