


 **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 1.3 billion people at risk of currently exposed to life-threatening heat stress. Cooling habitats and securing food supplies is exigent essential to protect lives, health, and livelihoods, and economic progress, especially for vulnerable populations. Otherwise, rising and sustained intensifying heat in the African continent may otherwise deepen inequality, strain energy systems, and dilute erode hard-won development gains.

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. UNEP The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), through Cool Coalition and the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC) GlobalABC, is successfully collaborates closely ing with more than 80 countries and development partners in the Global South, for to maximizing heat adaption, while cutting cooling related emissions. Together, they f by fast-tracking application of passive cooling (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-SDC Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) led BeCool Program on on passively cooled buildings, and cities, and, improving efficiency of heat-resilient urban planning, and energy-efficient cold chain infrastructure in India. Interactions between UNEP and policymakers from AMCEN countries during the Dialogue. Interaction between UNEP experts and policymakers from AMCEN countries during the event aims to identify effective policies, innovative financing mechanisms, and scalable technologies with potential to accelerate the adoption of sustainable cooling across in Africa.

## BeCool Program

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) have partnered to implement the BeCool Program in India, to scaling up passive and nature-based cooling solutions in buildings and cities for extreme heat adaptation. The initiative emphasizes passive cooling for enhancing thermal comfort in buildings, particularly in especially affordable housing, and incorporates, heat- resilient city planning to mitigate high temperatures from urban heat islands and climate change effects.

BeCool works with national and sub-national governments for:

- **Urban heat island mapping and integration of passive and nature-based cooling** into urban planning.
- **Demonstration of passive cooling solutions in buildings**
- **Strengthening regulatory frameworks** 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

UNEP-led Cool Coalition is supporting African governments and institutions through a unique platform for technical cooperation, knowledge-exchange, and implementation support. With more than 250 partners, including national governments, financial institutions, cities, and the private sector, the Cool Coalition catalyzes technology and finance innovation, policy exchange and coordinated technical assistance for, sustainable cooling that work across diverse contexts. The Cool Coalition also serves as the Secretariat to the [Global Cooling Pledge](#).



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## Global Cooling Watch

The [Global Cooling Watch report, Keeping it Chill: How to meet cooling demands while cutting emissions](#) by the Cool Coalition demonstrates the potential and the pathways to achieve near-zero emissions from cooling. The report lays out sustainable cooling measures in three areas: **passive cooling, higher-energy efficiency standards**, and a faster phase down of climate-warming refrigerants. The report is released in support of the Global Cooling Pledge.



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## Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC)

With over 382 members, including 71 countries, 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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