

Global Cooling Pledge Assembly 2026

15-18 September 2026 | Location: Singapore

Updated 12 September 2026

Background

The [Global Cooling Pledge](#), launched at the 2023 UN Climate Change Conference (COP28), addresses extreme heat risks and sustainable cooling demand through a four-pronged strategy: passive cooling, low-energy and hybrid solutions, super-efficient technologies, and climate-friendly refrigerants to cut sectoral emissions by 68% by 2050. Reinforced at [COP29's inaugural Annual Cooling Ministerial Meeting](#), the Pledge [prioritizes equitable access to sustainable cooling to protect nations](#) from the impacts of extreme heat, while aligning with the Paris Agreement and biodiversity.

The first [Global Cooling Pledge Signatories Focal Points Meeting](#), held in June 2025, was co-hosted by Germany, Italy, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and co-chaired by Brazil and the UAE. It created an initial forum for practical intergovernmental cooperation among signatories on implementation, governance, and capacity-building needs.

At COP30 in Belém, Brazil, the signatory countries came together for the Second [Annual Cooling Ministerial](#), and established the Intergovernmental Committee on Cooling (IGCC) to guide and track the delivery of the Pledge and adopted the [Belém Communiqué on Extreme Heat](#). The [Beat the Heat Implementation Drive](#) and the [EPIC Facility](#) were recognized as complementary mechanisms for country-level technical assistance and subnational delivery.

With the IGCC architecture now established and key implementation mechanisms in place, the Global Cooling Pledge Assembly 2026 will convene signatories and partner countries, cities, industry, finance and philanthropy partners to take stock of progress, strengthen capacity, identify implementation priorities and connect country and city needs with technical expertise, finance and delivery partnerships. The Assembly will also showcase practical achievements and introduce initiatives and tools that can accelerate implementation, including regional roadmaps, the Manufacturing Platform and the Cool Leaders initiative.

Objectives

1. **National Governments:** Showcase leadership, exchange experiences and identify partnerships, technical assistance and financing opportunities to strengthen national and multi-level cooling action and shape the global agenda towards COP31 and beyond.
2. **Beat the Heat Cities:** Strengthen capacity and exchange practical experience to advance integrated urban heat resilience and sustainable cooling through peer learning, site visits and technical partnerships.
3. **Cool Coalition Members:** Align technical assistance, investment, initiatives and expertise with country and city priorities, while building partnerships to accelerate implementation of the Global Cooling Pledge and Beat the Heat commitments.

Expected Outcomes

- A shared articulation of country and city priorities and coordinated areas of support with partners across the four areas of the workplan.
- New or strengthened partnerships matching country and city needs with technical assistance, finance and implementation support, alongside stronger peer networks and delivery capacity.
- Strategic inputs to the updated 2030 Implementation Strategy, together with an agreed process for developing the heat resilience and sustainable cooling roadmap toward COP31, COP32 and the second Global Stocktake.

Approach and Methodology

The Global Cooling Pledge Assembly will be structured around developing a cohesive way forward across four interconnected areas of work, grounded in the priorities and implementation needs of countries and cities:

1. National and multilevel heat resilience and sustainable cooling planning;
2. Market Transformation: Scaling passive and transforming markets for efficient, climate-friendly cooling;
3. Mobilizing finance and investment for implementation; and
4. Developing a shared global roadmap for heat resilience and sustainable cooling.

Session Structure: Each session will be structured around the following common questions: what are the priority needs? What is working and what prevents scale? Who can contribute, and how? What action should follow? A rapporteur will be assigned each session to record priorities, partner contributions and next steps in a common format that will feed directly into the IGCC discussions, chair's summary, and outcome statement. Pledge-specific decisions will remain with IGCC members, while the wider Assembly will help shape the shared implementation workplan.

A Four Day Journey: The programme is designed to move from evidence to solutions to collective action.

- Day 1 establishes science and identifies regional, country, city barriers and needs
- Day 2 examines what works, what enables scale, who can contribute and how
- Day 3 and 4 focus on co-designing the implementation workplan, drawing on the discussions from the first two days.
- Day 4 consolidates the Assembly's conclusions into workplan, chair summary and outcome statement.

Learning from Seeing: The Assembly will include a cross-cutting Beat the Heat Training and Study Tour to support capacity building through field visits and peer exchange. The aim is to connect policy discussions with implementation approaches that can be adapted in other contexts.

Networking: The Assembly will provide curated networking moments to encourage informal peer exchange and partnerships.

15 September

Day 1 – From Science to Country and City Priorities for Cooling and Heat Resilience Action

This day will bring together countries, cities, partners, and experts to explore the latest science on extreme heat and cooling, identify regional priorities, and exchange experiences on advancing implementation. The programme will conclude with a site visit showcasing urban cooling and heat resilience solutions in practice and setting the stage for the Assembly's high-level discussions and outcomes.

Time	Agenda item		
08:30 – 09:30	Registration		
09:30 – 10:00	Welcome Remarks		
	• Host Country • IGCC Co-Chairs • UNEP		
10:00 – 10:30	Singapore's Heat Resilience Approach & Introduction to Beat the Heat Training and Study Tour		
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break		
11:00 – 12:30	Extreme Heat and Sustainable Cooling: Evidence-Based Decision Making		
	Expert Panel Discussion • Discuss emerging science on extreme heat, cooling demand and impacts on health, cities and vulnerable populations • Discuss science-based priorities shaping the future of sustainable cooling action and policy, drawing on the <i>Global Cooling Watch 2025</i>		
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break		
13:30 – 14:30	Heat Resilience and Cooling Action: Regional Country and Partner Dialogues		
	<i>Parallel Sessions</i>		
13:30 – 14:30	Africa Dialogue <i>Regional Roundtable</i>	Asia-Pacific Dialogue <i>Regional Roundtable</i>	Latin America & Caribbean Dialogue <i>Regional Roundtable</i>
14:30 – 15:00	Coffee Break		
15:00 – 16:30	Africa Dialogue <i>Regional Roundtable</i>	Asia-Pacific Dialogue <i>Regional Roundtable</i>	Urban Heat Planning and Integration into Policy Frameworks <i>Beat the Heat Training</i>
SITE VISITS			
16:30 – 17:00	Transportation to Site Participants gather at the meeting point (bus bay). Transport is arranged as part of the tour.		
17:00 – 18:15	Option 1 - Heat Resilience & Performance Centre (HRPC), Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore or		
	Option 2 - BCA Braddell Campus <i>Beat the Heat Site Visit</i>		
18:15 – 18:45	Transportation to the hotel		

16 September

Day 2 – From Priorities to Solutions, Partnerships and Scale

Day 2 will move from identified needs to practical solutions, partnerships and pathways to scale. Implementation roundtables and Beat the Heat training will focus on what works, the enabling conditions required and the contributions that partners can make across the four areas of work. Field visits will provide direct exposure to passive cooling, nature-based design and efficient cooling infrastructure.

Time	Agenda item		
08:30 – 08:45	World Ozone Day Opening Reflections on the achievements of the Montreal Protocol and the next phase of action linking refrigerant transition, energy efficiency and sustainable cooling.		
09:00 – 10:30	Market Transformation: Efficient, Climate-Friendly Cooling Appliances Implementation Roundtable	National and Multi-level Cooling Action: From Plans to Implementation and Investment Implementation Roundtable	Market Transformation: Implementing Nature-Based & Passive Cooling Solutions Beat the Heat Training
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break		
11:00 – 12:30	Market Transformation: Scaling Passive Cooling in Buildings Implementation Roundtable	Market Transformation: Sustainable Cooling, Clean Energy and Demand Flexibility Implementation Roundtable	Financing: Urban Heat and Cooling Resilience Beat the Heat Training
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break		
13:30 – 14:00	Transportation to Site Participants gather at the meeting point (bus bay).		
14:00 – 15:30	Site Visit: Punggol Digital District Beat the Heat Site Visit		
15:30 – 16:00	Transportation to Site		
16:00 – 17:30	Site Visit: Sentosa Beat the Heat Site Visit		
17:30 – 18:00	Transportation to the hotel		

17 September

Day 3 – High-Level Segment & IGCC Meeting: Co-designing the 2027-2028 Implementation Workplan

Day 3 will translate the evidence, priorities and partner offers from Days 1 and 2 into a cohesive implementation workplan. Government-led sessions will focus on two of the four work areas: national and multilevel action and market transformation for passive and active cooling.

Time	Agenda item
09:00 – 09:15	High-level Opening from the Host H.E. Grace Fu Hai Yien, Minister for Sustainability and Environment, Singapore Martin Krause, Director, Climate Change Division, UNEP
9:15 – 10:05	Cool Leaders Awards Ceremony Formal presentation of the inaugural Cool Leaders recognition by UNEP Official group photo with awardees and media moment Fireside chat with the award recipients moderated by H.E. Adalberto Maluf, National Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Brazil
10:05 – 10:20	Group Photo – all Assembly delegates
10:20 – 11:00	Report back – Day 1 and Day 2 – Progress and Vision Special Remarks H.E. Hiroshi Ishikawa, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Singapore Ms. Banu Aslan, Director General, COP31 Türkiye Presidency Panel Discussion H.E. Adalberto Maluf, National Secretary for Urban Environment, Water Resources and Environmental Quality, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Brazil H.E. Eng. Sharif Al Olama, Undersecretary for the Energy and Petroleum Sector, Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure, United Arab Emirates Mr. Shaun Seow, Chief Executive Officer, Philanthropy Asia Alliance
11:00 – 11:20	Coffee Break
11:20 – 11:45	Global Cooling Pledge Implementation Mechanisms Presentation by the UNEP-Cool Coalition Secretariat
11:45 – 12:45	IGCC Session 1 - National and Multi-level Cooling Action: Plans for Coordinated Delivery The session will explore national cooling action plans and investment roadmaps, including how to strengthen implementation, connect national and subnational action through Beat the Heat, and link cooling priorities with NDCs, investment roadmaps and other national frameworks. Countries will share key successes, lessons learned and implementation challenges, and identify priorities for collaboration and delivery, including governance, financing, and regional approaches. The session will invite countries and partners to express their interest in working with UNEP to co-design and advance this action area.
12:45 – 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 – 15:00	IGCC Session 2A: Market Transformation and Alignment with the Kigali Amendment to Scale Efficient Cooling Appliances and Equipment The session will explore market transformation for efficient cooling appliances and equipment, including the role of policy, finance, procurement, industry engagement and capacity building. Countries will share successes, lessons learned and delivery challenges from implementation of roundtables and trainings, and discuss mechanisms to connect demand and supply, including the EPIC Facility and Manufacturing Platform. The session will invite countries and partners to express their interest in working with UNEP to co-design and advance this action area.
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee Break
15:30 – 17:00	IGCC Session 2B: Market Transformation to Scale Passive Cooling Solutions The session will explore how to create the enabling conditions for scaling passive cooling through building codes, planning and procurement, finance, capacity building and demonstration of solutions. Countries will share successes, lessons learned and delivery

	challenges from implementation roundtables and trainings, and discuss approaches to strengthen the passive cooling ecosystem, including engagement with governments, cities, real estate and other market actors. The session will invite countries and partners to express their interest in working with UNEP to co-design and advance this action area.
18:00 – 21:00	Reception: Danfoss Sustainability Technology Center (STC) Visit to Kaer followed by a tour of the Danfoss Sustainability Technology Center (STC) and a networking reception.

18 September	Day 4 – Shaping the Next Phase of Cooling Action
---------------------	---

The final day will focus on shaping the next phase of Global Cooling Pledge implementation, bringing together finance, heat resilience and sustainable cooling into a forward agenda for action. The day will conclude by setting the path from Singapore towards COP31 and the next phase of collective delivery.

Time	Agenda item		
09:00 – 09:25	Announcement of the GEF-8 Nature for Cooling Challenge Project		
09:25 – 10:30	IGCC Session 3 – Mobilizing Finance for Heat Resilience and Sustainable Cooling The session will explore access to climate finance for cooling and heat resilience, including GEF, Adaptation Fund and emerging financing opportunities under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement. Countries will share successful financing approaches and discuss key barriers and opportunities to mobilize and scale finance for cooling and heat resilience. The session will invite countries and partners to express interest in working with UNEP to develop financing approaches and partnerships to advance this action area.		
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break		
11:00 – 12:30	IGCC Session 4 - A Heat Resilience Roadmap for National and Global Action The session will explore how extreme heat and sustainable cooling can be addressed through more integrated approaches, drawing on country experiences, successes and lessons learned. Participants will discuss how to strengthen national and global action on heat resilience, connect with frameworks and international processes, and advance shared priorities such as the Belém Indicators, NAPs and the Global Stocktake. The session will invite countries and partners to express interest in working together to co-design a Global Heat Resilience Roadmap and advance this action area.		
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch Break		
13:30 – 14:00	Elevating Heat Resilience and Sustainable Cooling in Global Climate Agenda: Fireside chat with the COP troika		
14:00 – 15:00	IGCC Session 5 - Global Cooling Pledge Assembly Outcomes The session will bring together the key outcomes and priorities emerging from the Assembly, including reflections from the previous two days and the Singapore Assembly outcomes. Participants will hear new announcements and partnership opportunities, and discuss the road to COP, including engagement with the COP Troika. The session will conclude with shared priorities and forward actions towards 2030 and COP31 and COP32.		
15:00 – 16:30	Coffee Break		
16:30 – 17:30	Parallel Masterclasses: <i>Participants may choose to attend one of the following sessions:</i>		
	Cooling as a Service (CaaS), district cooling and data centres by Danfoss & BASE Masterclass	Cooling emissions – how to measure their impacts and plan mitigating and adaptation interventions Masterclass	Digital Urban Climate Twin (DUCT) by Singapore ETH-Centre Masterclass
18:30 – 21:00	High-level Reception - Hosted by H.E. Grace Fu, Minister for Sustainability and Environment, Singapore <i>By invitation only</i>		

