Global Cooling Pledge Assembly 2026

Singapore Assembly Outcome Document: Heat Resilience and Sustainable Cooling for All – The Path Forward

Note: This Outcome Statement is issued by the co-hosts of the Assembly: the Government of Singapore and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in consultation with the country co-chairs of The Intergovernmental Committee on Cooling (IGCC), Brazil and the UAE, and reflects the principal messages, shared directions and actions emerging from the Global Cooling Pledge Assembly 2026. It does not constitute negotiated text. Participation in the Assembly does not imply endorsement of the Global Cooling Pledge.

The Global Cooling Pledge Assembly 2026 was held in Singapore from 15 to 18 September 2026. More than 230 delegates met, including representatives from 60 countries, subnational governments, international organizations, industry, financial institutions, philanthropy, civil society, academia and other partners to strengthen international cooperation on heat resilience and sustainable cooling as well as to advance implementation of the Global Cooling Pledge.

Delegates expressed appreciation to the Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment of Singapore for hosting the Assembly, and to the IGCC and to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change COP29, COP30 and COP31 Presidencies for sustaining political momentum on extreme heat and sustainable cooling and accelerating implementation of the Global Cooling Pledge.

Delegates also recognized Singapore, the United Arab Emirates and Ms. Dong Mingzhu, Chairwoman of Gree Electric Appliances, as the inaugural 2026 Cool Leaders awarded by the UNEP-led Cool Coalition, in recognition of their leadership and innovation in advancing sustainable cooling and heat resilience across sectors.

The Assembly welcomed The Gambia as a new signatory to the Global Cooling Pledge, bringing the total number of signatories to 76, as well as the mobilization of new government and philanthropic support to accelerate implementation of the Pledge.

The Assembly welcomed progress by Pledge signatories in translating commitments into measurable action on the ground. The Assembly recognized this progress as a catalyst for scaling ambition, solutions and partnerships, and for building momentum among countries, subnational governments and partners.

The Assembly sent a clear message: **heat resilience and sustainable cooling must be addressed together** to reduce heat exposure and cooling demand, while bringing together efforts by governments to deliver on climate and development commitments. Success will ultimately be measured by whether more people are protected from dangerous heat, more communities and critical systems remain resilient, and growing cooling needs are met sustainably and affordably for all.

The Assembly delivered three main outcomes.

1. **An Ecosystem for Supporting Heat Resilience and Sustainable Cooling.**

The Assembly:

Recognized and expressed appreciation to the Government of Singapore for serving as the inaugural host of the Assembly and convening governments, subnational authorities, international organizations, financial institutions, civil society, the private sector and other partners around sustainable cooling and heat resilience.

Noted that representatives from 60 countries, 15 subnational governments and over 100 partner organizations came together to strengthen cooperation, share solutions and support accelerated action to advance heat resilience and sustainable cooling together.

Recognized progress in the implementation of the Global Cooling Pledge as a collective voluntary framework for Signatory countries to enhance heat resilience while working together to reduce the climate impacts of cooling.

Welcomed the engagement of other participating governments in the broader heat resilience and sustainable cooling agenda.

Recognized the important contribution of partners and organizations supporting countries through EPIC (Enabling Pledge Implementation in Cooling) requests, including through technical assistance, capacity building, project development and access to finance.

Welcomed the announcement of EPIC Deploy's call for proposals for pilot projects in five countries focusing on industry and the cold chain.

Encouraged partners to respond to existing and new EPIC requests and support Signatory countries in translating the Global Cooling Pledge into concrete and scalable action.

Invited the relevant delivery partners to provide practical guidance to Signatory countries on developing and implementing EPIC requests, including arrangements for coordination with national focal points, applicable procedures and eligibility criteria, and available technical assistance, project development support and access to finance, in accordance with each mechanism's mandate.

Welcomed the proposed IGCC Workplan 2027–2028 as a practical framework for cooperation among willing Pledge signatories and other participating countries and partners in facilitating knowledge exchange, identifying collaboration opportunities, supporting implementation, and mobilizing technical and financial resources in a flexible, demand-driven manner. **Noted** that participation of non-Signatory countries in this Workplan is highly welcomed and does not imply endorsement of the Global Cooling Pledge.

Welcomed the collective interest in strengthening and maintaining the Assembly as a platform for political dialogue, peer learning, partnerships and implementation on heat resilience and sustainable cooling.

Encouraged continued engagement with complementary initiatives, partnerships and mechanisms to strengthen synergies, coordination and implementation, including the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, its Kigali Amendment and Multilateral Fund, as the agreed international framework for the phase-down of HFCs and associated measures related to cooling, as well as the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC).

Invited governments, subnational authorities and partners to bring experience, evidence, good practices, technologies, financing approaches and scalable solutions to COP31 and COP32, to share lessons, strengthen cooperation and accelerate implementation.

Encouraged participants to use COP31 and COP32 to demonstrate progress, address implementation gaps and strengthen partnerships on heat resilience and sustainable cooling;

Welcomed the commitment of the COP Troika to maintain momentum on heat resilience and sustainable cooling across successive COP Presidencies and encouraged strengthened continuity and coordination throughout the COP process, ensuring that commitments and lessons are carried forward and that the heat resilience and sustainable cooling agenda remain integrated across climate, development, health, energy and resilience agendas;

Welcomed the invitation to work collectively to contribute inputs on country needs, priorities and actions on heat resilience, sustainable cooling, and/or Global Cooling Pledge implementation to inform the second Global Stock Take 2026-2028.

2. **A Shared Agenda on Heat Resilience and Sustainable Cooling.**

The Assembly:

Noted the Belém Communiqué on Extreme Heat, adopted at the COP30 Ministerial on Delivering the Global Cooling Pledge by 72 Signatories at that time, which underscored the urgency of coordinated action across climate, development, health, energy and resilience agendas, with sustainable cooling treated as essential infrastructure.

Recognized extreme heat as one of the defining development and resilience challenges of the 21st century, affecting health and human welfare, labour productivity, education, food and water security, infrastructure, energy systems, ecosystems and economic stability.

Recognized heat risk management and sustainable cooling essential to protecting people, and strengthening the resilience of communities and critical systems.

Underlined the critical role of cities and regions in enhancing heat resilience and delivering sustainable cooling, and called for coordinated, multi-level and whole-of-society action across relevant sectors, supported by stronger cooperation among national and subnational governments.

Recognized the role of climate-responsive planning, passive cooling and building renovation in reducing heat exposure and cooling demand, alongside efficient cooling equipment where needed, with

attention to social and affordable housing, schools and healthcare facilities, and to both upfront and operating costs.

Recognised the importance of strengthening end-of-life management of cooling equipment and refrigerants, including collection, recovery, recycling, and environmentally sound disposal, and note the potential role of extended producer responsibility (EPR) and other appropriate approaches in supporting such systems.

Noted the invitation from Brazil, as IGCC co-chair, to all participating governments at the Assembly to join a *Declaration on Heat Resilience in a Warming World* to strengthen the global response to rising heat and advance sustainable cooling;

Welcomed the announcement by countries and partners to co-create a Global Heat Resilience and Sustainable Cooling Roadmap as a guiding, modular framework to bridge existing heat resilience and sustainable cooling efforts, support countries with assessing heat and cooling risks, identify implementation priorities, strengthen cross-sectoral coordination, and support existing local and national climate and development efforts and obligations.

Welcomed that the proposed guiding framework will be co-created with countries accounting for local climatic conditions, exposure, vulnerability and adaptive capacity, and building on existing national plans and institutions.

Encouraged countries to integrate relevant components of the guiding framework into existing programmes, coordination mechanisms and monitoring arrangements, according to national circumstances and capacities, while avoiding unnecessary duplication of planning and reporting requirements.

3. **Turning Priorities into Country-led Delivery.**

The Assembly:

Welcomed the formation of thematic action coalitions, supported by UNEP, to co-design and accelerate implementation of heat resilience and sustainable cooling priorities as outlined during the Assembly, including through *Enabling Pledge Implementation for Cooling (EPIC) Facility* requests.

Welcomed the offer of sustained Country Dialogues on Heat Resilience and Sustainable Cooling as a UNEP-led mechanism to translate national priorities and EPIC requests into cross-ministerial workplans developed by national governments and in consultation with relevant partners.

Welcomed the launch of the Manufacturing Platform, a new voluntary initiative that brings together governments and manufacturers to increase the availability of efficient cooling equipment and accelerate the transition towards low- and ultra-low-Global Warming Potential (GWP) refrigerants.

Welcomed the launch of the Nature for Cooling Challenge, as a global UNEP-led Cool Coalition programme with the Global Environment Facility and Sustainable Energy for All, initially supporting Brazil, Cambodia and Côte d'Ivoire to scale nature-based approaches to heat resilience and sustainable cooling.

Welcomed efforts to leverage the UNEP-led Cool Coalition as a multistakeholder platform for implementation, supported by the existing delivery mechanisms including the *EPIC Facility*, *EPIC Deploy,* the *Manufacturing Platform* and the *Beat the Heat implementation drive*.

Welcomed 55 country-led requests through the EPIC Facility for support with preparation of Heat Resilience Roadmaps, National Cooling Action Plans and Investment Roadmaps, passive cooling and green building codes, minimum energy performance standards, district cooling policies, cold chain, demand flexibility, integration of renewables and other forms of implementation support.

Welcomed new delivery partnerships in response to EPIC country requests including with SEforALL, UNDP, and CLASP.

Welcomed the presentation of the UAE-led Global Energy Efficiency Alliance (GEEA) and its potential role as a complementary implementation platform to help connect country-led energy-efficiency and sustainable cooling needs with relevant technologies, technical expertise, financing and implementation partners, supporting opportunities to move from identified needs towards pilots, validation, deployment and scale.

Welcomed expanded city- and regional-level action through the Beat the Heat implementation drive, including Google's commitment to provide heat-planning data to 50 cities; UN ESCAP's technical analysis and baseline assessments; and Singapore- and UNEP-led capacity-building for 17 cities.

Welcomed partnership with philanthropies like the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, ClimateWorks Foundation, through its Clean Cooling Collaborative program, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and Sequoia Climate Foundation to help countries and cities implement sustainable cooling solutions.