SPECIAL EVENT

MOP38

2-6 NOVEMBER 2026 | KIGALI, RWANDA

LIVE CONSULTATION

Expanding Cool Leaders Recognition to Industry under the Kigali Amendment



6 November 2026 | 13:00–15:00 | MH2-B, Kigali Convention Centre

UN environment programme

Cool Coalition
a UNEP-convened initiative

U4E United for Efficiency

BACKGROUND

The tenth anniversary of the Kigali Amendment marks a major milestone in international cooperation on climate-friendly refrigeration and air conditioning. Through the Montreal Protocol, governments and industry have established the regulatory frameworks, technical expertise and partnerships needed to advance the global phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). As cooling demand continues to grow, the next decade will require sustained industry leadership in refrigerant transition, energy efficiency, technology innovation and access to affordable, sustainable cooling.

At the 2026 Global Cooling Pledge Assembly in Singapore, the UNEP Cool Coalition inaugurated Cool Leaders, an initiative recognising leadership by countries, cities and individuals in advancing sustainable cooling and heat resilience.

Building on heightened interest in the inaugural edition, Cool Leaders 2027 will expand to recognise one new category focused on industry. The expansion presents an opportunity to showcase manufacturers demonstrating exceptional leadership in advancing sustainable cooling, while reinforcing the complementary objectives of the Global Cooling Pledge and the Montreal Protocol.

At MOP38, the Montreal Protocol community will be invited to provide input on the criteria for the first Cool Leaders industry recognition. Drawing on the experience of governments, implementing agencies and technical and development partners, this special event will seek perspectives on what constitutes credible industry leadership, which achievements should merit recognition and how these can be measured.

The discussion will also explore potential links with the new UNEP Manufacturing Platform, which aims to connect government policy priorities with voluntary, measurable manufacturer commitments on energy efficiency, refrigerant transition and market transformation. Participants will be invited to consider whether, and how, the Platform's commitments and reporting mechanisms could inform the Cool Leaders industry recognition, while ensuring that the recognition remains transparent, inclusive and grounded in demonstrated impact.

The consultation will gather recommendations from governments and technical and development partners to inform the criteria and assessment approach for the Cool Leaders 2027 industry category, including the potential role of UNEP's Manufacturing Platform. The inputs will be considered in developing the recognition framework ahead of the next Cool Leaders cycle.

OBJECTIVES

01

Announce & engage

Announce the expansion of Cool Leaders in 2027 and engage the Montreal Protocol community in shaping the new industry recognition category.

02

Define credible criteria

Identify credible criteria for industry leadership, drawing on experience in Kigali Amendment implementation, energy efficiency, refrigerant lifecycle management, technology deployment and market access.

03

Explore the Platform link

Explore potential links with the Manufacturing Platform, including whether and how manufacturers' reported progress against their Platform commitments could serve as evidence in the Cool Leaders assessment, while keeping the recognition independent and open to all manufacturers.

AGENDA

10 MIN	WELCOME Cool Leaders 2027 expansion announcement	**Marisofi Giannouli** Communications Lead, UNEP Cool Coalition
10 MIN	PRESENTATION UNEP Manufacturing Platform supporting Kigali and Cooling Pledge implementation	**Mzwandile Thwala** Africa Coordinator, UNEP United for Efficiency
50 MIN	PANEL 1 Government perspectives on industry excellence	**H.E. Mr Pak Sokharavuth** Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia **Mr Arno Kaschl** Senior Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA), European Commission **Mr Alhagie Sarr** Programme Manager, Ozone Unit, National Environment Agency, The Gambia **Ms Ditsy Aksella Widianingrum** Senior Technical Staff, Directorate of Climate Change Mitigation, Ministry of Environment, Indonesia MODERATOR **Basile Seburikoko** Technical Director, ACES-Africa Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold Chain
35 MIN	PANEL 2 Partner perspectives on industry excellence	**Ms Souhir Al-Hammami** Director, Scientific and Technical Information Department, International Institute of Refrigeration (IIR) **Mr Guntram Glasbrenner** Programme Manager, GIZ Proklima **Mr Andreas Hermelink** Programme Director, Cool Up **Ms Clare Perry** Climate Programme Lead, Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) MODERATOR **Basile Seburikoko** Technical Director, ACES-Africa Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold Chain
10 MIN	DISCUSSION Audience reflections	MODERATOR **Mzwandile Thwala** Africa Coordinator, UNEP United for Efficiency
5 MIN	CLOSING Closing remarks	**Marisofi Giannouli** Communications Lead, UNEP Cool Coalition

OVERALL GUIDING QUESTIONS

1

GOVERNMENT PANEL

a. What should distinguish an industry Cool Leader from a manufacturer that simply complies with existing regulations?

b. How could the Manufacturing Platform support credible recognition and encourage greater industry ambition?

2

TECHNICAL AND PARTNER PANEL

a. What measurable achievements, evidence and safeguards should underpin recognition?

b. How should the framework recognise different manufacturers and markets, and what role could Manufacturing Platform commitments and reporting play?