

# **Global Cooling Pledge Governance: Intergovernmental Committee on Cooling (IGCC)**

## **Terms of Reference (ToR)**

### **Intergovernmental Committee on Cooling (IGCC) Summary**

The IGCC will act as the primary governance body for the Global Cooling Pledge. Building upon the foundation of the initial Contact Group, this transition to the IGCC expands the existing governance structure to more inclusively engage *all* Pledge Signatories in the collaborative effort to implement the GCP. Membership in the IGCC is extended to include all Global Cooling Pledge Signatory countries and their existing focal points, with current participation including 72 national entities. The IGCC will be Co-Chaired by two Signatory countries, initially led by the UAE and Brazil as the COP28 and COP30 Presidencies, respectively, ensuring continuity and leadership. Following COP30, the Co-Chairs will be elected by the IGCC members. Hosted by the UNEP-led Cool Coalition and served by its Secretariat, the IGCC's main purpose is to provide strategic guidance, identify priorities, track and support the progress and implementation of the Global Cooling Pledge.

# 1. Definitions

- 1.1. **Global Cooling Pledge (GCP):** A global initiative launched at COP28, led by the UAE, calls on countries to commit to working together to reduce cooling-related emissions by 68% and improve energy efficiency in the cooling sector.
- 1.2. **The Global Cooling Watch Report:** a UNEP-led Cool Coalition biannual publication series shows that sustainable cooling measures across three areas: passive cooling, higher-energy efficiency, and a faster phase down of climate-warming refrigerants – can slash cooling related emissions by over 60% by 2050 while delivering universal access to cooling and trillions in energy savings. The report provided the scientific basis for the Global Cooling Pledge targets and serves as a framework to track its progress.
- 1.3. **Pledge Signatory Countries:** Countries who have formally endorsed the Pledge via a Note Verbale and committed to implementing its targets.
- 1.4. **Subnational Pledge Signatories:** Cities, local authorities, and municipalities that have formally endorsed the Pledge and its three subnational commitments for implementation.
- 1.5. **Annual Global Cooling Pledge Progress Report:** A yearly report tracking the collective progress made by Pledge Signatory Countries in fulfilling the commitments of the GCP.
- 1.6. **Contact Group:** The initial group of countries involved in negotiation of the GCP commitments and serving as the transitional governance body for the GCP.
- 1.7. **IGCC Annual Ministerial/High-level Meeting on the GCP:** Annual meeting of Ministers, Vice Ministers, and high-level representatives from Pledge Signatory Countries to review and showcase progress, discuss challenges, and provide strategic guidance on the implementation of the GCP.
- 1.8. **GCP Implementation Strategy:** The strategy that will guide the Cool Coalition’s approach to supporting the implementation of the GCP and/or the implementation of the Recommendations of the Global Cooling Watch Report for those countries who are not Pledge Signatories, with a view to 2030.
- 1.9. **Reserved Business:** Closed door meetings for members, known as “Reserved Business”, to be decided upon Signatory request.
- 1.10. **Cool Coalition:** the leading multi-stakeholder platform bringing together 250+ members to drive comprehensive action on sustainable cooling through advocacy, science, and joint action. The Cool Coalition was the lead delivery partner to the UAE COP28 Presidency on the Global Cooling Pledge. The Secretariat of the Cool Coalition acts as Secretariat for the IGCC.

## 2. Context and Mandate

- 2.1. The [Global Cooling Pledge](#) is an initiative of the United Arab Emirates as host of the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), supported by the UNEP-led Cool Coalition, which was launched in Dubai as one of nine non-negotiated declarations, pledges, and charters that constitute key outcomes of the COP28 Presidential Action Agenda. 72 countries, 80 non-state actors, and 20 cities have endorsed the Global Cooling Pledge as of March 2025.
- 2.2. The Global Cooling Pledge aims to raise ambition and international cooperation through collective action to reduce cooling related emissions by 68% from today by 2050, significantly increase access to sustainable cooling by 2030, and increase the global average efficiency of new air conditioners by 50%. The emission targets and 2030 policy targets were underpinned by science, modelling and recommendations in the Global Cooling Watch Report.
- 2.3. In advance of the Pledge launch, the COP28 Presidency and the UNEP <sup>1</sup> set up a country 'Contact Group' of countries in September 2023, to negotiate and finalize the Pledge text. Early Pledge supporter countries were invited to form <sup>2</sup> which was chaired by the UAE COP28 Presidency.
- 2.4. In 2024, the Contact Group continued to act as a governing body for the Global Cooling Pledge with the UAE as the chair. The Contact Group had two physical and three virtual meetings, to provide direction on governance, the Pledge Implementation Strategy, the Annual Progress report and COP29 preparations. In the meeting of the Contact Group in 2024, representatives from regional groups were invited to join the Contact Group to ensure an expanded geographical balance. It was also decided that the Contact Group would be Co-Chaired by incoming and outgoing COP Presidencies, who were Signatories. Brazil was invited to Co-Chair the Pledge Contact Group for 2025-2026.
- 2.5. In the course of 2024, Signatory countries expressed interest to participate in a more inclusive and comprehensive governance framework, enabling them to take on a more active role in governing Pledge implementation. In response, the COP28 UAE Presidency team, as chair of the Contact Group, proposed to expand and transition the initial Advisory Contact Group to an Intergovernmental Committee on Cooling (IGCC). This transition aims to formally engage all Pledge Signatory countries in the ongoing collaborative effort to implement the GCP.
- 2.6. Following the first COP29 Annual Ministerial/High-level Meeting "Delivering on the Global Cooling Pledge",<sup>3</sup> held on 18 November 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan, all countries adopted the principle of establishing the IGCC, and Brazil was unanimously appointed as Co-Chair of the Contact Group.<sup>4</sup>
- 2.7. The IGCC will serve as a governing body for all Pledge Signatory Countries to facilitate the implementation of the GCP, specifically to:

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<sup>1</sup> View more for the launch of the Global Cooling Pledge < <https://www.unep.org/topics/cities/cooling-and-heating-cities/cool-coalition> >

<sup>2</sup> The Contact Group include Brazil, Denmark, Dominican Republic, European Commission, France, Germany, Ghana, Japan, Kenya, Maldives, Netherlands, Nigeria, Panama, UAE, UK, USA, and Vietnam

<sup>3</sup> View more information about the first Annual Ministerial Meeting of Pledge <https://coolcoalition.org/cop29-ministerial-roundtable-delivering-on-the-global-cooling-pledge/>

<sup>4</sup> View here [COP29 Ministerial Roundtable Report](#)

- **Track progress and implementation** towards achieving a 68% reduction in cooling related emissions, particularly through contributions to the Annual Global Cooling Pledge Progress Report and the biannual Global Cooling Watch report;<sup>5</sup>
- **Facilitate knowledge exchange** to share progress, challenges, case studies, and best practices in fulfilling the Pledge commitments;
- **Provide policy support** including best practice tools, guidance, and case studies to assist Signatory countries in implementing commitments;
- **Set priorities** for the IGCC collectively to accelerate Pledge Implementation;
- **Implement outreach activities** to engage non-Signatory countries in endorsing the Pledge;
- **Propose new commitments to the Pledge as relevant** to be approved by all National Pledge Signatories;
- **Support engagement of the private engagement and investment** to support the implementation of commitments.
- **Encourage engagement of other relevant partners** including intergovernmental organizations, industry associations, research institutions, civil society groups, and academia, to support the implementation of Pledge commitments.

## 3. Governance Structure

### 3.1. Members and observers

3.1.1. **Members:** Members are national governments that have endorsed the Global Cooling Pledge, named as “National Pledge Signatories”. Each Member will designate a National Focal Point.

**National Focal Point:** Designated through a government or Ministry, this individual(s) will focus on policy progress and implementation of the Pledge, and its coordination.

Roles:

- Acts as the primary focal point to the GCP and the IGCC;
- Coordinates with the Cool Coalition Secretariat, to review progress on commitments through provision of inputs to Annual Pledge Progress Report and other related requests;
- Represents the government’s policy position in relation to the GCP and shares annual priorities on Pledge implementation in Focal Point meetings and Cool Coalition Coordination Meetings;

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<sup>5</sup> Annual Progress Report can be viewed <https://coolcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2024-Global-Cooling-Pledge-Progress-Report.pdf>

- Actively participates or designates a technical expert to contribute to and benefit from (a maximum of 4) technical Working Groups of the Cool Coalition in the development of knowledge products and resources;
- Canvas political support and encourages resourcing for Pledge implementation;
- Organization of in-country sustainable cooling focused seminars and workshops to foster synergy among relevant stakeholders in the cooling sector and promote a whole-government and whole-society participation in the GCP implementation;
- Supporting the mobilization of a Minister or high-level representative to participate in the IGCC Annual Ministerial/High-level Meetings to represent national interests, share implementation progress, and contribute to strategic direction-setting.

### 3.1.2. Observers

#### Types:

- **State Observers:** State actors that have not yet signed the GCP but have demonstrated a keen interest and initiative in sustainable cooling and seek to participate in the IGCC's activities;
- **Subnational Signatories to the Pledge:** Cities, local authorities and municipalities that have endorsed the Pledge and are working towards implementation of its commitments;<sup>6</sup>
- **Other non-State Observers:** Non-state entities that have endorsed the GCP, including intergovernmental organizations, industry associations, research institutions, academia, and civil society groups.

**Participation:** Observers will be invited to participate in the IGCC meetings and discussions, providing recommendations and input upon request.

- **State Observers:** can request observer status by submitting an expression of interest to the Cool Coalition Secretariat, outlining their reasons for participation and potential contributions;
- **Subnational Signatories to the Pledge:** Are invited to participate in any IGCC meetings and may also provide recommendations and input where relevant; **Other non-State Observers:** can apply for observer status by submitting an expression of interest to the Cool Coalition Secretariat, demonstrating their commitment to and progress in supporting the implementation of the GCP, as well as their potential contributions

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<sup>6</sup> View more on the Pledge: <https://coolcoalition.org/global-cooling-pledge/>

## 3.2. Co-Chairs

### 3.2.1. Initial Co-Chair Arrangement:

The IGCC will initially be led by two Co-Chairs: the UAE and Brazil as COP28 and COP30 Presidencies, given their roles as Co-Chairs of the Contact Group. This initial arrangement recognizes their leadership and ensures continuity in the transition from the Contact Group to the IGCC.

### 3.2.2. Transition to elected Co-Chairs:

Following the formal adoption of the IGCC at COP30 in Brazil, the Co-Chairs will transition to election modality in 2026.

Both Co-Chairs will be elected from and by the IGCC members to serve for a term of two years. Members will be invited to express their interest in Co-Chairing, followed by a vote for two countries that have expressed interest, through a transparent and inclusive process, with criteria to be defined and adopted by the IGCC. Each Co-Chair should represent a different socio-economic and geographic region, unless otherwise agreed upon by all IGCC members. If no Signatory countries express interest, the existing Co-Chairs will continue another two-year term.

Responsibilities of the Co-Chairs:

- Call for meetings and propose the agenda and annual priorities;
- Facilitate the development and implementation of IGCC priorities with the Secretariat's support;
- Foster collaboration and coordination among IGCC members, subnational Signatories, State and non-State observers;
- Outreach, fundraising, and expansion of Pledge Signatories and membership to the IGCC;
- Host or facilitate hosting of the Annual IGCC Focal Point Meetings.

## 3.3. Secretariat

The IGCC to the Global Cooling Pledge is hosted by the Cool Coalition Secretariat housed at UNEP, with dedicated staff to support IGCC operations.

Responsibilities:

### 3.3.1. Manage day-to-day operations of the IGCC, including:

- Providing administrative and logistical support to the Co-Chairs and organization of IGCC meetings, and any relevant subsequent working groups;
- Drafting IGCC documents and reports;

- Managing communication and coordination across IGCC members, subnational Signatories, State and non-State observers;
- Assisting the Co-Chairs in the liaison between the IGCC and international bodies, such as the United National Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Montreal Protocol;
- Organize focal point meetings, capacity-building and policy support programmes, and outreach efforts to support implementation of national and subnational Pledge commitments.

### **3.3.2. Facilitate Knowledge Exchange**

- Cool Coalition Working Group updates and opportunities for technical assistance;
- Progress on the GCP Implementation Strategy;
- The Global Cooling Watch Report tracking the policy progress on cooling in all UN Member States and pathways to achieve near zero emissions in the sector;
- Initiatives of Cool Coalition members who are key stakeholders from business, finance, academia, and civil society working on sustainable cooling and extreme heat, as well as leadership initiatives of Cool Champions.

### **3.3.3. Supporting Pledge implementation and technical work of the IGCC, including:**

- Policy briefs, recommendations and common statements, and review of progress, following formal demands and subject to appropriate funding;
- Coordination of annual reports and the Biannual Global Cooling Watch report.

## **3.4. Meetings**

### **3.4.1. The IGCC Annual Ministerial/High-level Meeting on the GCP in conjunction with UNFCCC-COP as per the GCP commitments;**

- Welcome incoming-Co-Chairs;
- Deliberates on and adopts the IGCC priorities, Annual Progress Report, including thematic priorities related to the Pledge's implementation;
- Launches initiatives and programmes to accelerate Pledge implementation;
- Endorses IGCC recommendations and common statements.

### **3.4.2. National Focal Points from Member States to participate in biannual IGCC in person and virtual Teams meetings to:**

- Exchange information on national activities contributing to Pledge implementation;

- Share best practices and lessons learned from successful policies, regulations, facilitating cross-country learning and accelerating pledge implementation;
- Provide capacity building and technical training programmes aimed at supporting Pledge implementation;
- Reach consensus and share progress (when appropriate) on thematic areas critical to achieving the GCP commitments;
- Discuss and develop recommendations for consideration at the Annual IGCC Ministerial/High-level Meetings;
- Closed door meetings for members, known as “Reserved Business”, to be decided upon Signatory request.

### 3.4.3. Decision Making

- Members reach consensus on recommendations and common statements, , policy briefs or reviews of progress;
- Decisions are made by the members, whenever possible, through consensus;
- These common decisions are non-legally binding;
- In case of non-consensus, a list of "non-endorsers" can be attached to the decision;
- Observer States as defined above, as well as Non-State Observers, do not participate in the decision-making processes of sessions. Based on request, subnational Signatories may be invited to participate in decision making as decided by National Pledge Signatories and Co-Chairs of the IGCC.

## 4. Institutional Structure

- 4.1. The IGCC will operate within the broader framework of the [UNEP Cool Coalition](#), a global multi-stakeholder network of over 250 partners, focused on accelerating the transition to sustainable cooling.
- 4.2. The IGCC could establish strong linkages and synergies with other relevant institutional bodies within the UNEP Cool Coalition. These linkages will facilitate information sharing, intergovernmental collaboration, and alignment of efforts towards Pledge implementation. Specific linkages could be established with:
  - **Biennial Global Cooling Watch Report:** IGCC members are encouraged to contribute to and utilize this report as the basis of global potential and the pathways to achieve near-zero emissions from cooling.
  - **Working Groups:** IGCC members are encouraged to collaborate with [Working Groups](#) within the UNEP Cool Coalition that focus on specific thematic areas or commitments of the GCP. Signatory countries can join based on their interest to be informed by and contribute to expert knowledge.

## 5. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Secretariat will be primarily responsible for monitoring and evaluating progress towards Pledge implementation, with support from Pledge Signatories and supporting institutional bodies mentioned in Section 4.2.

The primary tools used to track progress and implementation towards achieving a 68% reduction in cooling related emissions will be the Annual Global Cooling Pledge Progress Report and the biannual Global Cooling Watch report.

These two documents will involve contributions from IGCC members and will be tabled and discussed by its members at the IGCC Annual Ministerial/ High-level Meeting on the GCP.

## 6. Review and Modifications

Modification of the governance structure and operational guidelines of the IGCC require approval by IGCC members.

## 7. Working Language

The working language of the IGCC is English. Interpretation into other languages may be provided during the IGCC Annual Ministerial/High-level Meeting and other events, based on available resources.

## 8. Document handling and storage

- 8.1. The Secretariat will provide all IGCC members and observers with relevant documents, including meeting agendas, policy briefs, reports, and draft recommendations, at least one to two weeks prior to scheduled meetings, unless otherwise specified.
- 8.2. A publicly accessible archive of non-confidential documents will be maintained on the UNEP Cool Coalition website. It will be agreed which items are confidential at each meeting.
- 8.3. All official IGCC documents will be stored electronically in a secure, confidential, centralized repository maintained by the Secretariat.

## 9. Confidentiality and communications

- 9.1. Members should maintain the confidentiality of discussions and documents marked as "Reserved Business" or otherwise designated as confidential.
- 9.2. The Secretariat will prepare draft minutes of all IGCC meetings, including summaries of discussions, decisions, and action items. Reports of open-door meetings may be published on the UNEP Cool Coalition website.
- 9.3. The Secretariat will prepare an Annual Pledge Progress Report, which will be reviewed and endorsed by the IGCC during the IGCC Annual Ministerial/High-level Meeting on the GCP. The Annual Progress Report will be made publicly available on the UNEP Cool Coalition website.
- 9.4. The Secretariat will serve as the primary point of contact for external communications related to the IGCC including press releases, statements, and other public communications.

## 10. Extrabudgetary resources

- 10.1. The Secretariat, in collaboration with the Co-Chairs, will develop and implement a resource mobilization strategy.
- 10.2. Explore voluntary contributions from a range of sources, including interested governments, international organizations, and philanthropic foundations.
- 10.3. The Secretariat will provide regular updates to the IGCC on the status of resource mobilization and the implementation of funded activities. The activities of the IGCC can be implemented within the available resources.