



GLOBAL COOLING PLEDGE ASSEMBLY

SINGAPORE 15-18 SEPTEMBER 2026



High-level Opening

Mr Martin Krause, Director, Climate Change Division, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Thank you, Minister Fu, for your warm remarks, and to the Government of Singapore for hosting this Assembly and placing delivery at its centre.

My thanks also to Brazil and the UAE, Co-Chairs of the Intergovernmental Committee on Cooling, for convening us today — and to all governments, cities and partners for your engagement over the past two days.

I am delighted to join you in Singapore. Our discussions over the past two days have made one thing clear: extreme heat is no longer a future risk. It is already shaping lives, economies and development.

UNEP's Limiting Overshoot report reinforces the urgency: exceeding 1.5°C is increasingly difficult to avoid. It also gives us a clear direction: mitigation and adaptation must move together, so we both limit future warming and ensure societies can function and remain resilient in a hotter world. Cooling sits at the centre of that challenge. Without action, demand could more than triple by 2050, emissions could double, and billions could remain without adequate protection from heat.

But we know the solutions. Passive cooling – through better urban and buildings design and nature-based solutions; low-energy solutions like fans; efficient equipment and cleaner refrigerants. Together, these form UNEP's Sustainable Cooling Pathway, which the Global Cooling Watch shows can sharply reduce emissions while extending thermal safety to billions more people. The task now is to bring these solutions together and take them to scale.

That is the purpose of the Heat Resilience Roadmap: to give countries a practical framework that connects climate, health, labour, urban and development action, and turns a fragmented response into coordinated delivery of solutions on the ground. Countries and cities must set the direction — through national cooling plans, urban heat strategies, enabling policies and pathways for market transformation.

But delivery is a whole-of-society effort. It requires industry, finance, manufacturers, cities, workers and communities to bring their capabilities to the table.



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That is why we established the Enabling Pledge Implementation for Cooling (EPIC) facility, to connect country priorities with the expertise and partnerships needed to deliver them.

And it is why today we are introducing the Cool Coalition Manufacturing Platform — a voluntary initiative bringing governments and manufacturers together to expand access to efficient cooling equipment and accelerate the transition to low- and ultra-low-GWP refrigerants.

This momentum has a history. It began with the launch of the UNEP-led Cool Coalition in 2019, bringing countries and partners together around sustainable cooling as a development and climate priority.

At COP28, that momentum became the Global Cooling Pledge. My thanks to the UAE and all signatories for bringing cooling firmly into the climate agenda.

At COP30 in Belém, the agenda expanded further — with Beat the Heat, now supported by more than 300 cities and regions; the Belém Communiqué on Extreme Heat; and the establishment of the Intergovernmental Committee on Cooling.

Now we look to COP31 and the second Global Stocktake, with a clear ambition: to demonstrate that heat resilience and sustainable cooling are central to climate progress — backed by evidence, delivery and coalitions ready to act.

We have the science, political commitment and a growing community of delivery. The task now is scale. And that work begins here.

The IGCC will turn country priorities into a shared workplan that countries own and partner's support.

The Heat Resilience Roadmap and Manufacturing Platform are two concrete steps toward that goal.

So my invitation is simple: bring your priorities, tell us where you are ready to lead or collaborate, and help shape an IGCC workplan for 2027–2028 with clear leadership, concrete actions and measurable delivery.

Let me close with a line attributed to Goethe: “Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do.”

We know what science demands. We know the solutions. And the willingness in this room is clear.



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UN
environment
programme

Cool
Coalition
a UNEP-sponsored initiative

Now our focus must be on doing — together, and at scale.

Thank you .