

## Kigali at 10: From Refrigerant Transition to Sustainable Cooling Delivery

**Date:** 14 July 2026

**Time:** 13:00 – 15:00 (UTC+7)

**Venue:** MR-A, United Nations Conference Centre (Rajadamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok, Thailand)

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### Background

Ten years after the adoption of the Kigali Amendment, the focus is shifting from ratification and planning to delivery.

The session asks what has actually changed in the cooling sector since Kigali, what remains difficult for low-volume-consuming countries, and what support is needed before the first Article 5 Group 1 reduction step in 2029.

It brings together sustainable development programme experience, implementation perspectives from emerging economies, and technical expertise from to examine how Kigali delivery can move beyond compliance planning into servicing, imports, standards, productive sectors and not-in-kind cooling options.

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### Event Objectives

- Identify what has changed in the cooling sector since Kigali was adopted.
  - Examine what low-volume-consuming countries need to deliver HFC reductions through servicing, imports, standards and end-user sectors.
  - Discuss how fisheries, tourism, cold chains and island energy systems shape Kigali implementation.
  - Explore where not-in-kind technologies can reduce future refrigerant demand.
  - Clarify what support is needed before the 2029 reduction step.
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## Agenda

| Time     | Item                                                                                    | Speaker                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
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| (5 min)  | <b>Welcome</b>                                                                          | <b>Mr Amr Seleem</b> , Country Engagement and Climate Policy Lead, UNEP Cool Coalition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| (10 min) | <b>Keynote:<br/>The demand side of the refrigerant transition</b>                       | <b>Dr Felix Heydel</b> , Project Manager, Öko-Recherche                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| (30 min) | <b>Panel discussion:<br/>Delivering sustainable cooling from refrigerant transition</b> | <p><u>Moderator:</u> <b>Ms Kerstin Kress</b>, Communications Specialist, GIZ Proklima</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms Denise San Valentin</b>, Programme Management Officer, Climate and Clean Air Coalition</li> <li>• <b>Mr Leslie Smith</b>, Director, Ministry of Climate Resilience, the Environment and Renewable Energy, Grenada</li> <li>• <b>Ms Miruza Mohamed</b>, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy, Maldives</li> <li>• <b>Dr Alaa Olama</b>, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Specialist, Egypt</li> </ul> |
| (15 min) | <b>Q&amp;A session</b>                                                                  | <u>Moderator:</u> <b>Mr Amr Seleem</b> , Country Engagement and Climate Policy Lead, UNEP Cool Coalition                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| (5 min)  | <b>Closing</b>                                                                          | <b>Mr Guntram Glasbrenner</b> , Programme Manager, GIZ Proklima                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

## Speaker details

| Photo                                                                               | Name and title                                                                                                           | Bio                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
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|    | <b>Mr Guntram Glasbrenner</b><br><br>Programme Manager,<br>GIZ Proklima                                                  | Guntram has more than 30 years of professional experience in a wide range of environmental policy issues with a focus on environmental management and climate adaptation. Since October 2025, he has been leading Proklima, a cluster of projects funded by MLF and other donors and implemented by GIZ. GIZ Proklima supports about 30 countries worldwide in their transition to Green Cooling. Among other things, Proklima provides policy advice, trainings, and technology transfer. Together with manufacturers and distributors new technologies are developed and their market launch is supported.                                                                                              |
|   | <b>Dr Felix Heydel</b><br><br>Project Manager, Öko-Recherche                                                             | Felix Heydel is a Project Manager at Öko-Recherche and an expert on fluorinated greenhouse gases, ozone-depleting substances and sustainable cooling policy. He advises the European Commission and national governments on F-gas regulation, Kigali Amendment implementation and the transition to climate-friendly refrigerants. Through the Cool Up programme, he has supported National Cooling Action Plans, policy development and market assessments across the MENA region, including Jordan, Egypt and Türkiye. His work combines regulatory analysis, emissions modelling, industry engagement and the development of practical pathways for energy-efficient cooling and natural refrigerants. |
|  | <b>Ms Kerstin Kress</b><br><br>Communications Specialist, GIZ Proklima                                                   | Kerstin has more than ten years of professional experience at GIZ and other international organizations. Since 2021, she has been working on Green Cooling and the Montreal Protocol. Kerstin considers herself a translator of technical details into everyday language and a bridge-builder between experts and the general public.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|  | <b>Ms Miruza Mohamed</b><br><br>Deputy Director General,<br>Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy, Maldives | Miruza Mohamed is Deputy Director General at the Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy of the Maldives, where she works on environmental management and conservation and leads the country's Montreal Protocol implementation. She has played a central role in Maldives' HCFC phase-out and is now supporting Kigali Implementation Plan work to advance sustainable and energy-efficient cooling options.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

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|    | <p><b>Dr Alaa Olama</b></p> <p>Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Specialist, Egypt</p>                   | <p>Dr Alaa Olama is a refrigeration and district cooling expert with decades of experience in engineering, codes, standards and industry development. He received his M.Sc. in 1973 and Ph.D. in 1980 from the Faculty of Engineering at King's College, University of London, specialising in absorption refrigeration. He served as a member of the United Nations Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heat Pumps Technical Options Committee from 2013 to 2015, and is a past President of ASHRAE Cairo Chapter, where he also served on the Board of Governors for five years and received the ASHRAE Presidential Citation for outstanding achievement. Dr Olama has played a leading role in the development of air conditioning and refrigeration standards in Egypt and the Arab region, heading the committees that wrote Egypt's air conditioning and refrigeration codes, the Egyptian District Cooling Code and the Egyptian Refrigerants Code, and serving on the committee that developed the Unified Arab Code of Air Conditioning and Refrigeration. He also helped establish Egypt's district cooling market, creating GasCool in 2005 and later Gas Chill, serving as CEO and partner in both companies during their development. He is the author of District Cooling: Theory and Practice, published by Taylor &amp; Francis in 2017.</p> |
|  | <p><b>Ms Denise San Valentin</b></p> <p>Programme Management Officer, Climate and Clean Air Coalition</p> | <p>Denise San Valentin has over 20 years of experience working on international environmental programs at national, regional, and global levels. Since 2014, she has been with the CCAC Secretariat at UNEP's Paris office, where she oversees over 100 projects aimed at reducing short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs), including HFCs, from key emitting sectors. Denise is the focal point for the Coalition's work in the cooling sector, managing the Cooling Hub and related funded projects. Previously, she served as a Project Officer in the Philippines' National Ozone Unit (2003-2011) and also worked with UNEP's Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) in Asia-Pacific from 2011 to 2013.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|  | <p><b>Mr Amr Seleem</b></p> <p>Country Engagement and Climate Policy Lead, UNEP Cool Coalition</p>        | <p>Amr Seleem is the Lead for Country Engagement and Climate Policy Support at UNEP Cool Coalition. With over 14 years of experience, he has worked with several international organizations including various roles at the UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre for MENA and South Asia, the UN High-level Climate Champions Team, IRENA, Aldi Süd, the German Embassy in Cairo, and the American University in Cairo. He has developed expertise in a wide range of areas, including climate and energy policies, climate mitigation and adaptation, climate technologies, decarbonization, and digitalization.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

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|                                                                                   |                                                                                                                              | <p>He holds an M.Sc. in Sustainable Resource and Environmental Policy from the Technical University of Munich (TUM); an M.Sc. in Energy Engineering from the American University in Cairo (AUC); and a B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering from Ain Shams University in Egypt.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|  | <p><b>Mr Leslie Smith</b></p> <p>Director, Ministry of Climate Resilience, the Environment and Renewable Energy, Grenada</p> | <p>Leslie Smith is Grenada's Director of Renewable Energy and National Ozone Officer, bringing over 23 years of experience in sustainable energy, energy efficiency, and environmental protection. A seasoned technical expert and policy leader, he has been a pioneer in promoting natural refrigerant technologies and sustainable cooling across the Caribbean, and a strong advocate for low-volume consuming countries and Small Island Developing States. Mr. Smith has played a central role in advancing Grenada's renewable energy and electric mobility transition, overseeing the development and implementation of clean energy projects, and supporting national efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As National Ozone Officer, he leads Montreal Protocol compliance, spearheading initiatives for climate-friendly alternatives and sustainable cooling.</p> |