



DecarboMed

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Hôtel LAICO, Tunis, Tunisie

Side-event« National Cooling Action Plans- Delivering Climate Friendly Cooling Access in MENA Region »

On September 24th, 2024-Tunisia

Introduction

In the MENA region, despite the scorching temperatures and the critical need for cooling technologies, there exist significant access gaps to efficient and sustainable cooling solutions. The region faces unique challenges due to its arid climate and high demand for cooling in various sectors, exacerbating energy consumption and environmental impacts.

The growth in cooling energy demand in the MENA region has been substantial, driven by rapid urbanization, population growth, and economic development. This growth has been notable, with an annual increase of around 6% in recent years. Projections suggest that by 2030, the region's demand for cooling energy is expected to reach approximately 300 terawatt-hours (TWh), representing a significant surge from the current consumption levels. This escalating demand underscores the urgency to implement energy-efficient and environmentally friendly cooling solutions to mitigate the associated energy consumption, grid strain, and carbon emissions.

Efforts to bridge cooling access gaps and manage the escalating cooling energy demand in the MENA region are crucial for achieving climate goals and ensuring sustainable development. By addressing these challenges through the development and implementation of comprehensive National Cooling Action Plans tailored to the regional context, the MENA region can work towards a more sustainable and climate-resilient future while meeting the cooling needs of its populations and industries effectively.

During the session, we discussed the importance of NCAPs in leveraging inter-linkages with national and international agendas and set direction and actionable targets for addressing access to cooling while reducing its environmentally harmful impacts and maximizing the socio-economic benefits.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in partnership with the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) are implementing the project 'Development of National Cooling Action Plans to accelerate the shift to climate-friendly cooling and HFCs phase-down in the MENA region' funded by the Climate & Clean Air Coalition as a project under the framework of the Cool Coalition. In this context, this project aims to accelerate the shift to climate-friendly cooling and HFCs phase-down in the region by scaling up national policies and actions on highly efficient, low-GWP refrigerant cooling through the development of National Cooling Action Plans.

This project will support achieving the following objectives:

- Catalyze Policy Transformation in the MENA countries: The project aims to foster a policy shift to climate-friendly cooling through the development of National Cooling Action Plans (NCAPs).
- Capacity Building and Methodology Development: To achieve this objective the project will build the capacity of national authorities and facilitate the development of NCAPs by developing a comprehensive NCAP methodology tailored to the regional context. Furthermore, the project will assist two countries in the development of an NCAP and will deliver training at national and regional levels to share best practices and provide guidance on NCAP implementation, its incorporation into national policies and strategies, and linkages to Nationally Determined Contributions and Kigali Implementation Plans.
- Comprehensive Analysis of Cooling Sectors and Policy Recommendations in MENA: National NCAPs shall provide a detailed analysis of the current state and future outlook of key cooling sectors, such as space cooling, food cold-chain, healthcare cold-chain, mobile air conditioning and industrial process cooling, and provide a set of recommended technological options and enabling policy measures for Governments to consider. With a comprehensive NCAP in place, governments in the region would be better positioned to make evidence-based policy decisions to advance and implement its climate action strategy, 2050 net-zero carbon emissions target, enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution, and develop its Kigali Implementation Plans.

Objective

This session delves into the ongoing targets aimed at catalyzing a transformative policy shift towards climate-friendly cooling by fostering the establishment of National Cooling Action Plans (NCAPs). It will delve into the imperative to enhance the capabilities of national authorities and streamline the formulation of NCAPs by introducing an all-encompassing methodology devised by the Cool Coalition, tailored to regional nuances while allowing for the integration of national policies and strategies, and establishing connections with Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Kigali Implementation Plans. Moreover, this session will underscore strategies for effectively tackling pivotal cooling sectors, including but not limited to space cooling, the food cold-chain, healthcare cold-chain, mobile air conditioning, and industrial process cooling. It aims to provide actionable insights on how to navigate the complexities of these sectors within the framework of NCAPs, fostering a holistic approach towards sustainable cooling practices and climate resilience.

Date and place

Date: September 24th, 2024, (from 15 :45 to 17:00)

Lieu: Hôtel Laico - Tunis

Format

Opening Remarks (10 mins)

Presentations on the NCAP progress and experiences (30 mins)

A panel discussion including high-level representatives (30 mins)

Organizers

RCREEE/ UNEP (NCAP project)

Moderator / Speakers

Moderator: Ahmed Abd EL Rasoul (RCREEE)

Speakers:

- Dr. Mahmoud Fathalah – Head of Environmental Department – League of Arab State
- Dr. Mostafa Hasaneen, Sustainable Energy Expert, RCREEE
- Ms. Sophie Bonnard, Methane Flagship Coordinator, CCAC Secretariat, UNEP
- Dr. Omar Abdelaziz, Regional Expert, UNEP
- Eng. Omar Al Rosan, Ministry of Energy. Jordan
- Ms. Ghada Daouk , LCEC, Lebanon
- Eng. Abdelkader Baccouche, ANME, Tunisia
- Catalina Etcheverry, Programme Management Officer, CCAC Secretariat, UNEP
- Mr Amr Seleem, Global Lead, Country Engagement and Policy Support, Cool Coalition Climate Change Division, UN Environment Programme

Agenda

Session Moderator: Dr. Ahmed Abdelrasoul – Environmental Expert - RCREEE

Opening Remarks (10 mins):

- Dr. Mostafa Hasaneen, Sustainable Energy Expert, RCREEE
- Ms. Sophie Bonnard, Methane Flagship Coordinator, CCAC Secretariat, UNEP

Presentations on the NCAP progress and experiences (30 mins):

- Dr. Omar Abdelaziz, Cool Coalition NCAP methodology, Regional Expert, UNEP
- Eng. Omar Al Rosan, Ministry of Energy, Jordan
- Ms. Ghada Daouk , LCEC, Lebanon

A panel discussion including high-level representatives (30 mins)

- Dr. Mahmoud Fathallah, Head of Environmental Department – League of Arab State
- Ms. Catalina Etcheverry, Programme Management Officer, CCAC Secretariat, UNEP
- Mr Amr Seleem, Global Lead, Country Engagement and Policy Support, Cool Coalition Climate Change Division, UN Environment Programme
- Eng. Abdelkader Baccouche, Tunisia

Closing Remarks and Group Photo (5 mins)