Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

COP31 places a welcome emphasis on moving from climate commitments to concrete action, particularly through accelerating electrification, mainly with renewable energies, building climate resilience and strengthening food and energy security.

These priorities are closely connected to a sector that is essential to our daily lives: refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pumps.

The International Institute of Refrigeration particularly welcomes COP31 initiative to increase the clean electricity's share of global final energy consumption to 35% by 2035. Heat pumps can play a pivotal role in achieving this ambition. By replacing fossil fuel-based heating and recovering waste heat, they offer significant opportunities to improve energy efficiency, reduce reliance on fossil fuels and strengthen energy security. Their potential extends well beyond buildings and cold climates, with important applications in industry and warmer regions.

Refrigeration and air conditioning are equally essential to building climate resilience. As temperatures rise, access to sustainable cooling becomes increasingly important to protect human health and ensure safe living for all. Reliable cold chains are also fundamental to food security, reducing food loss and waste and safeguarding medicines and vaccines.

At the same time, refrigeration and air conditioning account for around 20% of global electricity consumption and 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions. This presents an important opportunity to act: expanding access to essential cooling while improving efficiency, adopting environmentally friendly refrigerants and minimising the overall sector's environmental impact.

We therefore encourage international climate discussions as well as governments to give refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pumps greater recognition in national climate, energy and adaptation strategies, with concrete measures and investments that support both decarbonisation and resilience.

As an intergovernmental scientific organisation, the mission of the International Institute of Refrigeration is to help member countries turn scientific knowledge into practical solutions. Through our international network of experts, independent scientific assessments, technical guidance and cooperation with governments and industry, we support evidence-based decisions adapted to national needs and circumstances.

It is time to give this essential sector the place it deserves in national and international climate policies. The IIR therefore invites governments and international partners to strengthen their cooperation with us and draw on our scientific expertise to support the implementation of their climate commitments.

Thank you.