

Regional Technical Expert Meeting on Mitigation
“Climate smart cooling solutions for sustainable buildings in Africa”

19 August 2020

CLOSING REMARKS

By Monique Motty

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Distinguished participants,

Firstly, I wish to commend you all for having made time out of your busy schedules to attend this enlightening meeting.

Let me first express the great pleasure I had to participate in the event and share with you my 3 major takeaways from the presentations and debate:

First, climate smart cooling technology innovations, in addition to GHG reductions can deliver multiple benefits

Undeniably there is an opportunity to reduce the emissions from green buildings as it not only maximizes the usage of locally produced green building materials, reduces electricity loads on fragile grids but using the right technology can reduce cooling by taking advantage of innovative materials that prevent solar heat gains

Second, having access to the right financial tools can accelerate the implementation of sustainable cooling solutions

Indeed, there is an opportunity to strengthen the market with appropriate banking and microfinance tools as green building designs reduce the risks on compliance, construction and operational costs but also provide a better risk-return to investors by becoming assets that are efficient, low-carbon and sustainable.

Third, the right policy drives the required change on the ground

Certainly, efficient governance tools such as Green Building Compliance System and Code can drive the transition faster. Nonetheless, there also needs to have a long-term and continuous capacity building program accompanying every stakeholder in the chain.

In sum, factors for successful technology leapfrogging in cooling solutions include cost-efficient technical, and financial support as well as establishing the right regional, national, and municipal policy framework.

Distinguished participants,

The Technology Executive Committee (TEC), through its mandate of identifying policies that can accelerate the development and transfer of low-emission and climate

resilient technologies, is committed to provide policy guidance on such cross-cutting novelties as the ones exposed today and further investigate on the role of RD&D for climate smart cooling technology innovations.

The TEC will continue outreach efforts within the UNFCCC process to strengthen linkages, collaboration, and synergies with the CTCN and other mechanisms such as the one on Finance in order to have these sustainable building technologies implemented where needed.

As for the African constituency which I represent, addressing climate smart cooling solutions provides an opportunity to address some of the consequences from climate change already observed.

As an example, higher temperatures and lack of access to cooling impacts labour productivity, food conservation methods and the wellbeing of populations. However, the right, efficient, affordable, and sustainable cooling solutions can not only reduce food loss, improve health, manage energy demand, but most certainly combat climate change.

That being said, the African Group will continue to emphasize on the importance to encourage adaptive solutions to the African context while promoting local innovations and private sector involvement as well as obtaining the right financing to be able to transition towards these low-emission solutions.

Distinguished participants,

As His excellency Mr. António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations mentioned during the last Conference Of Parties (COP25), we collectively need a rapid and deep change in the way we do business, how we generate power, how we move, how we feed the world and how we build cities.

Such events as *the climate smart cooling solutions for sustainable buildings in Africa* drives the discussion in the right direction and showcases the many opportunities there are to act on climate change.

Let us all remember that the transition to climate-neutral development is a challenge we can overcome only by acting together

In finishing, I would like to thank the TEC, CTCN and Regional Collaboration Centres for hosting this Regional Technical Expert Meeting On Mitigation event, the moderator and presenters for an excellent overview of the subject at hand, and participants for the lively debate session as well as everyone involved at the secretariat who worked so hard to make this event a success.

Asante Sanaa,

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