Regional Technical Expert Meeting on Mitigation

"Climate smart cooling solutions for sustainable buildings in Africa"

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OPENING REMARKS

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Distinguished experts, ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to welcome you all to this virtual summit that will provide an opportunity to showcase viable business models and climate friendly technology solutions for an efficient and effective cooling systems in buildings in the African region. I also appreciate the efforts of all the members of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Technology Executive Committee, the Climate Technology Centre and Network and relevant regional collaboration centres for making this laudable summit viable.

2. Africa has been identified as been vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change with an average air temperature increase. Also, Urban centres have been experiencing increased urban heat which will result in increased demand for energy for comfort like air conditioning and ventilation to ameliorate the reduced thermal comfort in the built environment. It may also affect the life span and performance of certain building components.

3. In this era of COVID 19, It is so correctly quoted in prevailing situation that ***COVID19 is awful, but climate change could be worse***[1]. Climate change could cause as bad ***damages and losses as COVID-19, but spread over a much longer period, in an irreversible manner***. Hence, it has become even more imperative to recover from the global pandemic without comprising our efforts to combat climate change and its major causes.

4. Cooling sector is one of the biggest energy consumers and contributes to climate change through significant GHG emissions, as most of the energy are continued to generate from fossil fuel.

5. Increasing demand for buildings as a result of population upsurge and the quest for economic development in in the African Region has further push up energy consumption and release of more greenhouse gases from the building sector and if nothing is done, associated greenhouse gas emissions from this sector will be more than double in the near future.

6. This is also evident from studies[2] that Africa tops global air condition market as forecasted. The African air conditioning market is projected to grow at an above global average

5.5% CAGR between 2017-2023, by volume. The main drivers for the growth for many African countries including Nigeria are an increasing population, better performing economies, more stable governments, new construction, urbanisation and rising disposable income.

7. AC market in Africa is begun to boom with millions of unit likely to be sold in next two decades, the electricity demand for it, is set to increase multiple fold. If such increase in demand are not dealt in smart and innovative ways, may put the planet in strain, due to enormous GHG emission.

8. Global efforts to fight climate change by targeting climate smart cooling solutions are very timely and strategic. GHG reduction in cooling sector are prioritized in many country's NDCs. UNFCCC's Technology Mechanism comprising CTCN and TEC are supporting developing countries on various policy and technology related issues on space cooling like building energy codes incorporating sustainable cooling, energy efficient cooling technology demonstration through energy audits and many more.

9. Furthermore, global financing mechanisms like GCF and multilateral banks; and global initiatives like Kigali Cooling Efficiency Program and Cool Coalition are very actively supporting smart and energy efficient cooling in buildings which is very encouraging for private sector to come forward and get engaged.

10. I truly appreciate the topic chosen for this year TEM (**Climate smart cooling solutions for sustainable buildings in Africa)** is very timely to deliberate on new and emerging sustainable solutions for cooling

11. I am hopeful that a 360-degree discussion designed in this year TEM on technology and innovation, finance, policy and role of various stakeholders will come up with several solutions that will enhance the engagement of private sector in clean and sustainable building with smart cooling solutions and contribute to transformational changes.

12. I am myself having special interest in natural and passive cooling solutions, including the design of buildings using local knowledge, construction techniques and materials. I once again welcome you all and wish you to be best benefited from the discussions and presentations today.

13. It is undeniable fact that buildings can play essential role in mitigating climate change. Its enormous impact on the environment and climate can be better understood from the perspective of the design, material use, energy and water consumption. Undoubtedly, Climate smart cooling solutions can reduce energy consumption and promote renewable sources of energy for sustainable buildings in Africa region. Also, it can help alleviate poverty, reduce food loss, improve health, manage energy demand, and combat climate change It is therefore, logical that buildings should be the vehicle for ecological reform towards GHG emission reduction

14. As we move towards the review of our Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement, Climate smart cooling solutions can offer a huge opportunity in meeting our NDC goals and in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

15. It is also very important that in the Post COVID 19 recovery plans, Africa countries should put in place policies and regulations that will promote climate cooling solutions that will reduce the need for cooling in residential, commercial and industrial buildings, and invest in opportunities that brings sustainable cooling solutions to market.

16. Finally, Ladies and Gentlemen, collective action remains the only viable option to addressing the challenges of global warming and the ever-growing impact of climate change. We have no other choice but to protect our environment for the benefit of the present and future generations. Collectively, we have to work towards achieving this all-important objective. I thank you.