

Virtual Regional Technical Expert Meetings on Mitigation 2020

Climate smart cooling solutions for sustainable buildings

Opening remarks by TEC member – Mr. Jorge Castro (5')

- On behalf of the Technology Executive Committee I would like to welcome you all to this regional TEM-M for Latin America and the Caribbean on climate smart cooling solutions for sustainable buildings.
- I would like to give you some additional background on this event by elaborating on why it is important to look for climate smart cooling solutions for sustainable buildings and what governments could do to stimulate the uptake of climate smart cooling solutions for sustainable buildings.
- But before doing that, I would like to briefly introduce you to the Technology Executive Committee, which is the policy arm of the Technology Mechanism. The TEC focuses on identifying policies that can accelerate the development and transfer of low-emission and climate resilient technologies. The TEC also serves the Paris Agreement, and as such will play a key role in supporting countries to identify climate technology policies that support them to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement.
- Coming back to the question on why it is important to look for climate smart cooling solutions for sustainable buildings?
- It is estimated that energy needs for space cooling could triple by 2050, especially in hot and tropical countries. It is further estimated that residential buildings are responsible for over two thirds of this increase. In addition, global sales of air conditioning (AC) systems per year has nearly quadrupled since 1990. 2.8 billion people live in places with average temperatures above 25 degrees Celsius all year, yet, only 8% of them have an AC. This trend is set to continue and intensify, driven by rising incomes, the expected doubling of building floor area by 2060, and a warming planet with higher temperatures and more frequent heatwaves. **Hence, there is a need for "cool buildings" if we want to meet the needs for cooling and fight global warming.**
- What governments could do to stimulate the uptake of climate smart cooling solutions for sustainable buildings?
- On the demand side, policies and regulations could be put in place to reduce the need for cooling in residential, commercial and industrial buildings. Policy tools can also improve urban planning, for instance expand green spaces in cities. Incentives can be used to change people's behavior towards less use of cooling and greater interest in using energy efficient appliances. In addition, Governments can incorporate sustainable cooling in their climate pledges or Nationally Determined Contributions. On the supply side, Governments can encourage manufacturers to improve the energy efficiency of their cooling products. Governments can put in place minimum energy performance standards and labeling schemes for air conditioners. **As such, Governments can play a critical role in stimulating the uptake of climate smart cooling solutions for sustainable buildings.**
- During this event, we will hear more details about these climate smart cooling solutions for sustainable buildings and the role of various stakeholders from our distinguished speakers.