

Biarritz Pledge for Fast Action on Efficient Cooling

(22 August 2019)

Aware that the accelerating speed of climate change presents a risk that requires strong political leadership to deliver fast action on a scale capable of protecting the planet, its people, its biodiversity and ecosystem services;

Recognizing that the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol could prevent up to 0.4°C of warming by the end of the century, and that coordinated efforts to improve the energy efficiency of air conditioners and other cooling equipment will have additional environmental benefits, including the reduction of emissions, public health and food security;

Aware of the cost of using inefficient cooling equipment, which results in wastage of the energy needed for development, increases air pollution, raises consumers' operating costs, and requires additional capital for ensuring energy security;

Recognizing the importance of good servicing practices in maintaining the rated energy efficiency of cooling equipment and in reducing refrigerant leakage from the equipment, that also contribute to the reduction of both direct and indirect emissions of the cooling equipment throughout their life cycle;

We, Heads of State and Government, hereby agree to undertake immediate actions to improve efficiency in the cooling sector while phasing down HFC refrigerants as per the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, including:

1. To undertake ambitious measures to improve energy efficiency in the cooling sector while phasing out HCFC and phasing down HFC refrigerants, such as developing national cooling plans based on domestic circumstances, using energy performance standards (MEPS) and labelling, and promoting use of good servicing practices; and to undertake efforts that the related GHG emissions reductions are reflected in the Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement as per country priorities;
2. To use the state's bulk purchasing power and relevant measures to support the phase down of HFCs and improvements in the energy efficiency of the cooling sector beginning in 2020, while encouraging the private sector to do the same;
3. To facilitate market access for highly efficient and affordable cooling technologies using low- or zero-global-warming-potential (GWP) refrigerants;
4. To call on support from relevant financial institutions and funds to mobilize additional financing for improvements in energy efficiency in the cooling sector for activities beyond those covered under the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment;
5. To support the Efficient Cooling Initiative of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition and related initiatives;
6. To recruit other Heads of State and Government and private sector leaders to join in these efforts in order to gain political momentum and encourage the mobilization of additional financial resources from public and private actors.

This pledge will contribute to cooling commitments made at the UN Climate Action Summit, and progress toward its realization reported at other meetings of Heads of State and Government.