



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
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SUSTAINABLE COOLING FORUM

Rising to the Global Challenge

8-10 April 2026 | Vienna, Austria

SIDE EVENTS SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHIES

SIDE EVENT:

Promotion of Natural Refrigerants in the Cooling Industry



Alois Mhlanga

Alois P. Mhlanga is the Director of UNIDO's Division of Climate Innovation and Montreal Protocol, where he leads global efforts to advance systems innovation for the transition to low-emissions and climate resilient economies.

Based in Vienna, he supports countries in meeting their commitments under the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment, as well as harness economic opportunities in climate technology innovation. His career spans international development, climate technology, ozone action, investment and management, with leadership in developing large-scale programmes covering cleantech innovation, climate adaptation, climate financing, and sustainable cities.

Aligned with UNIDO's mission to foster inclusive and sustainable industrial development, he is also an advocate for environmental sustainability and social equity, actively engaging in global discussions at the intersection of climate action, sustainable development, energy transition, and climate adaptation and resilience.



Ciyong Zou

Ciyong Zou is the Deputy to the Director General and the Managing Director of the Directorate of Technical Cooperation and Sustainable Industrial Development of UNIDO.

The Directorate oversees the Organization's normative contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals, in addition to supporting and advancing the application of strategies and interventions for sustainable industrial development in the environment, energy, and SME areas. Advancing competitiveness and job creation are also key impact dimensions for the Directorate, in addition to the advancement of digitalization and artificial intelligence. Mr. Zou is also DG's Special Representative for the G77 and China.

Before joining UNIDO, Mr. Zou performed multiple roles, including at the Chinese Ministry of Finance and the World Bank.

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Paul Krajnik

Paul Krajnik studied chemistry at the University of Vienna and Yale University. He served as assistant professor, completed diplomatic training in Vienna, and joined the Austrian Ministry of Environment as Senior Advisor. His work covered chemicals policy, the Montreal Protocol, and the Minamata Convention.

After several years as a project manager at UNIDO, he returned to the Ministry to head the Biocides Division. From 2017 to 2025, he represented Austria on the Management Board of the European Chemicals Agency and chaired the Board from 2020 to 2024.

Within the Montreal Protocol, he chaired the Open-Ended Working Group negotiating the Kigali Amendment, led the Executive Committee twice, and is now President of the Meeting of the Parties.



Wang Feng

Wang Feng is the Director of the Fixed Source Division in the Department of Atmospheric Environment at the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, China.

With extensive experience in air pollution prevention and control, she is responsible for formulating policies on air pollution control for key industries, environmental management of fossil energy, and developing strategies for air pollution control in priority regions.

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Alessandro Giuliano Peru

Alessandro Giuliano Peru is a Senior Policy Advisor at the Directorate-General for European, International, and Sustainable Finance Affairs within the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security. He brings over 20 years of international experience in public institutional affairs across the EU and UN, with a specialized focus on chemical conventions, financial funds and climate change.

Alessandro serves as Italy's Lead Negotiator for the Montreal Protocol and is an Executive Committee member of the Multilateral Fund. In 2025, he Chaired the Executive Committee, overseeing the approval of policy decisions and projects totaling US\$136 million. For over two decades, he has implemented environmental programs and co-implemented, circular economy, climate and ozone protection projects alongside UN agencies, and promoted public-private partnerships with SMEs.



Yunrui Zhou

As an environmental professional, Dr. Yunrui Zhou is an Industrial Development Officer, Division of Climate Innovation and Montreal Protocol, UNIDO with 19 years' working experience in implementing Multilateral Environmental Agreements. He provides leadership and strategic direction for the implementation of more than 70 projects in Asia, Africa and Europe. His expertise encompasses project development, funds mobilization, and programme implementation in the areas of the Montreal Protocol, Green industry, and Climate Change.

Prior to joining UNIDO, Mr. Zhou had worked for the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of China for 6 years. He has a Ph.D. degree majored in Environmental Science and Engineer at Tsinghua University.

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Chen Jianming

Chen Jianming, director of Comprehensive Affairs Department of China Household Electrical Appliances Association (CHEAA), a long-term reporter of Montreal Protocol implementation in China room air conditioner sector, award-winner of best media coverage for 30th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol, has participated in the implementation projects of the Montreal Protocol for ten years.

He is a member of working group of CHEAA for the implementation of the HPMP in room air conditioner sector in China, and he will give a speech on Standards and Industrial Transformation for the Adoption of Natural Refrigerants in Chinese RAC Sector.



Andreas Klaudus

Andreas Klaudus is a qualified refrigeration and air-conditioning technician and holds a degree in Industrial Engineering. He has successfully completed the master craftsman examination in refrigeration and air-conditioning technology and has more than 12 years of experience in education, training, and professional development in the fields of refrigeration, air conditioning, and heat pump technology. He is a co-founder of the Austrian Refrigeration Academy and the Austrian Association of Refrigeration, where he is actively involved in developing and delivering practice-oriented training programs, certification schemes, and best-practice approaches with a strong focus on safety, natural refrigerants, and workforce qualification.



Xiaoyan Li

Li Xiaoyan has over 20 years of experience supporting the implementation of the Montreal Protocol in China. She has extensive involvement in policy development, project coordination, and multi-stakeholder engagement.

Her work focuses on promoting natural refrigerants, low-GWP and energy-efficient technologies, driving sustainable cooling and the green transition of the refrigeration and air-conditioning sector.

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Alfonso William Mauro

Alfonso William Mauro, Ph.D., is Full Professor of Refrigeration and Thermal Sciences at the University of Naples Federico II. For twenty years, his research has focused on natural refrigerants as alternatives to fluorinated gases, authoring over 200 papers. He has designed and tested innovative CO₂ and propane prototypes for residential heat pumps, commercial refrigeration, and food processing, prioritizing energy efficiency and charge reduction.

Currently, he models heat pump performance under realistic conditions (frosting/faults) as Principal Investigator for the EIC-funded project BEYOND. He serves as Chairman of the “Clean and Efficient Cooling” techno-scientific working group (EISMEA) and is Vice-President of Commission B2 at the International Institute of Refrigeration (IIR).



Herald Erös

Herald Erös is an Austrian expert in refrigeration and heat pump technology with extensive industry, academic, and teaching experience. He holds master craftsman qualifications in heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration engineering and has completed studies in energy and environmental management as well as building technology.

He has been active in the refrigeration sector since 2002 and is CEO of the Austrian Academy of Refrigeration, where he also teaches in craftsman master programs throughout Austria and at the University of Applied Sciences Burgenland.

In addition, he chairs the Austrian standards committee for refrigeration and heat pump technology, contributes to international standardization work, and is a founding member and Chairman of the Austrian Association of Refrigeration (ÖGKT).

Recently, he co-authored his second book with Stig Rath, Propane, Naturally Safe!, on the safe use of flammable refrigerants, published in both German and English.

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Baolong Wang

Dr. Baolong Wang is a tenured associate professor serving the Department of Building Science at Tsinghua University. He intends to develop adaptive and efficient vapor compression RACHPs for high-performance buildings. Low GWP refrigerant substitution and national policy on refrigerant emission control are also recent research focuses. Dr. Wang has published more than 160 peer-reviewed journal papers and has been issued more than 45 patents in this field.

Currently, Dr. Wang serves UNIDO as national expert in R290 & Heat Pump the. He also serves the International Institute of Refrigeration as the vice Chair of the AC Commission. He also serves the International Organization for Standardization as the convener of standard ISO 18501.



Hao Gao

Hao Gao is Manager for R290 RAC at Midea Group, specializing in the technical development and commercialization of hydrocarbon refrigerant solutions. With a focus on low-carbon and sustainable refrigeration, he has led product innovation, safety engineering, performance optimization and mass production initiatives to build a competitive R290 product portfolio.

Under his leadership, Midea's R290 air conditioners have been successfully rolled out globally. As of 2025, global sales have surpassed 10 million units, supporting the industry's phase-down of high-GWP refrigerants and advancing global decarbonization goals.

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Tao Ren

Tao Ren is the Director of Simulation at Haier Smart Home Co., Ltd., and has served as a member of the RTOC since 2023. He received his Ph.D. degree in Refrigeration and Cryogenics from Shanghai Jiao Tong University in 2014, with a research focus on heat exchangers and air conditioning simulation. He joined Haier in 2018, where his work has concentrated on heat transfer enhancement, the design of air conditioning systems utilizing environmentally friendly refrigerants (e.g., R290) and A2L refrigerants (e.g., R32, R454B), and the improvement of energy efficiency.

His research further encompasses refrigerant charge minimization for air conditioning and heat pump systems employing A2L and A3 refrigerants, as well as the development of innovative air conditioning and heat pump systems.



Ju Chengcheng

Ju Chengcheng is Executive Director of MOON-TECH Central Research Institute. She specializes in research and development (R&D) of screw compressors designed for extreme conditions and special media, along with novel compact high-efficiency heat exchangers.

Her expertise extends to commercial and industrial refrigeration, eco-friendly heating, and energy-chemical process systems. MOON-TECH is committed to providing smart, green energy system solutions and services, with a portfolio spanning industrial refrigeration, HVAC solutions, and green energy equipment.

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Liazzat Rabbiosi

Liazzat Rabbiosi is Chief of the Montreal Protocol Unit within UNIDO's Division of Climate and Montreal Protocol. She oversees UNIDO's portfolio of projects funded by the Multilateral Fund and others on cooling and leads the development of the organization's sustainable cooling strategy.

She has extensive experience across various areas of the Montreal Protocol, first as a project manager for HPMPs and enabling activities in 11 South Asian countries in UNEP, and later as a Compliance Office and task manager for partnerships with the Ozone Secretariat. Prior to her work under the Montreal Protocol, she coordinated UNEP projects on life cycle approaches to advance sustainability in business, with a focus on SMEs under the Resource Efficiency and Sustainable Consumption and Production programme.

Liazzat holds MSc degrees in Environmental Management from the University of Strathclyde, Scotland, and in Environment and Development from the London School of Economics, UK.

SIDE EVENT:

Empowering Women and Youth in Sustainable Cooling: The UNIDO Charity KPABEP Scholarship Programme



Oluyomi Banjo

Oluyomi Banjo is a seasoned environment, climate and industrial expert with vast international experience. He is presently an Industrial Development Officer and Project Manager at the UNIDO Headquarters in Vienna where he leads UNIDO's portfolio in The Caribbean and Africa regions on Sustainable Cooling, Montreal Protocol and Climate Adaptation in the Cooling space.

He holds two bachelor's degrees in chemistry and an advanced degree in Chemical Engineering. He has received several awards and has sat on many national and international advisory boards. Yomi has championed several initiatives in many countries, and he is passionate about bringing out talents in young people.



Irma Lizde

Irma Lizde is an international development professional with over nine years of experience at UNIDO, specialising in the implementation of the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment, with a focus on sustainable cooling. She currently serves as an Associate Technical Expert in the Montreal Protocol Unit, managing a regional portfolio across Europe and Central Asia.

Her work spans the full project cycle, from development and resource mobilisation to implementation and monitoring, across projects funded by the Multilateral Fund (MLF), Global Environment Facility (GEF), Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the European Union (EU), supporting both Article 5 countries and economies in transition. She holds a Master of Advanced International Studies from the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna and a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) from the University of Edinburgh, including studies in environmental law.

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Balarabe Abbas Lawal

Balarabe Abbas Lawal is an astute management and political professional who was trained at prestigious institutions, including Cranfield University in the UK and Harvard University in the USA.

Lawal has held several key political appointments. In October 2023, he was appointed Minister of Environment. In addition to his ministerial responsibilities, Lawal serves as Vice Chairman of the Presidential Committee on Climate Action and Green Economic Solutions. He is also the Chairman of the National Plastic Action Plan (NPAP) Steering Committee, Chairman of the Governing Council of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), and Co-Chair of the Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) programme, among other key assignments.

As Minister of Environment, he is committed to promoting sustainable environmental practices and advancing policies that align with Nigeria's obligations under global environmental agreements. His leadership focuses on ensuring Nigeria achieves its development objectives while preserving its natural resources for future generations.



Carolina Gonzalez-Mueller

Carolina Gonzalez-Mueller is an Industrial Development Officer in UNIDO's Department of Environment, and the Gender Coordinator at UNIDO. She has a Bachelors in Environmental Technology from the University of Mobile, and a Masters in Environmental Engineering from the University of New Hampshire.

Carolina has been with UNIDO since 2009 and currently implements projects that promote resource efficiency, sound environmental management and sustainable development in industries. Her previous work experience includes working at the Ministry of Environment of El Salvador, the engineering consulting firm Malcolm Pirnie and the IAEA.

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Idris Abdullahi

Idris Abdullahi is a Director in the Federal Ministry of Environment & Nigeria's National Ozone Officer. He has been managing the implementation of the Montreal Protocol since 2015.

He has supported the development of policies and regulations for ODS phaseout and facilitated the preparation of MP project proposals for submission to the MLF, the recent being the Kigali Implementation Plan Stage I project. Furthermore, he has supervised several projects on conversion of relevant companies to Ozone-friendly technologies and managed ODS alternatives Training Programmes. He is committed to continuing his efforts towards the protection of the Ozone layer.



Kalenebari Kerein

Kalenebari Kerein is a recent university graduate and founder of Malrein Technologies, a startup dedicated to creating smart, sustainable solutions. As the proud inaugural recipient of the Charity Kpabep Scholarship Programme, she is currently channeling her passion for innovation into sustainable solutions. Kalenebari is actively expanding her foundational knowledge of sustainable technologies and global environmental frameworks.

She strongly believes that the best global climate solutions happen when we bring new voices to the table. As a young female founder, Kalenebari is deeply committed to showing how targeted education and capacity-building can empower the next generation to step into leadership roles during the global energy transition.

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Almut Bühling

Almut Bühling represents the interests of women entrepreneurs and business leaders worldwide: as Co-Chair of the International Commission of the VdU (Association of Women Entrepreneurs in Germany), and as Member of the Task Force FCEM (Femmes Chefs d'Entreprises Mondiales / World Association of Female Entrepreneurs and Business Leaders), Leader of the UNIDO Projects.

Almut is an expert in intellectual property law. She advises and represents companies of all sizes, from multinational corporations to medium-sized companies and startups in matters worldwide relating to trademarks, designs, copyrights and patents. She provides strategic IP guidance on brand management, including License and Technology Transfer Agreements. Her focus lies in protecting innovation and supporting sustainable businesses in scaling their intellectual property assets. She represents clients on a global scale. Almut advocates for gender equality in leadership positions by building partnerships and fostering bilateral and multilateral projects across all industries to promote diversity, drive inclusive innovation, and create sustainable economic growth and equal opportunities at all levels of business and society.



Liazzat Rabbiosi

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SIDE EVENT:

Regional Initiatives to Enabling Energy Efficient Cooling



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Martin Lugmayr

Martin Lugmayr serves as the Programme Manager of the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GNSEC) and oversees a portfolio of sustainable energy projects in SIDS and LDCs at UNIDO. Inspired by multilateralism and regional cooperation, he spearheaded the creation of the GNSEC network in partnership with regional economic communities in Africa, AsiaPacific and Latin America-Caribbean.

Before joining UNIDO in 2010, he worked on energy policy within development cooperation at the Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and coordinated the sustainable energy programme of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA). Earlier in his career, he served as an expert and lecturer on European integration and EU enlargement issues and worked as a media consultant. Mr Lugmayr holds master's degrees in Renewable Energy Technologies, Political Science and Combined Studies.

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Gentjan Sema

Gentjan Sema is a Project Coordinator in UNIDO's Montreal Protocol Unit, coordinating sustainable cooling programmes across 16 countries in Africa and the Caribbean. His work spans technology transition, energy efficiency, regional market transformation, and innovative financing under the Kigali Amendment framework. Prior to this, for more than a decade at UNIDO, he contributed to the operationalization of eight regional sustainable energy centres under the GN-SEC platform and led the development of regional minimum energy performance standards for cooling equipment.

Sema holds a joint B.Sc. in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Bologna and the University of California, Berkeley; an M.A. in Advanced International Studies from the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna; and an M.Sc. in Renewable Energy Systems from the Vienna University of Technology.



Oluyomi Banjo

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Ayman Eltalouny

Ayman Eltalouny has over three decades of professional experience in the areas of refrigeration industry, environmental policy, and international cooperation. He worked for over 10 years in the refrigeration manufacturing sector before joining UNEP in 2003 where he held several positions since then, mainly in relation to the implementation of the Montreal Protocol, including supporting developing countries in West Asia region to build and implement MP related programs, leading the UNEP OzonAction global partnership portfolio with key international cooling associations, and lastly joined the MLF Secretariat as a Senior Programme Officer. Through his years of service with UNEP, he also led the cooperation program between UNEP and the League of Arab States for around 10 years and led UNEP project office in Saudi Arabia during 2022-2024.

Mr. Eltalouny is an active member in several cooling committees and associations and has led several international cooling initiatives and projects over the last two decades.



Nadia Chioukh

Nadia Chioukh is a Lead Advisor for International Cooperation and Strategic Partnerships at the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, where she develops regional partnerships and strengthens the Center's role as a hub for collaboration on sustainable energy.

With extensive expertise in cooperation frameworks implementation, she has held senior positions in Algeria, including Director of Cooperation at the Commissariat for Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency, where she worked on strengthening institutional visibility and international outreach. She also led international cooperation efforts at the National Agency for Energy Efficiency contributing to the advancement of national and regional energy efficiency initiatives.

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Readlay Makaliki

Readlay Makaliki is the Lead Technical Expert for the Energy Efficiency for Sustainable Livelihoods in Africa (EELA) Programme, implemented by United Nations Industrial Development Organization. With over 25 years of experience in Zambia's electricity sector, he brings deep expertise in power systems, demand-side management, and energy efficiency.

He previously coordinated the implementation of the EELA 1.0 project across the SADC region and led the development of the SADC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Status Report. His work focuses on advancing energy-efficient appliances and regional market transformation across Africa.



Aysel Yagubova

Aysel Yagubova is the Executive Director of the ECO Clean Energy Center, appointed in September 2025 after serving as Interim Director. With over two decades of experience in diplomacy and international cooperation, she brings strong expertise in multilateral engagement and institutional leadership.

Prior to this role, she served at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, including as Director for Cooperation with International Human Rights Institutions. Her diplomatic career includes postings in the United States, Iran, and Austria, as well as the Permanent Mission to the OSCE in Vienna.



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