Side Event Programme

Strengthening the Commercial Refrigeration Installation and Assembly Sector – Zimbabwe Pilot Initiative

Date	**4 November 2026**
Time	**18:15–19:30**
Venue	**Room: AD12-A**
Organized by	**UNEP OzonAction, in collaboration with the National Ozone Unit of Zimbabwe and the Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Association of Zimbabwe (HEVACRAZ)**

Background and objective

The transition to low-global-warming-potential refrigerants requires an integrated approach combining enabling policies, national institutions, qualified technicians, reliable sector information, practical technical guidance and sustained stakeholder participation.

Drawing on Zimbabwe's experience, this side event will show how UNEP technical support, national leadership, and industry engagement can strengthen the commercial refrigeration installation and assembly sector. The session will present the design of the initiative, Zimbabwe's national implementation and ownership experience, the principal components and outputs, implementation lessons, and practical digital tools developed to support technician capacity, sustainable refrigeration practices and energy efficiency.

The underlying approach combines sector assessment, workforce registration, technical capacity, an incentive framework, awareness, and practical technical field-support tools.

The discussion will also consider institutional sustainability, stakeholder ownership and the potential adaptation of relevant methods and tools in other Low Volume Consuming Article 5 countries.

Draft agenda

Opening and Strategic Context

Agenda item	Speaker	Photo
Welcome and Introduction	Patrick Salifu, Regional Network Coordinator, Africa Anglophone, UNEP OzonAction	
Opening Remarks: Advancing Sustainable National Action under the Montreal Protocol and its Kigali Amendment	Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme	Pending
From Policy Commitments to Implementation: Strategic Relevance and Side Event Objectives	Patricia Mbote, Director, Law Division, United Nations Environment Programme	Pending

From Initiative Design to National Implementation

Agenda item	Speaker	Photo
Initiative Design and Technical Approach: From Identified Needs to an Integrated Response	Amr Abdel Hai, United Nations Environment Programme	
National Implementation Experience and Country Ownership: Zimbabwe's Perspective	George Chaumba, National Ozone Unit, Zimbabwe	

From Implementation to Results and Practical Solutions

Agenda item	Speaker	
Initiative Deliverables, Results and Lessons Learned	Alfred Motsi, The Heating Energy Ventilation Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Association of Zimbabwe (HEVACRAZ) Secretary General of The Heating Energy Ventilation Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Association of Zimbabwe (HEVACRAZ)	
Initiative Digital Solutions in Practice: Demonstration of Tools Developed through the Initiative	Alfred Motsi, HEVACRAZ and ---------- **Caign Manyukwa** **Chairperson of The Heating Energy Ventilation Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Association of Zimbabwe (HEVACRAZ)**	---------- 

IV. Interactive Dialogue and Closing

Agenda item	Lead	Photo
Interactive Discussion and Q&A: Sustainability, Country Adaptation and Replication	Patrick Salifu, Moderator UNEP	
Key Takeaways and Closing Remarks	Patrick Salifu, Moderator UNEP	