

Submission by Egypt

On establishing an international technology facilitation mechanism for the Development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies

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- 1- As we embark on the process of sustainable development and look towards a global 'transformative' development agenda, technology plays a key role in addressing development challenges across a wide scope of cross-cutting sustainability dimensions, as in food and agriculture, water, energy, industry development, chemicals and waste management.
- 2- Developing countries rely heavily on technology in order to shift to a more sustainable development path. To help developing countries overcome obstacles to economic expansion and growth to achieve specific development goals, it is imperative to bridge the technological divide to promote sustainable industrialisation and inclusive growth across the developing world.
- 3- Despite recent progress in access to technology, technological and innovation divides between countries and regions persist. Around 70 per cent of R&D spending worldwide, still takes place in developed countries.
- 4- Developing countries are still facing many obstacles, particularly with regard to access to finance, capacity building and training throughout different stages of the technology life cycle, from research to development, demonstration, market formation, and eventual diffusion in the marketplace. An effective technology innovation system is one that excels in each stage and seamlessly bridges the gaps between them. In such a system, capacity-building, finance and technology transfer can play an important role in all stages.
- 5- As we stress the need for a 'transformational' change in the framework of SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda, it is difficult to envisage how it could take place without a break-through in international cooperation in the field of technology transfer. **There is a need for a technology mechanism that can accelerate technology transfer and diffusion on a global scale and that is commensurate with the sustainable development challenge.**
- 6- The Rio+20 Outcome Document recognised technology as one of the key 'means of implementation' along with finance, capacity building and trade. In response to paragraph 273 of this Document, the Secretary-General has made, in his report (A/67/348) recommendations to the General Assembly regarding a technology facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies. The report provided an overview of proposals, outlining recommendations on the possible functions, format and working methods of a technology facilitation mechanism, as well as on a potential global way forward, suggesting the establishment of an intergovernmental working group to agree on the details of such a mechanism.
- 7- The outcome of the Conference should be dealt with as a package, where the progress in achieving different elements is linked to progress made with respect to

the means of implementation, particularly in finance, technology and capacity building.

- 8- Egypt supports the findings of the report and its conclusions with regard to the establishment of an intergovernmental working group to agree on establishing a global mechanism for technology facilitation. Some countries were of the view that we should first have more in-depth discussions on options to move forward. This is the reason it has been agreed to hold the series of four one-day workshops in order to discuss the matter further.
- 9- Whereas the first two workshops focused on the national level, by sharing experiences of some countries, mainly from the South, the last two focused on the international level. Sustainable development challenges are of global nature. They need global solutions, with technology at the core.
- 10- The four workshops showed clearly there is an urgent need for a global technology facilitation mechanism. Many speakers lend their support to this mechanism emphasizing the need for it. The message came through strongly during the workshops that existing arrangements on technology transfer at the multilateral level are very fragmented, insufficient and deeply lack coordination.
- 11- A recent survey of activities within the United Nations system illustrates the range of capacity-building activities, which remain largely uncoordinated in terms of objective, content and country coverage. There is no global framework, agreement, assessment or monitoring mechanism for science and technology for sustainable development.
- 12- It is noted that a certain amount of work has been carried out with regard to technology transfer in the context of many different fora such as Multilateral Environmental Agreements (UNFCCC, CBD etc), UN agencies (UNIDO, UNESCO, WIPO and UNCTAD) as well as the WTO and the World Bank, and InfoDev. They did not lead to headways until now. This reflects the need for streamlining all these efforts, which are all related to sustainable development. This gives additional reasons why we need an international mechanism that takes in charge this task, taking into account existing models and providing collective and coordinated solutions.
- 13- Achieving sustainable development necessitates acknowledging interlinkages and stop working in silos. Technology should be no exception. Most panelists and speakers highlighted the need for a systemic and holistic approach to technology.
- 14- The key message from the HLP report on post 2015 is that all tracks should come together. The same has to apply to technology. This is the reason why we need a focal international mechanism/ platform to bring scattered efforts together, so they can lead to concrete impact and help achieving transformational change.
- 15- There is a need for a technology mechanism that can accelerate innovation and technology transfer and diffusion on a global scale that is commensurate with the sustainable development challenge. It is a paradox of our times that we have failed to make use of our greater scientific and technological possibilities and global wealth to effectively solve global sustainable development challenges.
- 16- A global technology facilitation mechanism should :
 - a) Better coordinate and support the implementation of technology-related international commitments, agreements and conventions

- b) Facilitate the exchange of experiences, best practices and lessons learned across agreements and sectors.
- c) Address gaps throughout the full technology cycle, from research to development, demonstration, market formation and diffusion;
- d) Foster truly global, cooperative technology undertakings and partnerships that engage all interested Governments and major groups, including the private sector;
- e) Recommend actions and measures to improve technology transfer, including between developing countries;
- f) Examine how to address in a pragmatic manner possible intellectual property rights constraints/challenges for technology transfer, wherever they exist, including by exploring innovative voluntary approaches;
- g) Promote technology needs assessment;
- h) Build and expand open international networks of collaboration in research, development and demonstration that allow for the participation of all countries, in particular the poorest;
- i) Better coordinate capacity-building work by the United Nations to identify synergies, avoid duplication and improve effectiveness of capacity building activities

17- A global technology facilitation mechanism should consist of:

- a) A global mechanism, with a technology development fund, in order to strengthen global research, development and demonstration cooperation, technology transfer and participation of developing countries;
- b) Network of technology transfer, innovation and information centers, based on existing global and regional centers, online platforms, clearing houses, international conventions with technology provisions and economic partnership agreements;
- c) Public-private partnerships including on collaborative intellectual property systems and licensing;
- d) Capacity development programmes and knowledge platforms, and technology needs assessment
- e) A management and coordination structure within the United Nations, including regional and sub-regional cooperative mechanisms and national coordination units, which could be assisted by an advisory team composed of experts and stakeholders.

18- The international technology facilitation mechanism should coordinate ongoing efforts and build on them. For example, WIPO and UNESCO are conducting capacity building activities, whereas UNEP/ UNIDO/ IRENA are undertaking technology assessment efforts. In addition, UNESCO and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) are involved in Universities and research centers networking.

19- What might be missing is to examine possible options with regard to enhancing the transfer of publicly funded technologies and to establish a voluntary fund to assist developing countries in acquiring privately owned technology. Also, another element worth considering would be to examine the possibility and viability of building on the case and experience of special IPR regime for drugs, and apply similar approach to basic technologies needed to

face repercussions of climate change, based on the rationale, that like the case of drugs, there is an urgency and need for policy response.

- 20- As for the way forward, it is suggested to constitute an intergovernmental preparatory working group, serviced by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and supported by a pool of experts, in order to work out institutional details, with a view to establish an operational technology facilitation mechanism, that would report to the high-level political forum. A GA resolution could be tabled for this purpose.