

Notes from the Co-Moderators on the 1st and 2nd Dialogues on possible arrangements for a technology facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies

29 and 30 April 2014

The aim of these notes by the co-moderators is to provide a basis to better channel the discussions on possible arrangements for a technology facilitation mechanism during the next dialogue in order to fulfil the mandate as laid out in A/RES/68/210.

It was generally acknowledged that a wide range of activities regarding the transfer of clean and environmentally sound technologies exists already. On the other hand, there was also a strong sense in the room that more needs to be done and that the efforts are currently fragmented and leave gaps. "The scale of efforts is yet to match the scale of the challenge."

Delegations agreed that there is room for improvement; there were however different perceptions on the most effective way to move forward.

- Many delegations were of the view that needs differ across the national, regional and global levels.
- There is ambiguity on the thematic scope of such a technology facilitation mechanism to promote development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies. Is it only environmental or should it address technology in a broader sense? Some delegations highlighted its importance in the context of the post-2015 development agenda in eradicating poverty, promoting social inclusion, gender equality and seeking a transformative shift in the area of sustainable development. One first step in order to clarify the issue of scope would be to discuss the potential technology facilitation mechanisms in regard to the three dimensions of sustainable development, in association with the post-2015 development agenda.
- Diverse views were expressed as to which of the following aspects mentioned by delegations – education, capacity building, finance, tech transfer, IP, R&D or all of them – would be addressed by a technology facilitation mechanism. Some delegations highlighted the need to combine efforts on technology facilitation with other initiatives such as financing, ensuring an enabling environment, capacity building and higher levels of education, particularly technological vocational training in areas such as engineering and mathematics (STEM). Other delegations emphasized that in the dialogues on technology transfer for sustainable development a restrictive definition of technology transfer - that of commercially available technologies from industrialised to developing countries – needs to be avoided. It was suggested that a broader look should be taken at the role of technology cooperation. In this perspective, technology transfer should be seen not only in terms of acquisition of technology, but also in terms of knowledge creation and sharing.
- There were different views on the breath of the technology cycle that a technology facilitation mechanism could cover. Many expect that it would address the full technology life cycle from Research to Development, Demonstration, Market formation and Diffusion. Others were of the opinion that it would focus on the stages with the biggest needs and where it would have the highest impact.

Several delegations and panellists mentioned concrete tasks and functions of a potential technology facilitation mechanism. Other delegations recalled the crucial role of the private sector and the responsibility of governments to ensure an enabling environment (education, legal and regulatory regimes including good governance and access to information and data etc.).

Some of the specific tasks and functions that were mentioned are as follows:

- Coordination and improving coherence: While acknowledging the value of various existing initiatives, fragmentation of efforts can hinder the progress toward responsive and effective technology cooperation. In the view of some delegations, an UN technology facilitation mechanism could serve as an umbrella

framework for system-wide coordination and cooperation in the area of technology cooperation, while respecting the rules and or mandates of existing institutions, frameworks and processes.

- **Improve data and information:** A technology mechanism could also gather, consolidate and assess detailed data and information on technology facilitation efforts underway within the United Nations Systems and improve information sharing between institutions.
- **Capacity building:** A technology mechanism could articulate a network of capacity development programmes and knowledge platforms within the United Nations System, facilitating access to existing capacity building initiatives. It could also promote capacity building opportunity in developing countries on human capital and research, institutional framework for innovation, and market/business environment.
- **Knowledge sharing and networking:** A technology mechanism could facilitate networking in R&D and promote N-S, S-S, S-N and triangular technology cooperation, as well as global networks, peer learning, exchange and collaborative training programs.
- **Monitoring and Diffusion of priority technologies:** Identify high-impact technologies for poverty eradication and promotion of sustainable development. Identify gaps and barriers to the dissemination of high-impact technologies.
- **Technology access and transfer:** Promote technology access to developing countries on preferential and/or concessional terms, especially in the context of publicly-funded technologies, and encourage the expansion of clean and environmentally sound technologies in public domains. Support the operationalization of LDC Technology Bank, building synergy with existing initiatives and agencies.

The following additional issues also stood out from the discussion:

- Views on the definition of “mechanism” differ. For some delegations it means simply increased coordination and cooperation. Other delegations refer to a centralized body, a policy forum or a virtual platform. Many cautioned not to create additional governance layers.
- Another question is how to involve non-state actors in the discussion (academia, civil society, business). Several delegations underlined the crucial role of these actors in their respective roles and the need to include them in the discussion.
- The perceptions on the way forward also vary. On the one hand there was a strong sense of urgency but on the other hand some delegations felt there is still need for sound analysis to provide appropriate data and information. A feasibility study assessing the best possible institutional arrangements was suggested.
- While many delegations underlined the need to focus the present set of dialogues on how to establish a technology facilitation mechanism, one delegation in particular underlined that there are different opinions regarding what precisely was mandated by the Rio+20 conference and that there was no agreement among member states to create a new mechanism under the UN.