

Input to the Secretary General's report on technology transfer mechanisms
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Subregional
Headquarters for the Caribbean

I. Potential functions, format and working methods of a technology facilitation mechanism

Technology transfer mechanisms should benefit from the establishment of an institutional unit within an appropriate government ministry to spearhead and co-ordinate activities. Of particular importance here are:

- a) Research capacity and an outreach unit in order to monitor the landscape with a view to building partnerships and facilitating technology transfer;
- b) Utilisation of experts from more developed countries to conduct activities in the Caribbean with a view to building capacity;
- c) Documenting lessons learnt from past initiatives. This will include both successes and weaknesses.
- d) Have the capacity to improve communication with external entities in order to facilitate efficient communication to support exchange of ideas and best practices;
- e) Training and capacity building to build a cadre of national professionals who will be able to implement activities using environmentally-sound technologies;
- f) Be self-sustaining through the establishment of a Fund;
- g) Promoting demonstration of activities so as to facilitate transfer of appropriate technologies.
- h) Promoting the role of information and communications technologies (ICTs) in facilitating the technology transfer mechanism, particularly as it relates to the advocacy and promotion of the adoption of ICT-enabled alternative solutions that foster innovative low-carbon products and solutions.

II. Potential contributions of ECLAC to such a mechanism

- a) ECLAC will be in a position to offer technical support in the establishment of such a mechanism;
- b) In the area of statistics, ECLAC will be able to monitor and evaluate the performance of such a mechanism so as to make recommendations for improvement to the mechanism;
- c) ECLAC will be well placed to support the mechanism in the conduct of research that will result in publications containing policy recommendations to enhance the work of the mechanism;
- d) ECLAC could facilitate training and capacity building in environmentally-sound technologies and thereby support the development of a cadre of professionals who, in turn, would be able to promote the use of these technologies.
- e) ECLAC could also facilitate an ICT platform that builds on the mechanisms, experiences and achievements of other systems, such as SIDSnet, by developing an online framework as a portal that facilitates knowledge sharing and networking through the capture and documentation of indigenous experiences, the cataloguing of experts and research capacities, and the monitoring of the impact of technology transfer on the sustainable development of the region.

III. List of partner organizations essential to be involved

Collaboration in development of a mechanism to facilitate technology transfer is a matter of focus of ECLAC in the Caribbean. In this regard, we are working with the following in addressing the issue:

1. **CARICOM.** This is a main focus for SIDS and has been reflected as one of the main concerns for the Caribbean having been highlighted in submissions to the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC. This is particularly important in the area of employment of renewable sources of energy;
2. **Brazil.** ECLAC, Port-of-Spain has been interacting and liaising with partners from both the public and privates sector from Brazil. Consultants have been utilized in the conduct of research into energy efficiency as well as geothermal energy;

3. **University of the West Indies (UWI).** There is some expertise available at the UWI and attempts to improve the skills base in renewable energy technologies have been realized in the development of an undergraduate degree in this area;
4. **Ministries of energy, tertiary education, and science and technology** in the Caribbean have been partners with ECLAC in the past. These ministries are essential to development and promotion of a mechanism to facilitate technology transfer;
5. **Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU), Caribbean Knowledge and Learning Network (CKLN)** and other Caribbean institutional stakeholders in ICT for Development;
6. **Solid Waste Management Entities;**
7. **Chambers of Commerce.** The Trinidad Chamber of Commerce has been working in the area of energy statistics and they should be a good partner;
8. **Development Banks.** The Caribbean Development Bank has, in the past collaborated with ECLAC in the area of energy and the Bank currently has an MOU with ECLAC.