

Technology Facilitation Mechanism

Input from United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

I. Potential functions, format and working methods

The Technology Facilitation Mechanism should facilitate meaningful and sustained capacity building and technical assistance for developing countries on technology development, transfer and deployment as a core part of its activities, while also facilitating coordination of activities implemented by different UN agencies.

Based on UNEP's extensive experience in this area, and consistent with par. 273 of the Rio +20 Outcome document, the Technology Facilitation Mechanism should i) assist developing countries at their request, consistent with their respective capabilities and national circumstances and priorities, to build or strengthen their capacity to identify technology needs, to facilitate the preparation and implementation of technology projects and strategies that foster sustainable development; ii) stimulate technology cooperation; iii) enhance the development and transfer of technologies.

These core functions should be supported by broader outreach and awareness activities and a knowledge management system that enables learning and enhanced response quality over the life of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism.

More specifically, this should include areas such as:

- i) Support country assessments of technology needs and collaborate with national stakeholder to prioritize technologies within sectors and analyze technologies including performing economic analysis, market assessment, barriers analysis, employment opportunities, and enabling framework creation.
- ii) Support the design and establishment of country-tailored policies spurring technology transfer and enabling frameworks for transfer of clean and environmentally sound technologies, with a focus on public-private interface and intellectual property rights.
- iii) Build capacity in public and private institutions to deliver technology transfer services.
- iv) Facilitate regional and global peer learning, exchange, and training programmes.

The Technology Facilitation Mechanism should be delivered through a cost-effective and highly flexible structure with the ability to respond quickly and competently even to a large number of national requests. The following suggestions are based on the thought process that UNEP and its Consortium partners including UNIDO underwent for the Climate Technology Center and Network proposal (CTCN) following the same principles.

A lean and efficient "Core Structure", operated by the UN, would manage and coordinate the activities agreed with the Countries through National Focal Points (designated to coordinate technology related planning and action on the national level, modeled after the Designated National Entities under the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism) and be in charge of extracting lessons learnt and outreach.

Actual implementation would be undertaken through a Resource Pool formed by lead experts from a relevant number of partner institutions around the world with significant technological and regional knowledge. As a basic principle, any team responding to a request should be constituted by a regional institutional taking the lead, supported by one or two topical experts in the relevant field coming from other partner institutions. Larger support efforts may be tendered out to a possible network of engaged technology institutions.

The proposed mechanism can operate with a limited number of fixed cost staff in the UN led Core Structure combined with the Technical Resource Pool enabling fast and flexible technical support to ensure rapid implementation. The number of experts in the pool could be easily adjusted to respond to the demand for service.

II. Potential contributions by UNEP

We believe UNEP is well positioned and able to make a significant contribution to a new Technology Facilitation Mechanism and we would be happy to take on a leading role if so decided. Section 88 (f) of the Rio+20 Outcome Document proposes a further strengthening of UNEP's role on "providing capacity building to countries, as well as support and facilitate access to technology".

UNEP, implementing the Bali Strategic Plan, has gained deep experience and expertise spanning the full range of issues in the development and transfer of Clean and Environmentally Sound Technologies. This includes assisting countries with technology needs assessments; managing responses to these needs; providing capacity building and support for deployment of technologies; stimulating collaborative technology development and transfer projects; facilitating cooperation networks, partnerships, training, and twinning arrangements; developing tools and policies; codifying and sharing best practices; and managing other supporting activities. UNEP experience extends as well to the areas of facilitating access to finance, entrepreneur development, technology licensing and IP management, monitoring, and evaluation.

The following are examples of past and ongoing work that is of relevance to the Technology Facilitation Mechanism:

UNEP, as an Implementing Agency of the Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund, has implemented more than 1500 projects in developing countries that directly or indirectly support the transfer of technology under that MEA. These cover issues such as integrated technology and policy national plans, technical assistance, capacity building and institutional strengthening.

UNEP in collaboration with UNIDO, manages a global network of 42 National Cleaner Production Centres (NCPCs), which use a multi-stakeholder approach and involve different levels of industry, government, academia and the financial sector to bring about Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production approaches by businesses and other organizations. Furthermore, UNEP is a partner in UNIDO's Green Industry Platform. For the CTCN UNEP is the lead organization in a close partnership with UNIDO.

UNEP is currently supporting 36 countries through the GEF-supported Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) project to establish a national consensus on priority technologies and agreement on a Technology Action Plan (TAP) that will allow the accelerated deployment of technologies, techniques and methods to reduce energy consumption, replace fossil fuels with clean energy sources and develop ways to adapt to climate change for the most vulnerable countries. In this regard, the project develops targeted training and supporting materials related to methodology for prioritization of technologies, market assessment, access and links to data on technologies.

UNEP has several sectoral initiatives, with private and public sector engagement, to spur phase out of obsolete technologies and investment in emerging technologies, amongst which: UNEP's en.lighten initiative with Philips, Osram, and the Chinese National Lighting Test Centre to accelerate a global market transformation to environmentally sustainable lighting technologies through a coordinated global strategy and technical support to developing countries.

III. Important potential partner organizations

Considering the wide range of expertise required across sectors, regions and sub-regions and technologies, a wide and diverse network of regional and national institutions will be required as a delivery mechanism that can respond effectively and efficiently to requests from developing countries.

For the Core Structure, key partners could include: UNEP, UNIDO, ILO, WIPO and the Regional Economic Commissions.

For the Technical Resource Pool, potential members could include a wide variety of different types of institutions ranging from regional technology centres and networks to research, academic and financial institutions, to intergovernmental, international, regional and sectoral organisations, partnerships and initiatives that could contribute to technology deployment and transfer.

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