

## The potential functions, format and working methods of a technology facilitation mechanism

### Functions:

1. General understanding and awareness:
  - a. Identification of problem area /selection of priority problem area such as e.g.: air pollution, water management, agriculture, or more detailed: urban air pollution, industrial air pollution, water management in agriculture
  - b. Identification of organizations/partners dealing with problem areas
2. Detailed understanding and awareness:
  - a. Identification of problematic issue(s)(gaps and shortcomings) within problem areas
  - b. Identification of available solutions (available technology, knowledge, etc.):
    - i. Open-source solutions
    - ii. Commercial solutions
  - c. Identification of ways for implementing/introducing the open-source solutions
    - i. Self-application
    - ii. Self-application with consultation
    - iii. Capacity-building for application (advisory service, training, etc.)
  - d. Financing sources for commercial solutions

### Format and working methods:

- Tools for identification /prioritizing of problem areas (due to limited countries capacities the most problematic areas should be dealt with first)

| Self-use by countries | With assistance  |
|-----------------------|--|
| - Information website | - Scoping mission<br>- Country Review<br>- Country Profile |

- Identification of organizations/partners dealing with problem areas

| Self-use by countries   | With assistance        |
|---|------------------------|
| - Web search machine linking areas with organizations (units) and their contact details | - Advice from partners |

- Identification of problematic issues (gaps, shortcomings) within problem areas

| Self-use by countries   | With assistance        |
|---|------------------------|
| - Website with guidance, indicators and criteria, self-evaluation documents on subject matter | - Advice from partners |

- Identification of available solutions and implementation

| Self-use by countries  | With assistance  |
|--|--|
| Website with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Open-source on-line training</li> <li>- Open-source manuals on subject matters</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advisory service</li> <li>- Training</li> <li>- Consultation</li> </ul> |

- Financing sources for commercial solutions

| Self-use by countries   | With assistance   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Information website</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advice and support from partners</li> <li>- Advice from commercial partners</li> </ul> |

### **The potential contribution of your organization**

#### **In the area of general understanding and awareness:**

UNECE Environment Division:

UNECE offers Environmental Performance Review (EPR) for UNECE countries with economies in transition to help them understand their environmental performance in different sectors of economy, and to improve their environmental governance by providing tailor-made recommendations.

On demand, and when capacity and resources are available, an EPR can be offered to countries outside of ECE region.

UNECE Economic Cooperation and Integration Division:

UNECE carries out Innovation Performance Reviews of UNECE countries with economies in transition. These reviews provide a detailed assessment of the factors driving innovation and present a number of recommendations and policy options to stimulate innovation activity, enhance innovation capacity and improve the overall efficiency of the national innovation system.

#### **In the area of detailed understanding and awareness:**

UNECE makes available guidance/guidelines/checklists/on-line training (under development), on one hand that can help in understanding the possible gaps and shortcoming within specific problem areas by the developing countries. On the other hand, through the same or other documents, UNECE provides solutions on how to address the shortcomings or gaps.

The guidance/guidelines/checklists are open-source documents and are available on UNECE website. They address the following work areas:

Environment:

- Water management dealt under the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
- Air pollution dealt under the UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution
- Industrial safety dealt under the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents
- Environmental Impact Assessment dealt under the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context
- Public participation dealt under the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters
- Education for sustainable development
- Environmental monitoring

UNECE offers capacity-building activities (advisory missions, training sessions) in the areas of its competence. These are mainly offered to ECE countries with economies in transition. However, on demand, and when capacity and resources are available, capacity-building can be offered to countries outside of the UNECE.

To note: Some of UNECE Environmental Conventions are in the process or have been opened up to global accession. This gives an opportunity to provide assistance to countries outside of ECE region, which would like to accede to these Conventions.

The Economic Cooperation and Integration Division carries out capacity-building activities in countries with economies in transition in the area of innovation, in particular to support the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Innovation Performance Reviews. These activities, which are tailor-made to the needs of the countries, include topics such as the financing of innovation, technology transfer, policy design and institution-building.

### **List of partner organizations that one considers essential to be involved**

Names and contacts to partner organizations, especially those closely involved in the work under the Environmental Conventions, are available on UNECE website – specific webpages of the Conventions.

### **Relevant international conventions to consider:**

#### **Industrial Accidents Convention, Art 16**

Parties shall, consistent with their laws, regulation and practices, **facilitate the exchange of technology** for the prevention of, preparedness for and response to effects of industrial accidents, particularly through the promotion of:

- (a) Exchange of available technology on various financial bases;
- (b) Direct industrial contacts and cooperation;
- (c) Exchange of information and experience;

- (d) Provision of technical assistance

For (a) and (d), Parties shall create favorable condition by facilitating contacts and cooperation among appropriate organizations and individuals in both the private and public sectors that are capable of providing technology, design and engineering services, equipment or finance.

#### **Gothenburg Protocol of Air Convention, Art 4**

Each Party shall, in a manner consistent with its laws, regulations and practices and in accordance with its obligations in the present Protocol, **create favourable conditions to facilitate the exchange** of information, **technologies and techniques**, with the aim of reducing emissions of sulphur, nitrogen oxides, ammonia and volatile organic compounds by promoting *inter alia*:

- (a) The development and updating of databases on best available techniques, including those that increase energy efficiency, low-emission burners and good environmental practice in agriculture;
- (b) The exchange of information and experience in the development of less polluting transport systems;
- (c) Direct industrial contacts and cooperation, including joint ventures; and
- (d) The provision of technical assistance.

In promoting the activities specified in paragraph 1, each Party shall create favourable conditions for the facilitation of contacts and cooperation among appropriate organizations and individuals in the private and public sectors that are capable of providing technology, design and engineering services, equipment or finance

#### **POPs Protocol of Air Convention, Art 5**

The Parties shall, in a manner consistent with their laws, regulations and practices, create favourable conditions to facilitate the exchange of information and technology designed to reduce the generation and emission of persistent organic pollutants and to develop cost-effective alternatives, by promoting, *inter alia*:

- (a) Contacts and cooperation among appropriate organizations and individuals in the private and public sectors that are capable of providing technology, design and engineering services, equipment or finance;
- (b) The exchange of and access to information on the development and use of alternatives to persistent organic pollutants as well as on the evaluation of the risks that such alternatives pose to human health and the environment, and information on the economic and social costs of such alternatives;
- (c) The compilation and regular updating of lists of their designated authorities engaged in similar activities in other international forums;
- (d) The exchange of information on activities conducted in other international forums.

#### **Heavy Metals Protocol of Air Convention, Art 4**

The Parties shall, in a manner consistent with their laws, regulations and practices, facilitate the exchange of technologies and techniques designed to reduce emissions of heavy metals, including but not limited to exchanges that encourage the development of product management measures and the application of best available techniques, in particular by promoting:

- (a) The commercial exchange of available technology;
- (b) Direct industrial contacts and cooperation, including joint ventures;
- (c) The exchange of information and experience; and
- (d) The provision of technical assistance.

In promoting the activities specified in paragraph 1 above, the Parties shall create favourable conditions by facilitating contacts and cooperation among appropriate organizations and individuals in the private and public sectors that are capable of providing technology, design and engineering services, equipment or finance.

**Water Convention, Art 13**

The Riparian Parties shall, within the framework of relevant agreements or other arrangements according to article 9 of this Convention, exchange reasonably available data, inter alia, on:

(b) Experience gained in the application and operation of best available technology and results of research and development;