

**United Nation General Assembly**  
**Structured Dialogues on a Technology Facilitation Mechanism**

**Summary of Issues for Discussion Arising from Dialogues 1 and 2**

**UN-DESA**

**Options regarding the functions and modalities of a possible technology facilitation mechanism**

In order to be able discuss either the feasibility of a technology facilitation mechanism or the question of “how” to go about establishing one, it would be helpful to start by clarifying “what” functions such a mechanism might usefully incorporate. While a large number of specific functions have been proposed in relation to a technology facilitation mechanism in numerous submissions and reports, one way of clustering them is presented below, together with questions for discussion (*in italics*).

**1. Information and awareness:** establishing a global map and database of existing activities on international technology facilitation for sustainable development which is easily accessible, complete across geographies, sectors and international organisations and has sufficient granularity to help governments and other institutions in developing countries to understand what is at their disposal in terms of available international opportunities and assistance, and keeping that map and database up-to-date.

- *Which of the following schemes should be prioritised in order to address the information and awareness problem in relation to technology facilitation?*
  - *An online electronic knowledge platform maintained by an existing unit within the UN System that integrates and publishes publicly available information regarding all technology facilitation efforts relating to sustainable development, including data on the type of services available and the range of participating countries and institutions.*
  - *A knowledge platform could also usefully incorporate a global database on bilateral and multilateral capacity building activities, including those supporting science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, networking or mentoring relating to clean and environmentally sound technologies.*
  - *A reporting system where international organisations make available up-to-date information on their technology facilitation activities, including information on sectoral and geographical coverage, type of assistance and guidance on how to participate in those activities.*
  - *Extensions to the creditor reporting system on official development assistance that enable better tracking of the scope and scale of technology facilitation efforts.*
- *Which existing unit within the UN System is best suited to service either an online knowledge platform and/or a reporting system?*

**2. Coordination:** minimising duplication and maximising synergy among existing facilitation mechanisms and programmes for clean and environmentally sound technologies as well as new ones that may be proposed or in the process of being established.

- *Which course of action could be most relevant to enhancing coordination among existing technology facilitation activities:*
  - *An existing inter-governmental body could include in its regular work programme an activity where key international organisations' future work programmes on technology facilitation are peer reviewed prior to their adoption within their respective governance structures.*
  - *A new body could be set up for the above-mentioned purpose.*
  - *A regular (e.g. annual, biannual) global technology facilitation forum could be organized, possibly in coordination with other high-profile events pertaining to clean and environmentally sound technologies, to facilitate networking, knowledge sharing, and coordination of planning and programming.*
  - *Regional fora on technology facilitation could also be organised periodically along the same lines.*
- *Which international organisations should participate in activities aiming to better coordinate technology facilitation?*
- *What should member states do at the national level to strengthen coordination of technology facilitation operations of the international organisations of which they are members?*
- *Are regional UN commissions best placed to fulfil the role of providing a forum for peer review and coordination?*
- *What incentives could be put in place to ensure that international organisations and bilateral donors can see benefit in voluntary but active participation in a reporting system?*

**3. Analysis of needs and gaps:** establishing a methodology that would help United Nations members as a group firstly to draw a complete picture of technology needs in relation to sustainable development, and secondly to identify any important gaps in addressing these needs in terms of "orphan" issues or technology sectors not receiving sufficient attention or geographies not receiving the help that they need.

- *Which dimensions or sectors of sustainable development are insufficiently served by existing efforts to assess technology needs and gaps?*
- *Are efforts to strengthen statistical information collection and dissemination regarding science, technology and innovation, in particular in developing countries, considered sufficient?*
- *In the absence of a single inter-governmental body on technology facilitation, how can technical expertise present in different UN System organisations (including regional bodies) be pooled or used in synergy in order to develop a complete picture of global technology needs and gaps?*
- *Could a system-wide UN coordination mechanism (UN-Technology) similar to what currently exists for water, energy or oceans be useful in achieving greater synergies among existing technology facilitation efforts?*

**4. Dialogue:** establishing a process where United Nations members can discuss the adequacy of efforts underway in relation to the above-mentioned functions, and consider new initiatives where necessary, to ensure that developing countries' technological capabilities advance in line with sustainable development goals and the global development agenda.

- *What role could be played by the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development to enhance dialogue amongst states and international organisations in the area of technology facilitation? Would this have implications on CSTD's structure, governance and methods of work?*
- *What role could be played by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to enhance dialogue amongst states and international organisations in the area of technology facilitation? Would this have implications on HLPF's structure, governance and methods of work?*
- *Should a new body be established to enhance dialogue amongst states and international organisations in the area of technology facilitation? If so, how would this body's activity be coordinated with the activities of the HLPF, the ECOSOC, the regional commissions and the CSTD?*
- *How could a global technology facilitation mechanism relate to the international bodies and activities put in place in recent years with the specific goal to promote the diffusion of clean and environmentally sound technologies, such as technology needs assessment reviews (UNEP-RISOE), CTCN, IRENA, etc.?*

#### **Options and priorities for the way forward**

- *Which functions and options presented in the preceding section constitute priority actions which have the potential to garner broad support?*
- *What are the pros and cons of pursuing the different functions discussed above by strengthening separate activities and bodies?*
- *What are the pros and cons of gathering some or all of the functions discussed above within an umbrella mechanism, or entity?*
- *What is the preferred timetable for concluding discussions on a technology facilitation mechanism to ensure that its modalities are in line with ongoing discussions on SDGs and a post-2015 development agenda?*
- *Which forms of possible follow-up to the present cycle of dialogues are likely to receive broad support:*
  - *The establishment of a working group to discuss the modalities of establishing a technology facilitation mechanism?*
  - *Consideration of a technology facilitation mechanism in a special session of the HLPF during the 69th session of the General Assembly?*
  - *Further ad hoc dialogues during the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly?*