



**Scope and modalities for the periodic assessment of the Technology Mechanism in relation to supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement**

The Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), along with colleagues Lillian Sol Cueva and Shaila Shahid, welcome the invitation of the SBI to relevant UNFCCC observer organizations to submit their views on the elaboration of the scope and modalities for the periodic assessment of the Technology Mechanism referred to in decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 96.<sup>1</sup>

From 2001, when Parties to the UNFCCC agreed on the first text on gender equality and women's participation, the UNFCCC, supported by UN agencies and civil society organizations, has included gender references in adopted decisions on nearly every thematic area. These gender-sensitive decisions present a foundation to effectively implement climate policies that address existing inequalities and the disproportionate impacts of climate change on women, and meet the needs of women and men equally.

There is a critical need for effective tools and analysis that help translate the meaning and application of these decisions at different levels, as well as provide guidance on how they can be effectively implemented. Implementation processes should include robust monitoring and evaluation systems that report on the progress made and provide feedback to improve the process. These type of monitoring and evaluation systems and assessments are critical in order to ensure the effective implementation of all policies, especially in regards to Technology development and transfer.

Technology and technological innovation has the potential to mitigate and even solve the negative impacts of climate change as well as to ensure the well-being of people. However, access is an issue, and these technologies are often beyond the reach of marginalized communities who often need them most, especially in the context of climate change. Furthermore, technological innovation often fails to take into account cultural factors and existing knowledge, as well as the social and environmental costs and potentially harmful impacts of the technologies themselves. This leads to technologies that are not appropriate for the most climate-affected communities, which exacerbates inequalities and widens the gaps in access to affordable, safe, and sustainable technologies.

The periodic assessment of the Technology Mechanism in the context of the implementation of the Paris Agreement is vital to ensure that Technology development and transfer is transparent, decentralized, sustainable, affordable, and places gender at the core of all aspects of the process.

**KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

WEDO along with colleagues Lillian Sol Cueva and Shaila Shahid, put forth the following key recommendations to build upon progress from Decision 1/CP.21 on the periodic assessment of the Technology Mechanism:

- Include “do-no-harm indicators” in the periodic assessment of the support provided by the Technology Mechanism in order to evaluate if there were negative environmental and social impacts of technologies developed and transferred;

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- The periodic assessment must include project value scales that prioritize (i) small-scale, (ii) technologically appropriate and (iii) locally driven energy projects, with direct multiple social, economic and environmental benefits, in order to prioritize their funding;
- The periodic assessment must ensure that the support provided by the Technology Mechanism exclude inefficient technology approaches that have proven to be inequitable, ineffective, dangerous and otherwise unsustainable, for example, large dams, nuclear energy and fracking;
- The periodic assessment should evaluate the capacity-building aspects of the Technology Mechanism and whether it supports the training of women on the use, development, production and marketing of renewable and low-carbon energy technologies, and support opportunities to share that knowledge with other women;
- The periodic assessment must set targets and evaluate them for women's participation in technology development and transfer projects and programs designed to expand access, including as designers, managers and entrepreneurs, and respond to their respective needs and interests;
- Ensure that the Technology Mechanism includes a Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) methodology to adequately assess and recognize gender differentiated needs. Technology assessments must take place with civil society participation, including women, to ensure the technology transfer is based on the needs of communities, in particular those of the most vulnerable and poor, and to integrate a multilateral, independent, participatory evaluation of technology mechanisms for their potential social, economic, environmental and health impacts;
- Ensure that any technology that is implemented or transferred follows a Technology Impact Assessment, not just before implementation or transfer but post-implementation as well, in order to effectively evaluate the impacts in regards to the social, economic, environmental, and health dimensions;
- Regarding transparency, the periodic assessment must establish an indicator on the free and open provision of data (including in real time). The Technology Mechanism has to facilitate new services and solutions to disseminate information regarding technology development and transfer;
- The periodic assessment must ensure that the Technology Mechanism not only includes the conventional perception of what comprises technology as 'hard' technology (that of equipment or machinery), but 'soft' technology as well. Women possess technical knowledge, information and skills, which are not recognized and are almost invisible. Therefore women's wisdom, indigenous knowledge and practices related to water, environment and agriculture areas need to be documented and properly recognized for upscaling through the mix-match method with the modern technology;
- The periodic assessment should ensure that the Technology Mechanism includes the development of knowledge and skills of agricultural extension workers both female and male on climate change resistant cropping practices (i.e. identification and documentation, expansion of indigenous water management technology, and introduction of gender friendly water technologies such as desalination and rain-water harvesting);
- Finally, the periodic assessment should be harmonized with the Technology Framework that is being developed, ensuring that both recognize gender mainstreaming in their policy-making, implementation, adaptation and evaluation processes, as part of all elements related to socially sound technologies.