Technology Executive Committee

Tenth meeting of the Technology Executive Committee

**AHH, Bonn, Germany
9–12 March 2015**

Background note

Possible topic and indicative outline for a TEC Brief on national systems of innovation

I.   Background

1.   Under the enabling environments and barriers area of the TEC's 2014-2015 workplan (activity 4), the TEC agreed to, inter alia, prepare a TEC Brief on national systems of innovation (NSI).

2.   At Lima, COP 20 noted that the TEC held a workshop on NSI in October 2014 and requested the TEC to continue its work on enabling environments and barriers as stipulated in activity 4 of its rolling workplan for 2014–2015.

3.   The TEC held the two day NSI workshop on 13-14 October 2014 as part of the activities of its 2014-2015 workplan. 70 key stakeholders participated in the workshop. Further information, including presentations and webcast, may be found on TT:CLEAR.[1]

4.   In February 2015, the TEC task force on enablers and barriers prepared a possible topic and indicative outline of a TEC Brief on NSI, taking into account the outcomes of the NSI workshop, for the consideration of the TEC at its 10th meeting.
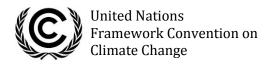
II.   Scope of the note

5.   This background note provides, in its annex, a possible topic and indicative outline of the TEC Brief on NSI, prepared by the TEC task force on enablers and barriers. This outline is based on key points emphasized by participants at the TEC NSI workshop and inputs of the task force members.

III.   Possible action by the Technology Executive Committee

6.   The TEC will be invited to agree on: (i) the topic of the TEC Brief, (ii) its general scope, and (iii) the process and timeline for its preparation and subsequent approval by the TEC.

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[1] See: <http://unfccc.int/ttclear/templates/render_cms_page?s=events_ws_nsi>.

United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

Annex

TEC Brief on national systems of innovation: indicative outline

- Under the enabling environments and barriers area of its 2014-2015 workplan, the TEC agreed to, inter alia, prepare a TEC Brief on national systems of innovation (NSI).
- The box below contains an indicative outline of the TEC Brief on NSI, prepared by the TEC task force on enablers and barriers. This outline is based on key points emphasized by participants at the TEC NSI workshop[2] and inputs of the task force members. This outline will be continue to be updated and refined as needed.

Topic: Strengthening national technology innovation to enhance action on climate change

1. Introduction

- A strong national system of innovation (NSI) supports countries to enhance action on mitigation and adaptation to climate change. It creates an environment which stimulates enhanced technology development and transfer, including for climate technologies. A strong NSI supports the national private sector and government to create new ideas, build national capacity to absorb and develop new and adopted technologies and thus add value to welfare and the national economy while also mitigating greenhouse gases and building climate resilience.
- In light of the urgent need to enhance climate action, in this brief the TEC will identify actions that national and international actors can undertake to support developing countries to build and strengthen their NSI. It will also identify actions that can be taken by the two components of the Technology Mechanism, the TEC and the CTCN.

2. A shared understanding

- This section will develop a shared understanding of what innovation and NSIs are.
- It will also provide a brief overview of the current state of play of NSIs in developing countries. This may support an identification of the key areas that may be strengthened.

3. Strengthening the key elements of a national system of innovation

- This section will describe and analyse the three key elements of an NSI: (i) institutional context, (ii) actors and (iii) linkages. All need to be strengthened to build a strong NSI.
- It will also share developing country success stories, good practices and lessons learned related to each of these elements. This may support identification of how these elements may be strengthened.
- Institutional context: it is important to design and implement, inter alia, national and international institutional and regulatory frameworks that create an enabling environment and pull factors for knowledge transfer and NSI building.
- Actors: it is important to increase the capacity of both developing and developed country actors substantially to support NSI building in developing countries (it takes two to tango).
- Linkages: it is important to build international partnerships, enhance collaboration and facilitate knowledge transfer to support NSI strengthening in developing countries.

4. Possible actions by key stakeholders

- This section will identify actions that can be taken by national and international actors to support developing countries build their NSIs.
- The TEC Brief may identify actions that can be taken at the local, national, regional and international level to support strengthening of developing country NSIs.
- The TEC Brief may identify actions that can be taken by all relevant stakeholders, including the public sector (both developing and developed countries), private sector, R&D sector, NGOs, local communities, etc.

5. Possible actions by the Technology Mechanism

- This section will elaborate on possible actions and further work that could be undertaken by the TEC and the CTCN. (The following bullet points illustrate possible such elements.)
- The Technology Mechanism may have a role in identifying the gaps which need to be addressed to promote collaboration between all actors supporting the strengthening of developing country NSIs.
- The TEC has a key role to play in promoting collaboration on all levels and between all actors to support

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[2] See: <http://unfccc.int/ttclear/templates/render_cms_page?s=events_ws_nsi>.

developing countries in strengthening their NSIs. It could also support developing countries to identify policies that strengthen their NSIs.

- Through its core services, the CTCN may support enhanced collaboration and NSI strengthening in developing countries. For example, at a developing country's request the CTCN could develop a workplan of specific activities that could support the country's NSI strengthening. The CTCN could also, at a developing country's request, support the identification of gaps in the country's NSI.
- Both the TEC and the CTCN could showcase the challenges, good practises and lessons learned of different countries and regions with regards to NSIs.
- TNAs could play an important role in supporting the building of long-term national capacity and the development of national analytical capabilities for strengthening NSIs.
- NDEs are encouraged to take into account the workshop's outcomes and to support NSI knowledge sharing through interaction with other NDEs.
- Developed country NDEs could list relevant national: areas of expertise; private sector actors; research institutions; and development cooperation agencies; to create a wider understanding of options for collaboration on NSI with developing countries. This may also facilitate identification of possible developing country requests to the CTCN on NSI issues.

6. Key messages of the TEC

- TEC key messages on NSI

7. Conclusions

- A short paragraph which summarises and concludes the TEC Brief