



**Technology Executive Committee**

18 March 2020

**Twentieth meeting**

**Virtual meeting, 1–3 April 2020**

## **Innovative approaches for adaptation technologies**

### **Concept note for Technology Day**

#### **I. Background**

1. As per activity 3 of the thematic area Innovation of its workplan for 2019–2022, the TEC is to promote innovative approaches, including through the development of scalable, business cases, local community participation, gender and cultural-sensitive approaches, to deploy, disseminate and scale up adaptation technologies. The deliverable for 2020 of this activity is the organisation of an in-session Technology Day to discuss innovative approaches for adaptation technologies, including the co-benefits of such approaches. For 2021, a policy brief and recommendations on this topic will be developed.
2. The task force on Innovation worked inter-sessionally to develop a high-level concept of the event. It was proposed that the event will take place in conjunction with the fifty-second sessions of the subsidiary bodies. Exact date and venue will be confirmed at a later stage, pending to confirmation of the available slots for the events during the sessions.
3. The taskforce, supported by the secretariat, is currently in the process for soliciting interests from organisations that have relevant work on this topic to partner in the organisation of the deep-dive sessions of the event and/or to contribute their expertise as speakers and panellists.

#### **II. Scope of the note**

4. The annex to this note elaborates on the high-level concept of the Technology Day, which will comprise Discussion session and Poster session.

#### **III. Expected action by the Technology Executive Committee**

5. The TEC will be invited to provide guidance to the task force on this matter.

## Annex

### TECHNOLOGY DAY

#### Promoting innovative approaches to deploy, disseminate and scale up dissemination of adaptation technologies

**Date: To be confirmed (in conjunction with SB52)**

**Venue: To be confirmed**

#### A. Background

1. As the policy arm of the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism, the [Technology Executive Committee](#) (TEC) works to help Parties and stakeholders addressing climate change through action on technology development and transfer. Through its work, the TEC raises awareness and promotes the sharing of knowledge on various technology issues.
2. Following the adoption of Paris Agreement rule book in Katowice (2018),<sup>1</sup> the TEC sets to work on Innovation thematic area, which is one of the five thematic areas it agreed upon. One of the activities in this thematic area focuses on adaptation technologies, in particular, looking at **innovative approaches, including through development of scalable business cases, local community participation, gender and cultural-sensitive approaches, to deploy, disseminate and scale up adaptation technologies.**<sup>2</sup>
3. The TEC will implement this activity in two stages:
  - (a) In 2020: holding an in-session Technology Day event to discuss the innovative approaches on adaptation technologies; and
  - (b) In 2021: producing a policy brief and recommendations to Parties on this topic.

#### B. Context

4. Previous TEC work on adaptation technologies highlighted a wide variety of adaptation technologies have been successfully applied and implemented on the grounds. This work also recognized the appropriate application of technologies demands consideration of the local context and is a process that requires the integration of multiple issues, stakeholders and scales. The work underlined all aspects of technologies – hardware, software and orgware – play important roles and the integration of these aspects is key in ensuring successful implementation of adaptation technologies.
5. However, to respond to the increasing threat of climate change and to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, business-as-usual application and implementation of adaptation technologies would not be sufficient. Innovation and innovative approaches on adaptation technologies are needed to help countries further increase the ability to adapt and enhance their climate resilience. Innovation and innovative approaches are also needed in all aspects of the adaptation technologies - hardware, software, and orgware – and at the scale where they can be deployed in faster pace.

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<sup>1</sup> Technology framework as contained in decision 15/CMA.1

<sup>2</sup> See activity 3 of thematic area Innovation of [TEC rolling workplan 2019-2022](#)

### C. Objectives

6. Set in this context, the main objective of the Technology Day is to provide a platform for countries and stakeholders (innovation actors, technology experts, practitioners, observers, UN organisations, and UNFCCC constituted bodies and mechanisms) to:

(a) Show case and discuss various innovation and innovative approaches, including challenges and good practices, to deploying, disseminating and scaling up climate adaptation technologies;

(b) Explore different roles of stakeholders and effective ways and measures to implement these innovation and innovative approaches;

(c) Identify potential policies and concrete actions that can be undertaken to accelerate and scale-up the dissemination of adaptation technologies, including on innovation environment that supports different types of innovators.

7. The outcomes of the event will feed into the development of policy brief and recommendations of the TEC on this topic.

### D. Key messaging of the event

8. “Accelerating and scaling up climate technology innovations in adaptation will support the achievement of the goals of the Paris Agreement.”

### E. Concept of the event

9. To ensure a good coverage of the issues and full engagement of wider spectrum of stakeholders, the day will be divided into series of smaller sessions (60 minutes) thus allow participants to deep dive into different discussion topics. This approach may also open possibility for the TEC to partner with expert organisations that can lead the events (“lead partners”). Format of each session ideally should be engaging and encourage interactions between speakers/panellists and audiences and avoids too many presentations. The high-level concept of the event is presented below.

		Session
15 min	10:00-10:15	Opening & welcome by UNFCCC Executive secretary (tbc) and TEC
45 min	10:15-11:00	Setting the scene: - Why innovation on adaptation technologies? - What does the science tell us? - How innovation on adaptation technologies can help countries enhance their adaptation actions to achieve goals of PA: Countries' perspectives
60 min	11:00-12:00	Successful business models in smart agriculture / agri-food: what are the co-benefits, what do we learn from them, how to scale them up? - Role of digital technologies - Innovative policies and programmes - Finance and support mechanisms
60 min	12:00-13:00	Green buildings and climate-resilient infrastructure: making innovative approaches work - innovative urban planning - use indigenous and local knowledge/technology - alternative design and materials
60 min	15:00-16:00	Opportunities for innovative climate-resilient technological solutions: - Selection of the right cleantech innovation strategy - Scale up through high-impact innovation - Roles of entrepreneurs and innovators - Blending local knowledge with cutting-edge technologies - Support mechanism to build capacity and foster innovation
45 min	16:00-16:45	Way forward: identifying concrete actions and policy options
15 min	16:45-17:00	Conclusions and closing remark

Plenary sessions	Deep dive sessions
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## F. Poster session

10. A poster session will be organised in conjunction with the poster session of the Research and Systematic Observation (RSO) Dialogue on the following topic: Innovative R&D and science-based technological solutions for adaptation and mitigation.
11. Given this is the first time the TEC organises such a poster session, this topic (i.e. beyond just on adaptation technologies) would allow broader range of stakeholders and observer organisations to participate and send their posters, including on issues that could be of TEC's interest for its future work.
12. The presentation of the poster will be held at the lunch time of the RSO Dialogue Day (exact time and location to be confirmed at later stage).

**G. Communication and Outreach plan**

13. In order to encourage wide participation of relevant actors, the TEC will design and implement a communication and outreach plan specific for this event, which includes pre-event, during, and post-event CO activities, including, for example:

(a) Digital promotion: make relevant information available on the UNFCCC website and TT: CLEAR well in advance so that the participants can come prepared to the event;

(b) Create a story in the UNFCCC Newsroom highlighting audiences can learn more about the featured technological innovations;

(c) Implement ICT-based solutions (WebEx, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube) for virtual participation;

(d) Invite wide participation of experts who are not Party delegates and could dedicate their expertise entirely to the event

(e) Interviews, subject to resource availability, of participants for promotional video production.

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