



Technology Executive Committee

24 August 2021

Twenty-third meeting

**Virtual meeting, 7–10 September and 13 April 2021 (TEC-CTCN
joint session)**

**Draft key messages and recommendations on international
collaborative research, development and demonstration**

Cover note

I. Background

1. Under activity 2 of the thematic area of innovation set out in its workplan for 2019–2022, the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) produced a compilation of good practices and lessons learned in relation to international collaborative research, development and demonstration initiatives pertaining to climate technology, and executive summaries targeting different audiences.¹
2. On the basis of these publications, the TEC task force on innovation developed draft key messages and recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its twenty-sixth session and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) at its third session.
3. Once agreed by the TEC, the key messages and recommendation will be included in the joint annual report of the TEC and the Climate Technology Centre and Network for 2021.

II. Scope of the note

4. The annex to this note contains the draft key messages and recommendations of the TEC on international collaborative research, development and demonstration for consideration at COP 26 and CMA 3.

III. Expected action by the Technology Executive Committee

5. The TEC will be invited to consider and agree on these key messages and recommendations.

¹ Available at <https://unfccc.int/tclear/tec/rdandr>.

Annex

Draft key messages and recommendations on international collaborative research, development and demonstration

1. The TEC compiled good practices and lessons learned from international collaborative research, development and demonstration initiatives in relation to climate technology, and executive summaries targeting different audiences. Drawing on this work, the TEC highlights the following:

(a) Policymakers play a key role in defining patterns of international collaborative research, development and demonstration and designing effective policy instruments for creating a supportive environment to encourage climate technology innovation. Policymakers are fundamental in bridging gaps that hinder the long-term sustainability of international research, development and demonstration initiatives related to climate change and their successful delivery;

(b) International organizations are active partners in various international research, development and demonstration initiatives; though not always directly engaged in actual research, development and demonstration on hardware technologies, they participate in such efforts with dedicated networks that make a significant contribution to the worldwide exchange of knowledge and best practices, thereby facilitating access of countries, particularly developing countries, to new climate technologies;

(c) Academic and research institutions provide the skilled workforce required for innovation and are the source of new knowledge and technologies that underpin innovation. Actors such as universities and research laboratories play a central role in climate technology research, development and demonstration and in widely disseminating the results of such by translating highly technical information into formats that are understandable and regionally relevant;

(d) The participation of the private sector is crucial to translating research, development and demonstration results into market deployment. Although concerted efforts have been made to engage with the private sector under various research, development and demonstration initiatives, the extent of the private sector's involvement remains limited in the early stages of the technology cycle, especially in developing countries, mainly focusing instead on the demonstration, incubation, commercialization and diffusion phases.

2. The TEC recommends that the COP and the CMA invite Parties and non-Party stakeholders to consider the findings of the work of the TEC when engaging in international collaborative research, development and demonstration and facilitate:

(a) The design of and the effective participation in research, development and demonstration initiatives that recognize the different circumstances and needs of participating countries, and align objectives to national climate strategies and priorities;

(b) Regular independent evaluations of research, development and demonstration initiatives for improving understanding of factors that contribute to the initiatives' success or failure and supporting the development of follow-on activities or new initiatives by other entities;

(c) Knowledge-sharing and local capacity-building, particularly in developing countries, to enable more effective and equal participation of countries in research, development and demonstration programmes;

(d) Cross-sectoral collaboration and multi-disciplinary approaches, incorporating economic, social and policy expertise into the research, development and demonstration process in order to address rapidly changing market and social conditions and ensure that the new technologies are sustainable in the longer term;

(e) The engagement of the private sector in the early stages of technology development, for example by providing appropriate incentives, establishing public-private partnerships and ensuring close connection between collaborative research, development and demonstration initiatives and incubators and accelerators.