Technology Executive Committee

26 August 2021

Twenty-third meeting

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

Draft joint key messages and recommendations on technology and nationally determined contributions

Cover note

I. Background

1.   In response to decision 8/CMA.2, para. 3, at TEC21 and AB16 (November 2020) the TEC and the CTCN Advisory Board agreed on activities to be undertaken jointly in the period of 2021–2022 in two areas: i) technology and nationally determined contributions (NDCs), including the development of a joint publication on technology issues related to the NDCs; and ii) gender and technology. The two bodies subsequently reported on this matter in their joint annual report to the COP and CMA for 2020.[1]

2.   At a joint session of TEC22 and AB17 (April 2021), the TEC and the CTCN Advisory Board considered the draft outline of the joint publication and established a joint taskforce, comprising members from both bodies and representatives of observer organizations. During this joint session, a panel discussion[2] was held with national experts and relevant stakeholders sharing experiences and lessons learned with regard to climate technology actions set out in countries NDCs. Information relevant to the joint work discussed during this panel discussion was fed into the development of the joint publication.

3.   On the basis of this joint publication,[3] the joint taskforce prepared 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.

4.   At TEC 23, the TEC and the CTCN Advisory Board will meet in a joint session on 13 September 2021 to take stock of the progress of the joint activities by the TEC and the CTCN and consider the draft joint chapter of the joint annual report of the TEC and the CTCN for 2021.

5.   During the joint session, the joint taskforce, supported by the consultant and the secretariats, will be invited to present the draft key message and recommendations.

II. Scope of the note

6.   The annex to this note contains the draft joint key messages and recommendations to COP 26 and CMA 3 on technology and NDCs.

III. Expected action by the Technology Executive Committee

7.   The TEC and CTCN Advisory Board will be invited to consider and agree on the joint key messages and recommendations.

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[1] FCCC/SB/2020/4, para. 15 and annex I, available at https://unfccc.int/documents/267476.
[2] https://unfccc.int/ttclear/events/2021/2021_event02.
[3] Document TEC/2021/23/18, available at TEC23 meeting page: https://unfccc.int/ttclear/tec/meetings.html.

Annex

Draft joint key messages and recommendations on technology and nationally determined contributions

1.   On the basis of an analysis by the TEC and CTCN of technology issues related to NDCs carried out in 2021,[1] including an overview of technology issues in revised NDCs, technology needs and challenges, success stories and lessons learned, as well as linkages between policy and implementation and linkages with NAPs, the TEC and the CTCN highlight the following:

(a)   The vast majority of Parties mentioned technology in their revised NDCs. However, the structure and depth of information provided on technology aspects vary significantly. Most Parties included qualitative aspects in their technology references, while some Parties also included quantitative aspects, in some cases with detailed information on the required scope of technologies and estimated costs;

(b)   An analysis of linkages between policy and implementation in the context of technology issues and NDCs shows that strong interlinkages are needed for the effective uptake of climate technologies. In addition, fostering interlinkages between the NDC and NAP policy processes on technology issues can be of great mutual benefit for both processes, avoiding duplication of work and accelerating implementation;

(c)   There are a variety of examples from different regions and country contexts where the uptake of technologies directly supports the implementation of NDCs. Examples include government-, private sector-, and community-driven technology solutions and showcase different approaches for overcoming technical, financial, institutional and social challenges to the uptake of the technologies, including through innovative policies and business models as well as gender-responsive and effective stakeholder engagement approaches;

(d)   Lessons learned regarding the uptake of technologies include the importance of recognizing the crucial role that stakeholders play in technology planning and implementation to ensure that technology solutions are technically, economically, institutionally and socially viable;

(e)   Creating local champions that showcase the successful uptake of technology solutions can play an important role in securing the support needed for upscaling the technology domestically or in another country, if experiences are documented and made publicly available.

2.   The TEC and the CTCN recommend that the COP and CMA encourage Parties to stimulate the uptake of technologies in support of NDC implementation by:

(a)   Fostering inclusive, participatory and equitable processes and approaches for the uptake of climate technologies that take into account the needs, priorities, knowledge and capacities of all technology stakeholders, generate awareness of technology benefits and foster co-ownership. In particular, technology uptake needs to lead to a just transition that protects workers and communities, including indigenous peoples and women, and ensures a more socially-equitable distribution of benefits and risks;

(b)   Supporting market creation and expansion for prioritized technologies by putting in place enabling legal and regulatory environments and enhancing capacities of all technology stakeholders to benefit from those environments;

(c)   Creating success stories that demonstrate local economic and social benefits achieved through the uptake of environmentally-sound technologies and their contribution to NDC implementation with a view to leveraging broader financial, institutional and social support for replication and upscaling of those technologies;

(d)   Systematically documenting and disseminating information on pursued policies, schemes and programmes to foster the uptake of a technology, including information on challenges

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[1] Draft joint TEC-CTCN publication on technology and NDCs. See document TEC/2021/23/18. Available on the TEC23 meeting page at: https://unfccc.int/ttclear/tec/meetings.html.

and lessons learned, to inform future policies and prioritization of technologies, including for revised NDCs and NAPs;

(e)   Including more detailed information on technology in NDC, for example on technology needs and support, to foster a clearer understanding of policy targets by domestic technology stakeholders, facilitate international cooperation, and enable a more targeted provision of support by the TEC and the CTCN, according to their respective functions, and other support providers, as appropriate;

(f)   Making more use of the Technology Mechanism to carry out the above recommendations, including by utilizing technical documents and recommendations on climate technology policies prepared by the TEC, and in addition for developing country Parties, by actively engaging with the CTCN to benefit from its provision of technology solutions, capacity-building and advice on policy, legal and regulatory frameworks, and support for the development of technology roadmaps,[2] tailored to the needs of individual country contexts.

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[2] For example, technology roadmap could be used in technology action plans (TAPs) or accompany already prepared TAPs.