Agenda item 4.b.i

Draft policy brief on linkages between technology needs assessment process and nationally determined contributions process.

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- As per activity 1 of the thematic area Implementation of its updated workplan for 2019–2022 the TEC is to prepare a policy brief on linkages between technology needs assessment process and the nationally determined contribution process.

- This policy brief draws upon information contained in the paper on linkages between technology needs assessment process and the nationally determined contributions process. The paper was endorsed by the TEC after its 23rd meeting.

Why this TEC brief?

- The policy brief aims to:

  - Increase coherence between the implementation of national plans with national strategies to achieve climate resilient and low emission development;

  - Enhance understanding on linkages between TNAs and NDCs, and on how these could be further strengthened;

  - Propose options to establish linkages between TNAs and NDCs which lead to implementation; and

  - Assist the TEC in delivering relevant recommendations to Parties through the COP and CMA.

The scope of the policy brief:

- Development of TNA and NDC processes and their results;

- Comparative analysis of most recent TNAs and NDCs including gaps and challenges;

- Good practices and case studies;

- Options to strengthen the linkages to enhance implementation;

- Possible ways forward;

- Key messages.

Highlights of the policy brief:

- TNAs and their TAPs help to build capacity for gathering knowledge of climate technologies in developing countries, assessing what is realistic and feasible within the country contexts and determining how to implement prioritised technology solutions.

- Aligning this capacity with NDC processes could make NDCs more robust, which can be especially beneficial for LDCs and SIDS where most of the recent TNAs have been conducted.

- TNAs add 'bottom up technology realism' to a country's NDC national planning, such as through TAPs which help NDC planners to consider detailed implementation actions that have been checked and brokered with country stakeholders in terms of feasibility and affordability.

- A holistic approach could be discussed in countries that combines formulation of NDCs national targets with bottom-up assessments of technology options, including detailed implementation actions.

Highlights:

- On the updating previously conducted TNAs in support of NDCs 2 possible options have been noted in this paper:

Option A

- Setting up a TNA updating infrastructure similar to the Global TNA Project, to help countries to regularly update their TNA outputs for inclusion in NDCs. This would enable continued technology-related capacity building in developing countries. In this option, TNA updating would co-exist with NDC update processes;

Option B

- Integrating TNA updates within developing countries' NDC cycles. This could involve utilising tools from the TNA process for inclusion in an NDC, on priority technology choices within the country context, sector-level implementation conditions, cost data and potential funding opportunities. Possible examples of good practice of this option are countries that utilise funding from the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme to update their earlier TNA results.

Highlights:

- To support utilising the TNA NDC linkages, the TEC could consider the following activities:

    - If option A would be pursued, the TEC could provide guidance and good practice insights on the design of such an infrastructure as well as advice on funding opportunities for it.

    - Should option B be preferred by Parties, then the TEC could offer advice to Parties and, for example, the NDC Partnership, on how to use the vast knowledge base of TNAs in NDC development, and how to keep this knowledge up to date for future NDCs.

- In a survey, received by 70 TNA coordinators, two-third of the respondents have expressed a preference for option A. Regarding funding mechanisms for updating TNAs, answers from TNA coordinators were equally divided between GEF and GCF funding, with some of them suggesting funding from both mechanisms.

Key findings:

- TNA is a robust, proven planning tool for climate policies in developing countries. While TNAs seem to focus on technologies, its scope is broader, as it prioritises soft and hard technology solutions for mitigation and adaptation. These solutions are also relevant for developing country NDCs and NAPs.

- The latest NDCs and TNAs show that developing countries frequently connect work in both processes. In many of the latest TNA cases, NDCs are the starting point for analysis on technology needs for climate and development. This is further enhanced as in many countries the consultants and working groups are the same for TNA and NDC processes.

- The analysis shows that there is consistency between TNA and NDC processes in terms of setting national priorities and defining the sectoral scope. With a view to identifying solutions for mitigation and adaptation, TNAs and NDCs tend to become more diverse. One reason for this could be that NDCs and TNA, once started, apply different analytical methods for prioritising solutions and action plans. Another reason is that the latest TNAs often do not have completed reports yet, so that links between TNAs and NDCs are not yet visible in reports.

Key findings:

- The TNAs can make strong contributions to NDCs in developing countries, thereby holistically combining 'bottom-up technology realism' to national climate target setting. As the latest phases of the Global TNA Project focus mainly on LDCs and SIDS, it is most likely that the strongest TNA contribution to the NDC formulation can be identified in these countries.

- In addition, the policy brief has highlighted tools from the TNA process which developing countries can in general use in their NDC design and planning, such as tools for identification and overcoming of barriers, enabling actions, and TAP guidance, as well as stakeholder engagement.

- TNA offers multiple implementation experiences of adaptation and mitigation technologies, for which overcoming of existing barriers by effective enablers was necessary, as well as composing multisectoral expertise teams with experience in planning, financing, budgeting, and technology operation and maintenance. Such implementation experiences can be used for planning and implementing NDCs in developing countries.

Thank you!