

Enhanced action on technology development and transfer to support action on mitigation and adaptation (Agenda item 3 (d))

Informal note

The note is prepared by the facilitator of technology under the guidance of the AWG-LCA Chair. It presents a short summary of views expressed by Parties and the discussion that took place during the first informal meeting on technology development and transfer, with a view to facilitating further deliberation among Parties on this matter during the informal additional session of the AWG-LCA in Bangkok.

Background

The Chair has made available: i) information table providing an overview of the issue starting from the original mandate in the Bali Action Plan and moving through the progress that was achieved in Cancun and the further progress that was achieved in Durban and the further steps already taken or envisaged in the future; ii) an informal note as a facilitative tool to help the discussion and capture some of the exchanges that already took place in Bonn.

The COP, by its decision 1/CP.16, underlines the important of continued dialogue among Parties in 2011 through the AWGLCA, including on the following matters, with a view to taking a decision at COP17, in order to make the Technology Mechanism fully operational in 2012:

- (a) The relationship between the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), and their reporting lines;

Note: This matter has been partially defined in decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 142 and the initial modalities for linkage with other relevant thematic bodies proposed by the TEC in its report to SBs 36 (FCCC/SB/2012/1).

- (b) The governance structure of terms of reference for the CTCN and how the CTC will relate to the Network;

Note: See decision 2/CP.17, annex VII.

- (c) The procedure for calls for proposals and the criteria to be used to evaluate and select the host of the CTCN;

Note: See decision 2/CP.17, annex VIII.

- (d) The potential links between the Technology Mechanism and the financial mechanism;

- (e) Consideration of additional functions for the TEC and CTCN.

During continued dialogue among Parties on technology development and transfer, the issue of intellectual property right has been raised and there are different views among Parties on the need and/or ways to address this issue under the Convention process.

The discussion among Parties during the first informal meeting on technology matter on 30 August encompassed three outstanding aspects on the above items a, d and e.

Relationship between TEC and CTCN

- Some Parties recognized the need to further clarify the relationship between the TEC and the CTCN in order to ensure coherence and synergy among them.
- While some Parties suggest that further clarification on the relationship could be undertaken under the AWG-LCA, other Parties were of the view that this can be further discussed under the COP through the SBs in the context of the implementation of the workplan of the TEC and the Advisory Board of the CTCN once the CTCN starts to operate its functions as a part of the Technology Mechanism.

Additional Functions of the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network

- Parties concurred that the institutional arrangement under the Technology Mechanism is a dynamic process to tackle technology development and transfer issue.
- Some Parties pointed out that the CTCN is still under its formative phase and the TEC has just started and that it might be a bit too early to add any additional functions for the TEC and the CTCN at this stage.
- Parties converged on the need to define additional functions of the TEC and the CTCN and it is matter of timing for undertaking this consideration.
- Parties were of different views on the additional functions as contained in document CRP.39.

Linkages with the financial mechanism and other thematic bodies

- Parties highlighted the importance of having a clearly defined linkage between the Technology Mechanism and the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC including clear indications of the financial sources
- Parties recognized that the TEC has already suggested some initial ideas with regard to its linkage modalities with other relevant institutional arrangements under the Convention.
- In consideration of the constitution of the advisory board of the CTCN under SBI 36, there is a proposal to include a representative of the financial mechanism in the composition of this board. This has yet to be further discussed and agreed upon by Parties at SBI37 and approved by COP18.
- It was proposed that the AWG-LCA should consider all linkage issues as a whole to ensure coherence and consistency.

Intellectual property rights

- Parties recognized the role of IPRs in relation to enhancing the access to environmentally sound technologies and stimulating technology innovation required to enhance action on mitigation and adaptation to climate change.
- Parties also recognized that the issue of IPRs has been addressed in many other international fora such as WIPO and WTO TRIPS and some existing efforts have been made to specifically address climate technologies.

- It was proposed by some Parties that the UNFCCC process could draw upon the expertise and the work of relevant organizations such as WIPO to address the issue of IPRs that is specifically related to technologies to address climate change.
- In this context, reference is made to the current arrangement under the SBSTA on ways to seeking inputs from various relevant organization including IPCC, GCOS and GTOS, ICAO and IMO.

Outcome of the AWG-LCA on technology

- Parties were of different views on the need to have a decision under the AWGLCA on technology development and transfer at COP18.
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