SBSTA 42 in-session workshop on the development of early warning systems and contingency plans in relation to extreme weather events and its effects such as desertification, drought, floods, landslides, storm surge, soil erosion, and saline water intrusion.

2 June 2015, 15:00-18:00 (tbc)

Verbal Intervention by Mr. Jukka Uosukainen, Director of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN)

The Conference of the Parties created the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) as the operational arm of the Technology Mechanism. The COP, and the CTCN Advisory Board has mandated us to provide and broker (i) technical assistance; (ii) knowledge and (iii) networking services, with the goal of assisting developing countries address their greatest technology challenges, on a demand driven basis.

As Director of CTCN, I am proud to report that we are now actively delivering support within these three areas of service to developing countries, based on their requests. This support is focussed directly on helping developing countries overcome their critical challenges to developing, demonstration, diffusion and commercial maturity of locally appropriate technology solutions to address climate change adaptation and mitigation. Detailed information on CTCN's services and how to access them is uploaded on the website for this workshop.

With regards to the first CTCN service area of brokering technical assistance upon request from developing countries, this assistance is designed to be both state of the art and locally relevant, and delivered by CTCN's Technical Resource Pool or growing Global Network of service providers. Of the dozens of requests and responses that CTCN is currently receiving and increasingly implementing, a growing number are focussed directly on early warning systems and contingency plans in relation to extreme weather events and its effects. I would like to mention just two of these examples.

First, the Dominican Republic has requested support from CTCN in designing a "Community based early Warning System in every pocket" of their capital city, Santo Domingo. CTCN is designing this technical assistance, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Dominican Institute for Integral Development, with support from GIZ. This technical assistance includes the development of new information technologies to strengthen the quality and timeliness of the early warning messages to the population of Santo Domingo. Together with the government of Dominican Republic, we are aiming for this technical assistance to result in substantial investment, including

by private sector companies, to help save lives and property of residents, as well as valuable urban infrastructure.

As a further example, the government of Namibia has requested technical assistance from CTCN to identify appropriate, cost effective contingency plans to adapt to increased frequency and intensity of droughts and desertification. Traditional and modern state of the art technologies are being explored and advanced.

We are ready to support more requests from developing countries, in these focus areas and others. It is important to highlight 3 elements about CTCN's technical assistance services:

1. First and foremost, we operate on demand of developing countries. There is a simple form on our website to request support that can be submitted in any UN language.
2. Secondly, CTCN provides relatively quick and modest scale technical assistance support. From the moment we receive a request, we can be implementing a response within weeks. But the scale of our technical assistance is much smaller than the financing support provided through the UNFCCC Financing Mechanism.
3. Finally, CTCN technical assistance is provided by members of our consortium and network, many of which are based in developing countries. A growing number of CTCN service providers are focussed on early warning systems and contingency planning. There is a simple application form to become part of our global network, available on our website.

I am delighted to reiterate that CTCN is actively responding to requests from developing countries to help address their greatest technology barriers to addressing climate change, through technology development, deployment and financial maturity. We are doing this in numerous sectors, including early warning and agricultural resilience, and we stand by ready and eager to do so more in the months and years ahead.