



Note by the High-level Champions Open-ended discussion on the Technical Examination Processes

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Introduction

In Paris the Champions were mandated to guide the secretariat in organising technical examination meetings, and Parties now have requested the Champions to exercise this mandate. This note presents in an open and transparent manner the concerns which have been expressed to date and outlines some options that Parties may wish to consider in further discussing this issue.

Status and concerns expressed by Parties

Parties consider that the Paris decision provides all of the required elements for effective technical examination processes (TEPs) to be organized by the relevant bodies of the UNFCCC. However, during consultations undertaken by the High-level Champions on their reflections on the way forward, Parties have expressed concerns that the execution of the technical examination processes (TEPs) established by the COP should be improved.

Parties have consistently expressed the view that the technical process is a key tool to assist with the delivery of more climate action.

Parties have expressed the view that an improved technical processes should feature as part of a coherent framework to strengthen climate action. Improvements that Parties have identified include:

- A structured approach based on well-defined themes with clearer priorities and objectives;
- Ensuring that the events can be attended by those involved directly in implementation;
- Facilitating the incorporation of the outcomes into the work of the relevant UNFCCC institutions;
- Reducing the overlap between formal negotiation activities and activities related to action and implementation in order to facilitate the active participation of Parties;
- Providing Ministers with a clear set of policy recommendations for discussion during the COP; and
- Placing equal attention on adaptation and mitigation outcomes.

In regard to technical examination meetings, Parties consider these as only one part of an ongoing process to enhance implementation from 2017-2020. This process should support continuous interaction between Parties and non-Party stakeholders, and help those implementing policies to benefit from collaboration, access resources, and breakthrough barriers that prevent scaled up action.

Options for the way forward

As a basis for discussion, the following options could be considered to improve the TEPs.

Since Parties have emphasised the need for coherence, it may be appropriate to take a step-wise approach throughout each year, culminating in a high level engagement during the COP.

Starting from COP 22, the outcomes of all climate action events will identify specific priorities, proposals and actions that need to be addressed to scale up climate action. These would be advanced in the TEPs in the year ahead.

In this context, options for improvement could include:

- The TEPs should run as a continuous process to capture progress achieved, best practice and policy recommendations.
- Global climate action activities could be organised as regional and/or global meetings on a thematic basis outside of the formal sessions of the UNFCCC to enable multi-stakeholder dialogues and foster connections between those engaged in implementation.
- These meetings would be held in conjunction with existing events wherever possible, with a coherent calendar of activities available on the UNFCCC website to facilitate planning and engagement by all stakeholders.
- Technical expert meetings held during the intersessional meetings of the UNFCCC would be focused on international cooperation and dialogue among Parties and non-Party stakeholders.
- The Champions, supported by the secretariat and relevant international and regional organisations, could work throughout the year following each COP with interested Parties and key stakeholders to remove barriers, scale up support and strengthen cooperation on implementation.
- The outcomes of global and regional meetings could be reported to the COP
- Global climate action activities within the formal UNFCCC sessions would be used to showcase progress achieved and to enable meaningful high-level dialogue and engagement on scaling up implementation; preparation for the activities would draw upon inter-sessional events.
- The SBSTA/SBI could focus on developing clear guidance for the constituted bodies under the Convention, informed by the outcomes of the TEPs.
- The Champions could make further recommendations as appropriate, through the Summary for Policy Makers, which should provide clear policy options for consideration by Ministers at the COP.

Next steps

The High-Level Champions wish to invite all Parties to an open-ended discussion on Monday 14 November at 13.00 in Meeting Room 5.

Based on the input and suggestions received in those discussions the High-Level Champions will include specific suggestions for enhancing the organization of the process which can be taken forward in 2017 by the relevant organizations and institutions.