

Executive Summary

Accelerating climate action in developing countries requires more than innovation alone. It demands trusted institutions, sustained partnerships, and delivery mechanisms that translate national priorities into deployable, finance-ready solutions. Since 2013, the Climate Technology Centre (the Centre), hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), has been the core of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) in serving as the implementation arm of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Technology Mechanism. The establishment of the Centre by UNEP was originally supported by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) together with a consortium of partner institutions, reflecting a collaborative foundation that UNEP has since built upon through the Climate Technology Network and a strengthened hosting role.

For 13 years of UNEP hosting, we have been proud to contribute to the CTCN's mission to work side by side with developing countries and Network partners to overcome persistent barriers to climate technology development and transfer. Through responsive technical assistance, capacity-building, and partnership facilitation, the CTCN has helped countries move from planning to action—linking technology priorities with policy reform, institutional strengthening, access to finance, and deployment. UNEP now submits this proposal to continue hosting the Centre, building on proven performance while advancing a next-generation delivery model aligned with the revised and expanded functions agreed on by UNFCCC Parties at COP30.

Proven Delivery and Institutional Stewardship

Our hosting of the Centre has delivered measurable, sustained results at global scale. We have supported the CTCN in providing technical assistance to 115 developing countries, responding to over 450 requests from Nationally Designated Entities (NDEs) across all regions. CTCN interventions have helped countries to strengthen enabling environments, pilot and deploy technologies, prepare investment-ready outputs, and advance implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans, and Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs) across a wide range of mitigation and adaptation sectors including agriculture, circularity, coastal zones, early warning, energy, forestry, industry, transport, urban systems, waste, and water.

The Centre has also demonstrated the ability to deliver multi-country and programmatic technical assistance, as well as piloting and scaling innovative delivery approaches, including pro bono technical assistance and new financing partnerships—such as Adaptation Fund-backed innovation programmes worth USD 15 million—demonstrating flexibility in testing, adapting, and scaling solutions that respond directly to country needs.

UNEP has assisted the Centre in building and mobilizing a global Climate Technology Network of nearly 1,000 institutions, spanning the private sector, research institutions, civil society, and specialized gender and social inclusion organizations. This Network is central to the Centre's ability to rapidly match country demand with world-class expertise while fostering North–South, South–South, and triangular cooperation.

The Centre has built well-established, trusted relationships with NDEs and relevant ministries, and is consistently recognized by countries for its accessibility. We have also facilitated the delivery of logistical and technical support to NDEs, enabling them to fulfil their mandate through regional forums, capacity-building activities, and targeted follow-up support.

A strong portfolio of knowledge-sharing and capacity-building services has also been developed, translating country experience into practical tools, guidance, and peer learning opportunities that cultivate endogenous capacities and advance national systems of innovation.

Inclusivity has been embedded throughout CTCN delivery. Under UNEP hosting, the Centre established its Gender Policy and Action Plan, developed a gender expert roster, and launched initiatives such as the Gender-Just Climate Solutions capacity development programme (co-led with

the UNFCCC Women and Gender Constituency), Youth Climate Innovation programmes, and curated Indigenous knowledge resources. These efforts have helped ensure that climate technologies respond to the needs and empowerment of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities, strengthening both equity and effectiveness of solutions.

Our experience hosting Multilateral Environmental Agreement secretariats—including the Ozone Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity – has enabled us to support the Centre to contribute to the effective functioning of the Technology Mechanism and to operate in close alignment with evolving guidance of UNFCCC Parties. UNEP has supported the CTCN in collaborating with its sister body, the Technology Executive Committee (TEC), on joint workplans, reporting, policy coherence, and the translation of TEC policy guidance into operational support at country level. We have also fostered constructive working relationships between the CTCN and other UNFCCC bodies, arrangements, and constituency groups.

Hosting the Climate Technology Centre has indeed signified far more than providing administrative arrangements. It reflects a fully integrated institutional relationship: the Centre’s staff are UNEP personnel, its services are delivered through UNEP systems, and its operational advice is provided by UNEP leadership. Through this integrated framework, a conducive enabling environment has been established for the CTCN to grow and thrive – as a lean and accountable delivery platform that maintains high standards of integrity and transparency, be responsive to independent evaluations, and continuously adapts its services in line with evolving COP guidance.

Over the hosting period, UNEP has also strengthened its own institutional capacity to deliver climate action at scale, expanding its role at the interface of policy, finance, and implementation. We have developed strong working relationships with the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, serving as implementing entities of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and the Adaptation Fund, and expanding our climate portfolio across a wide range of sectors.

We have also advanced UNEP’s innovative financing approaches, including blended finance and catalytic instruments, to mobilize both public and private capital in support of climate priorities. Organizationally, we have reinforced our climate delivery architecture, with the CTCN now situated within and supported by our Climate Change Division, strengthening the Centre’s access to technical depth, operational backstopping, and strategic alignment.

As part of our work with the CTCN, UNEP has also naturally faced challenges. In these instances, we have listened to Advisory Board guidance, COP direction, and independent evaluations and striven to address the challenges in close collaboration with the CTCN Advisory Board and partners to help the CTCN evolve both operationally and programmatically.

Our Vision for Supporting the CTCN in the Next Hosting Period

UNEP envisions a Climate Technology Centre and Network that functions as the world’s leading, country-driven, international cooperation platform for accelerating the development, deployment, and financing of climate technologies at scale. In this vision, UNEP will support the CTCN to serve as a catalytic global hub—aligning policy, capacity, innovation, partnerships, and finance to transform climate ambition into durable, system-level impact in developing countries. It enables the scaling of solutions by bridging innovation and investment, strengthening national institutions, and empowering NDEs to lead coordinated, sustained climate technology action. Through strategic integration and global collaboration, the CTCN advances equitable access to technology and supports countries in delivering resilient, low-emission development pathways.

Anchored within UNEP’s Climate Change Division and supported by the organization’s global reach, technical depth, and fiduciary strength, we aspire to position the CTCN as a trusted catalyst for inclusive, innovative, and investable climate solutions. In doing so, we will endeavour to ensure that the CTCN not only responds effectively to evolving COP guidance but also shapes the future of climate technology cooperation by connecting national priorities with global expertise, finance, and action.

A Next-Generation CTCN Delivery Model

UNEP's approach to hosting the Centre in the next term is grounded in the continuity of the current operation together with purposeful evolution. The CTCN is already implementing the revised functions to varying degrees—including programmatic and multi-country approaches, development of investment-ready concept notes, and facilitation of linkages with funding entities and multilateral development banks. If selected to continue hosting the Climate Technology Centre, UNEP will ensure that all of these existing elements will continue to be implemented.

Moreover, UNEP proposes an additional, next-generation CTCN delivery model to more thoroughly align with expanded COP guidance and evolving country needs. The Centre will systematically embed financing considerations from the outset and link innovation, partnerships, and investment pathways. Structured mechanisms will align country-driven outputs with public and private finance, strengthening implementation and enabling scale. Guided by the Belém Technology Implementation Programme (TIP), this approach will enhance coherence between the Technology Mechanism, Financial Mechanism, and the Adaptation Fund, and strengthen collaboration with funding entities, positioning the CTCN to better translate technology priorities into sustained action and measurable results. Key elements of this approach include:

From Technical Assistance to Technology Deployment

UNEP's accredited status and significant experience with GEF, GCF, and Adaptation Fund project development enable the CTCN to serve as an upstream pipeline for scaled investment. Outputs from technical assistance—feasibility studies, regulatory frameworks, and roadmaps—will be intentionally aligned with UNEP-managed funding portfolios and private-sector initiatives to support developing countries in strengthening project quality and increase access to climate finance for climate technology deployment. Initial CTCN successes in linking technical assistance with follow-on financing—such as Adaptation Fund concept notes developed under AFCIA—will also be consolidated and scaled.

Expanded Matchmaking and Brokerage

Responding to Parties' guidance, we will support the Centre to enhance its convening role through structured matchmaking among NDEs, Network members, private sector actors, and financiers. This includes a new Climate Technology Network Engagement Strategy, regional Network Fairs, private-sector brokerage events, and Belem Technology Implementation Programme-aligned matchmaking sessions that support continuity from technology identification to implementation.

A Climate Innovation Guarantee Facility

To address persistent financing barriers faced by climate technologies and enterprises in developing countries, and building on UNEP's similar successful efforts, we propose the creation of a CTCN Climate Innovation Guarantee Facility to de-risk investments and leverage private capital in order to mobilize finance at scale to deploy climate technologies while strengthening national innovation ecosystems.

A Coordination Platform with Funding Entities

UNEP will support the establishment of a dedicated coordination platform between the CTCN and multilateral climate finance institutions to improve alignment between TNAs, technical assistance, innovation pipelines, and financing instruments—strengthening coherence and continuity from technology planning to large-scale investment.

Strengthened Support for National Innovation and Indigenous Technologies

We will support the Centre to expand support for national systems of innovation, endogenous technologies, and locally led solutions, including women- and youth-led enterprises, Indigenous knowledge holders, and small and medium sized enterprises, working closely with national institutions and relevant UNFCCC platforms.

UNEP's overall approach will be supported by a clear organizational structure and accountability framework that maintains strong governance, transparency, and responsiveness to Parties.

Budget, Financial, and In-Kind Support

For the five-year operation period, the total budget is estimated at USD 106.2 million. The proposed budget incorporates the costs for implementing revised functions and is designed to be ambitious yet cost-effective, innovative and grounded in current realities. UNEP will provide financial support in the amount of USD 3.48 million, including a UNEP contribution as well as funds secured from the Adaptation Fund for implementing AFCIA II and coordinating services for AFCIA entities. We will also provide in-kind contributions valued at USD 1.33 million, reflecting UNEP services and a prospective contribution from the Government of Denmark for office space and common services at UN City Copenhagen, should the CTCN remain headquartered there.

Diversified and Strategic Resource Mobilization

Since it signed the hosting memorandum of understanding with the UNFCCC in 2013, UNEP has supported the CTCN in mobilising USD 117.26 million, ensuring financial stability and uninterrupted delivery of Advisory Board-approved programmes of work. This funding enabled the CTCN to operate as an effective, agile, and accountable delivery platform.

In the next hosting period, UNEP will support the CTCN in implementing a diversified and forward-looking resource mobilization strategy aligned with the timelines of the new Programme of Work. This approach will sustain and expand engagement with donor Parties by seeking multi-year and flexible contributions, while broadening the funding base to include philanthropic foundations, structured private sector partnerships, pro bono and in-kind technical contributions, and strengthened collaboration with multilateral development banks to move from technical assistance to scaled investment.

Through structured matchmaking, pipeline development, and programmatic multi-country approaches, the CTCN will align country-driven outputs with public and private finance. All contributions will be managed through UNEP's UN-compliant governance and fiduciary systems, with annual Advisory Board review to ensure transparency, accountability, and adaptive management in a changing financial landscape.

Continuity, Credibility, and People

UNEP's hosting of the Centre has enabled the CTCN to become accessible to countries, trusted by partners, inclusive in its approach, and capable of evolving to meet new mandates. The Centre combines global reach with country-level responsiveness, technical depth with innovation, and policy coherence with practical implementation—positioning it to deliver greater impact at scale in its next phase.

The CTCN's success is inseparable from the experienced and dedicated professionals who deliver its services every day. Under UNEP hosting, the Centre operates with a stable, cohesive team that has built trusted relationships with NDEs, partners, and donors across regions. Continuity of hosting will allow these teams to continue providing uninterrupted support to developing countries.

We at UNEP have been honoured to be entrusted with hosting and forging the CTCN into what it has become today, and we stand ready – humbly and with continued commitment – to support its next phase in enabling developing countries to move more rapidly from technology identification to sustained deployment and investment at scale.