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Thematic dialogue

Boosting climate technology incubators and accelerators in developing countries

Lead organizer:	Technology Executive Committee
Co-organizers:	Green Climate Fund and Climate Technology Centre and Network
Date:	14 March 2018
Venue:	UN Campus, Bonn, Germany
Context:	

Technological innovation is a critical accelerator of national efforts to address climate change. It is key to achieving the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. Historically, small- and medium-size enterprises have played an important role in technological innovation, often leading to the introduction of paradigm-shifting technologies and changes in the way we live. However, small firms and new technologies often face challenges in maturing to a point where they survive and have positive social, environmental and economic impact. These challenges are often exacerbated in developing countries.

Incubators and accelerators play an important role in a country's national system of innovation by providing vital life support to small firms and entrepreneurs. These initiatives support entrepreneurs in the start-up and early development stage of technology ideas, helping them develop the technology to greater maturity. They thus play an important role in supporting new low-carbon and climate-resilient technologies to be used and accepted by society.

Since their inception, the two bodies of the Technology Mechanism, the Technology Executive Committee (the policy arm) and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (the implementation arm) have undertaken work on innovation and research, development and demonstration. Their efforts have intensified since the adoption of the Paris Agreement. The Green Climate Fund is also working on related issues with a view to exploring how to unlock financing for innovation and collaborative research and development in developing countries. These three institutions work together on these issues, that cut across both financing and technology efforts to address climate change. The dialogue will help to inform the secretariat of the Green Climate Fund as it develops a request for proposals on climate technology incubators and accelerators for consideration by the Green Climate Fund Board.

Objectives:

The dialogue aims to:

- Identify the role that climate technology incubators and accelerators play in supporting countries to achieve the Paris Agreement;
- Identify how to enhance the impact of such incubators and accelerators, by considering success stories, good practices and lessons learned in their implementation around the world;
- Identify opportunities for unlocking financing for climate technology incubators and accelerators in developing countries, and for enhancing the impact of related investment, including possible support from the Green Climate Fund for such activities.



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Draft agenda

09:00 – 09:20	<p>Opening and rationale</p> <p>Ms. Claudia Octaviano Villasana, Chair, Technology Executive Committee Ms. Carolina Fuentes, Head of Governance Affairs, Green Climate Fund Mr. Jukka Uosukainen, Director, Climate Technology Centre and Network</p> <p><i>Moderator: Ms. Wanna Tanunчайwatana, United Nations Climate Change Secretariat</i></p>
09:20 – 09:50	<p>Session I: Climate technology incubators and accelerators for enhancing innovation</p> <p><i>This session describes the role that climate technology incubators and accelerators play in a country's innovation ecosystem. It also provides an overview of climate technology incubators and accelerators around the world for both adaptation and mitigation.</i></p> <p>Mr. Wim Naudé, Professor of Development Economics and Entrepreneurship, Maastricht University (15 minutes)</p> <p><i>Moderator: Ms. Claudia Octaviano Villasana, Chair, Technology Executive Committee</i> <i>Format: Presentation followed by questions and answers with all participants</i></p>
09:50 – 9:55	<p>Video: “Greentown Labs: the largest cleantech startup incubator in the U.S.”</p>
09:55 – 11:10	<p>Session II: Experiences on the ground</p> <p><i>This session highlights climate technology incubator and accelerator success stories in different regions. It explores their impact and challenges they have overcome. It also highlights how such success stories cover multiple sustainable development goals.</i></p> <p><u>Scaling up climate innovation in India</u> Mr. Harish Hande, Entrepreneur and Founder of SELCO India (5 minutes)</p> <p><u>Enhancing climate innovation and entrepreneurship in Ghana</u> Ms. Rukayatu Sanusi, Executive Director, Ghana Climate Innovation Center (5 minutes)</p> <p><u>Accelerating climate innovation in Europe</u> Ms. Andrea Karpati, Head of Policy, Climate-KIC (5 minutes)</p> <p><u>Innovación Chile and climate technology incubators</u> Mr. Fernando Hentzschel, Director of Technology Development, Corporación de Fomento de la Producción, Chile (5 minutes)</p> <p><u>Supporting cleantech incubators and accelerators in Asia</u> Mr. Daniel Hersson, Cleantech Venture Capital Expert, Asian Development Bank (5 minutes)</p> <p><i>Moderator: Mr. Ambuj Sagar, Climate Technology Centre and Network Advisory Board</i> <i>Format: Short presentations and panel discussion followed by discussion among all participants</i></p>
11:10 – 11:20	<p>Coffee break</p>
11:20 – 11:25	<p>Video: “Cool farming: growing plants in Africa without soil”</p>



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11:25 – 12:30	<p>Session III: Accelerating investment in climate technology incubators and accelerators</p> <p><i>This session highlights opportunities for unlocking financing for climate technology incubators and accelerators in developing countries. It also highlights how investment can have the most impact in enhancing such innovation efforts. Furthermore, it considers possible ways that the Green Climate Fund could support such efforts.</i></p> <p><u>National policies for stimulating investment in entrepreneurship</u> Mr. Kitipong Promwong, Secretary General, National Science Technology and Innovation Policy Office, Thailand (5 minutes)</p> <p><u>Financing the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme</u> Mr. Alois Posekufa Mhlanga, Industrial Development Officer, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (5 minutes)</p> <p><u>Investing in climate innovation centres</u> Mr. Jean-Louis Racine, Lead, InfoDev Climate Technology Program, World Bank Group (5 minutes)</p> <p><u>Financing start-ups for climate change adaptation</u> Mr. Christoph Jungfleisch, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder, YAPU Solutions (5 minutes)</p> <p><i>Moderator: Ms. Carolina Fuentes, Green Climate Fund</i> <i>Short presentations and panel discussion followed by discussion among all participants.</i></p>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 14:30	<p>Session III: Accelerating investment in climate technology incubators and accelerators (cont.)</p> <p><u>Breakout groups</u> <i>Participants gather in small groups to consider questions on how to accelerate investment for and the impact of climate technology incubators and accelerators for achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.</i></p>
14:30 – 15:15	<p>Session III: Accelerating investment in climate technology incubators and accelerators (cont.)</p> <p><u>Breakout groups report back</u> <i>The breakout groups report back to plenary. Drawing on these reports, a final panel engages in an open discussion with all participants to identify ways to accelerate investment for climate technology incubators and accelerators in developing countries.</i></p> <p><u>Panel</u> Ms. Claudia Octaviano Villasana, Chair, Technology Executive Committee Mr. Jukka Uosukainen, Director, Climate Technology Centre and Network Ms. Carolina Fuentes, Head of Governance Affairs, Green Climate Fund</p> <p><i>Moderator: Mr. Robby Berloznik, Technology Executive Committee</i></p>
15:15 – 15:30	<p>Closing</p> <p>Ms. Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary, United Nations Climate Change Secretariat</p>