

## Thirteenth meeting of the Technology Executive Committee

United Nations Campus (AHH building), Bonn, Germany  
6–9 September 2016

### Background note

## Highlights of the technical expert meetings on mitigation and the technical expert meetings on adaptation held in May 2016

### I. Introduction

#### A. Background

1. The twenty-first Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Conventions on Climate Change (COP21) adopted decision 1/CP.21, in which paragraph 109 stipulates that Parties resolved to strengthen the existing technical examination process (TEP) on mitigation as defined in decision 1/CP.19 and decision 1/CP.20. The COP also decided that this process should take place on an on-going basis until 2020. Further, by the same decision in paragraph 124, the COP decided to launch a technical examination process on adaptation in the period 2016–2020.
2. One key feature of the TEP is the organisation of regular technical expert meetings (TEM) focusing on specific policies, practices and actions in the areas of mitigation and adaptation.
3. Two Mitigation TEMs and two Adaptation TEMs were organised by the secretariat as part of mandated events at the Bonn Climate Change Conference in May 2016.

#### B. Scope of the note

4. This background notes presents the highlights of these TEMs. It is prepared by the secretariat as part of regular update on meetings relevant to the work of the TEC.

#### C. Expected action by the Technology Executive Committee

5. The TEC will be invited to take note of the information provided.

### II. Technical expert meetings on mitigation

6. The purpose of TEMs on mitigation is to facilitate the identification of policy options, practices and technologies with high mitigation potential. The meetings bring together experts from national and subnational governments, private sector, financial institutions, leading international organizations and other stakeholders to examine in-depth opportunities to promote the implementation and increase in support for climate action. Further information including the agenda and summaries of these TEMs are available on the UNFCCC website.<sup>1</sup>
7. The first TEM on mitigation was held on 20 May 2016 on Social and Economic Value of Carbon, specifically focusing on the topic “Concrete tools based on a reference value of carbon to inform investment decisions, re-evaluate risks and incentivize early action.”

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<sup>1</sup> <<http://climateaction2020.unfccc.int/tep/technical-expert-meetings/>>.



8. In this TEM participants explored policy options that could be effectively implemented and replicated in the period up to 2020 and discussed options for which matching support could be provided to enable developing countries action. Topics discussed include: (1) the internalization of co-benefits for adaptation, health and sustainable development, information of investment decisions and re-evaluation of risks by using a reference value of carbon, and (2) economic instruments relating to the social and economic value of carbon.
9. The TEC, represented by its Vice Chair, made an intervention in the session “Ways to turn potential into action” discussing the next step in the technical examination process on mitigation. He mentioned that although TEC has not worked on social value of carbon directly, but the TEC rolling workplan contains some areas that are relevant. He provided an overview of its activities dedicated to catalysing support, and facilitating and promoting technology cooperation and partnerships in order to scale up mitigation actions. In addition, it shared the possible practical ways in moving forward in the TEMs, including: (1) organizing an event dedicated to addressing support issues as part of the Climate Action Fair; and (2) presenting the outcomes of the technical examination process at the regional level.
10. The second TEM on mitigation was held on 23 May 2016 on the topic “*Shifting to More Efficient Public Transport and Increasing Energy Efficiency of Vehicles*”.
11. In this TEM participants discussed the low-carbon transportation policies, technologies and opportunities that offer significant mitigation potential while also enhancing economic development, providing connectivity and reducing economic, environmental and social costs. It will also present critical actions advancing adaptation or enhancing the resilience of transport infrastructure and services.
12. The TEC, represented by its Chair, made an intervention in the session “Next steps in turning potential into action on the ground”. She provided an overview of the TNAs that included transport. Of more than 90 TNAs submitted, 41 per cent included transport where the prioritized technologies were fuel switch and modal shift. She also noted the links between the TNA, TAP, technology road mapping process to transport sector. She highlighted that consideration should be given to combination of different modes of transport and involve national, local governments as well as the private sector in the planning stage. In the ensuing discussion, the TEC Chair also pointed an area for improvement in the technology road mapping, namely, the need for clarity of the roles of all stakeholders involved to ensure ownerships.
13. In addition to the two TEMs on mitigation, the TEC Chair also participated in the *TEM follow up dialogues: Renewable Energy Supply*. The dialogue provided opportunity for the partner organizations of the UNFCCC working in this area, as well as other stakeholders that participated in the TEMs in June 2015 to provide information on the recent developments of their post-Paris agendas and follow-up activities and initiatives since the TEMs last year. The TEC Chair shared the outcome of TEC’s work in 2015 (**TEC Brief on Facilitating Technology Deployment in Distributed Renewable Electricity Generation**) and its key messages to COP21 in this area.

### III. Technical expert meetings on adaptation

14. The technical examination process on adaptation was established at COP 21 as part of the enhanced action prior to 2020 in the decision adopting the Paris Agreement. The TEP on adaptation seeks to identify concrete opportunities for strengthening resilience, reducing vulnerabilities, and increasing the understanding and implementation of adaptation actions. The process is organized by the SBSTA and SBI and conducted by the Adaptation Committee (AC).
15. The first TEM on adaptation was held on 24 May 2016 on “*Enhancing the implementation of adaptation action.*”<sup>2</sup>
16. In this TEM participants shared their knowledge on the gaps and needs identified as barriers to the implementation of adaptation action, examined existing and emerging means of implementation and

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<sup>2</sup> <[http://unfccc.int/focus/adaptation/technical\\_expert\\_meeting/items/9537.php](http://unfccc.int/focus/adaptation/technical_expert_meeting/items/9537.php)>.

decision-making support, and sought to a set of opportunities for accelerating implementation of adaptation action, including replicable good practices, support, and partnerships.

17. Although there was no specific intervention requested from the TEC, several TEC members participated in this event. One break-out groups discussed a topic on: Providing financial, technology and capacity-building support. The outcomes from this break-out group discussion that may be of relevant to the work of the TEC include: i) addressing the needs in terms of finance, technology and capacity of the most vulnerable population and communities and making use of synergies among the various instruments such as TNAs, NAPs, remain key challenges of many developing countries; ii) although institutions such as the GEF, the AF, the TEC/the CTCN have been established further efforts might be needed.
18. The second TEM on adaptation was held on 25 May 2016 on "*Effective policy frameworks and institutional arrangements for adaptation planning and implementation*" <sup>3</sup>
19. In this TEM participants discussed gaps and needs identified as barriers to effective policy frameworks and institutional arrangements for adaptation planning and implementation, examined existing and emerging trends for effective governance and monitoring and evaluation, and sought to identify opportunities for enhancing effective policy frameworks and institutional arrangements for adaptation planning and implementation.

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<sup>3</sup> <[http://unfccc.int/focus/adaptation/technical\\_expert\\_meeting/items/9537.php](http://unfccc.int/focus/adaptation/technical_expert_meeting/items/9537.php)>.