

Thirteenth meeting of the Technology Executive Committee

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

Background note

Further work on South-South cooperation on technologies for adaptation

A report by TEC taskforce on adaptation

I. Background

A. Mandate

1. At TEC 12 (April 2016) the TEC held a thematic dialogue on enablers and barriers to South-South cooperation (SSC) on technologies for adaptation. The thematic dialogue is a continuation of the work of the TEC in the area of technologies for adaptation that the TEC has undertaken since 2014, which included a workshop on "Technologies for Adaptation" and the development of two policy briefs (TEC Briefs) on technologies for adaptation in the water sector and in the agriculture sector. The report of the dialogue, covering the proceedings of the event, a summary of the presentations and ensuing discussions as well as the work and outcomes of break-out groups are available in TT:CLEAR.¹

2. The TEC through its rolling workplan for 2016-2018,² in particular as referred to by activities 13, and 22, agreed to undertake further work on South-South cooperation on technologies for adaptation and mandated the taskforce on adaptation to undertake these activities. These are:

(a) Activity 13: Further work on SSC and Triangular cooperation (TrC) on technologies for adaptation, including through the establishment of an ad-hoc expert panel if appropriate, to provide the TEC with expert advice on how to advance SSC and TrC on technologies for adaptation and/or mitigation;

(b) Activity 22: Together with the CTCN, explore opportunities for collaborating with UNOSSC and/or other non-Party stakeholders, including private sector, to further promote SSC and TrC.

B. Approach

3. As the two activities fall under Workstream 2 and Workstream 3 of the rolling workplan, the taskforce will ensure that outputs of these activities are coherent and aiming towards the strategic outcomes that are intended to, i.e. in supporting, facilitating, and promoting technology cooperation and partnership to scale up implementation of actions, and working in collaboration with the CTCN to promote coherence and synergy within the Technology Mechanism.

4. Further, the taskforce will take into consideration the issue of the development and enhancement of endogenous capacities and technologies while undertaking its tasks.

¹ <http://unfccc.int/ttclear/templates/render cms_page?s=TEC_TD6>.

² The rolling workplan of the TEC for 2016-2018 is available on the TEC home page at: <http://unfccc.int/ttclear/pages/tec_home.html>.



II. Work undertaken in 2016

A. Compilation of various recommendation for TEC & CTCN

5. A number of recommendations for actions have come up through the background paper of thematic dialogue, discussion in the thematic dialogue, and further deliberations by the TEC at TEC12. They have been compiled and synthesised to assist in the TEC consideration in undertaking further work on SSC on technologies for adaptation.

6. The background paper was commissioned by the taskforce in late 2015 to provide the context to the discussion of the thematic dialogue and highlight findings on enablers and barriers to the SSC/TrC based on real case studies, surveys and interviews, and findings from technology needs assessments (TNAs). The paper contains rich information, analysis of findings, identification of relevant issues, and recommendations of actions by various actors for promoting and enhancing SSC. A summary of the recommendations for actions by the TEC and CTCN in various context are contained in Table 1.

Table 1. Recommendations for various actions by the TEC & CTCN to enhance SSC

Issues	Recommendation	Action
Few integrated approaches to water food-climate. Limited awareness of what and where hard, soft and orgware technologies for adaptation from the South are located. Lack of an enabling environment for institutions and experts from the South to share information and knowledge.	<p>A. Create a policy space and network to promote SSC in technologies for adaptation.</p> <p>B. Facilitate the creation of partnerships at local, national, regional levels</p>	<p>1. TEC: Include SSC as a topic for discussion in the annual meeting, and thematic dialogues and other regular events to regularly assess the state of SSC, review progress and identify areas for enhanced support.</p> <p>2. TEC: Establish a Panel composed of SSC experts and practitioners in the area of climate change adaptation, including through advocacy with internal and external partners.</p> <p>3. TEC: Encourage Parties and organizations to share information on SSC on technologies for adaptation</p> <p>4. CTCN: Explore the potential for Arab States, Eastern Europe, etc. by identifying centers of excellence and engaging them in its network.</p> <p>5. CTCN: Review membership to balance regional participation and include a mix of (non-)/ governmental organizations.</p>
Low visibility of SSC initiatives in technologies for adaptation.	<p>C. Increase visibility of existing successful technologies and networks from the South.</p> <p>D. Develop an online knowledge repository and exchange platform to identify and match the demand with the supply of SSC in technologies for adaptation.</p>	<p>6. TEC: Recommend the creation of a SSC marker to identify SSC projects or when a technology from another developing country has been used.</p> <p>7. TEC: Facilitate a global initiative to map technologies and systematize exchange among developing countries, in partnership with research, academia and governments.</p> <p>8. CTCN: consider developing a registry with all relevant information on SSC in technologies for adaptation to be hosted on the CTCN website (“one stop shop”), including case studies and lessons learned for future program design.</p>

Need to enhance bilateral funds and global trust funds support to SSC in up-scaling technologies for adaptation. Need to develop private sector engagement.	E. Assist Parties access and make better use of funding mechanisms.	<p>9. TEC: Propose a review of operational procedures of the GCF and the GEF to ensure these mechanisms can best support SSC in technologies for adaptation.</p> <p>10. TEC: Consider recommending specific allocations for SSC in technologies for adaptation.</p> <p>11. TEC: Recommend for a mapping of commitments, mechanisms, and barriers to assess, disburse and use this funding.</p>
Capacity gaps to manage and participate in SSC (human, system, and institutions)	F. Recommend actions to enhance country-level support, mainly in least developed and most vulnerable countries	<p>12. TEC: Systemize experiences on the use of different SSC modalities and instruments that build capacity beyond project life-span for more sustainable transfer and uptake of technologies for adaptation, and draw lessons for selecting the appropriate modalities in country's context.</p> <p>13. TEC & CTCN: Explore joint-research work to support NDE in developing SSC projects, mobilizing new resources, following up on commitments, and monitoring implementation.</p>

7. The background paper further recommends actions by the TEC and CTCN in relation to tapping the potential contribution of other global mechanism, including the Technology Facilitation Mechanism. The recommendation is highlighted in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Recommendations for TEC and CTCN to tap potential contribution by other mechanism

Recommendation	Action
Explore complementarity and foster cooperation among the TFM (Technology Facilitation Mechanism), the TEC and the CTCN with regards to the matchmaking functions as well as the facilitation of access to information, knowledge, experience and best practices with regard to the implementation of SSC initiatives in technology for adaptation	<p>14. With TEC: Joint policy spaces and networks to promote SSC in up-scaling technologies for adaptation.</p> <p>16. With TEC and CTCN: Coordination of the SSC in technology for adaptation initiatives taken by the TFM, the TEC and the CTCN should be further discussed as the TFM evolves and taking into consideration the review of adaptation activities under the Convention scheduled for 2017 as well as the implementation of the 2030 development agenda.</p>

8. During the thematic dialogue, participants also had an opportunity to discuss a specific question related to the roles of the TEC in promoting the SSC and TrC on technologies for adaptation: “*What could be areas of interventions by the TEC, Technology Mechanism and other stakeholders?*”. Table 3 below presents the synthesis of possible actions by the TEC, Technology Mechanism and other stakeholders, based on this question. For ease of comparison with the synthesis from the background paper, the list of actions have been grouped according to similar intervention areas.

Table 3. Recommendations of areas intervention by the TEC, CTCN and relevant stakeholders to promote SSC and TrC on technologies for adaptation

Recommendation	Action
Facilitate and promote SSC and TrC	1. TEC: Initiate cooperation amongst the relevant bodies, identifying opportunities that could benefit countries from the use of SSC (e.g. for LDCs) 2. CTCN: Engage NDEs and pro-actively promote such collaboration, for example through providing a seed fund to initiate collaboration 3. TEC and the CTCN: Explore a mechanism that will promote effective Triangular cooperation in targeted themes, for example on early warning systems, climate observations, and insurance;
Promote sharing of information and knowledge on SSC and TrC on technologies for adaptation	4. TEC & CTCN: Initiate a learning process that could contribute to building a body of knowledge on up-scaling adaptation technologies to serve as info resource for developing countries 5. Use existing Centers of Excellence as focal points to enhance peer-to-peer cooperation, expertise, and exchange of experiences 6. Design more comprehensive types of information based on success stories.
Provide technical oversight	7. TEC: Could support and guide the monitoring and assessment of the quality component of technologies for adaptation

B. Potential collaboration with UNOSSC and other relevant stakeholders

9. The first engagement between the TEC taskforce on adaptation on behalf of the TEC with the United Nation Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) was held through a teleconference call on 22 June 2016. The conversation provided an opportunity to exchange information and enhance understanding of different areas of work of each institution. The CTCN also participated in this call and provided information with regard to status of technical assistance and the work of CTCN partners and network members.

10. A number of areas of work where potential collaboration may be explored include:

(a) Southern Climate Partnership Incubator (SCPI): a new initiative of the Secretary-General to be jointly implemented by the UN Office for South-South Cooperation and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, in partnership with other UN entities. The initiative will focus on a few discrete concrete areas such as renewable energy, climate resilience, smart cities, and big data. An initial activity of this initiative is the development of Global landscaping report, looking at South-South cooperation in climate change, identifying gaps, challenges, and the way forward. The report is developed in collaboration with the South Centre. The TEC taskforce has indicated that this could be an area where the TEC can contribute by sharing its findings of the work on SSC to date;

(b) Global South South Development (GSSD) Expo: a UN system-wide global event organized by the UNOSSC, designed to showcase successful evidence-based initiatives created by developing countries in the Global South to address development challenges. This year it will be held in Dubai, UAE, from 30 October- 3 November 2016 with a theme: "South-South Cooperation: Enhancing innovation towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". There is a proposal for a side session on *Global development initiatives and cross-*

country collaboration for the global South: Mainstreaming climate action and the sustainable development goals. Given the close proximity to the start of COP22/CMP12 in Morocco, the TEC taskforce has indicated that participation may not be possible, but the taskforce is willing to contribute to providing inputs to this side session;

(c) UNOSSC Tech Exchange Network: an exchange platform that was established in 2009. Given one of the findings of TEC work on SSC is to strengthen the information sharing and experiences exchange, this could be an area where potential synergy on focused areas could be further explored together with the CTCN, for example focusing on areas identified as priority such as Agriculture and Water or other priority mitigation sectors;

(d) Other areas: a number of other common interests that may require further discussions include: work in the area of NDC, and a possible joint event with the TEC contributing to share some successful and lessons learned based on countries' experience in SSC in Agriculture and Water that have been discussed this year.

C. Ad-hoc expert panel on SSC

11. As part mandate assigned by the TEC, the taskforce also discussed the need to establish an-doc expert panel, to provide the TEC with expert advice on how to advance SSC and TrC on technologies for adaptation and/or mitigation.

12. In this regard, the taskforce considered that the current engagement with UNOSSC, as one of key player in SSC issues, seem progressing wel. Further, the taskforce noted the active contribution from taskforce members from the AC and various non-governmental organisations, bringing their expertise and experiences in SSC issues and provide advice to the taskforce.

13. The taskforce, therefore, concurred that there is no need to establish an ad-hoc expert panel of the TEC on SSC. The taskforce also noted that as the global SSC process evolves, the TEC may wish to review at some point in the future whether such a panel is needed.

D. Key messages to the COP

14. The taskforce also developed the first draft of key messages to the COP22 drawing from work undertaken in this year. The draft is presented to the TEC in a separate document under agenda item 11a.

III. Future work for guidance by the TEC

15. The taskforce considers the following potential areas to be worked further in 2016 and 2017:

(a) Continue engagement with UNOSSC and other relevant stakeholders to further develop collaboration on focused issues;

(b) Further work focusing on effective information sharing and practical learning from good practices and South-South knowledge exchange on adaptation technologies and highlighting the potential enhancement of endogenous capacities;

(c) Assessment of potential use of SSC/TrC to inform future implementation of Paris Agreement, specifically to assist countries in the implementation of their nationally determined contributions.

IV. Expected action by the Technology Executive Committee

16. The TEC will be invited to provide guidance on further work on this area.