

Inputs for TEC
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to: TEC
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Re: Call for inputs on ways to promote enabling environments and to address barriers to technology development and transfer, including on the role that the Technology Executive Committee could possibly play in this area of work

While the Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) enterprise has made major positive contributions to many aspects of the human condition over the past decades, it has not been sufficient to fully address a number of developmental and other challenges in all parts of the world. This is due, in large part, to the fact that the STI enterprise is organized in a way that the overwhelming majority of the development of technologies and their deployment in the real world is mediated by markets and carried out by private firms since they are better placed to carry out these activities. However, such a market-driven process, while providing abundant incentives for technological innovation, does not necessarily address the needs of those who do not have sufficient market power or the provision of public goods and services. Furthermore, much of the STI capabilities and resources are concentrated in industrialized countries while the most daunting climate and related challenges lie in developing countries.

This has several implications for arena of climate technology, including: (a) what would global and national climate innovation systems need to look like in order to be adequate (in scale, portfolio, and effectiveness) to meet the climate challenge, (b) what kind of capabilities are needed in developing countries, whose technological transition is key to meeting the goals of the Climate Convention, to support and advance technological change of a manner appropriate and needed for them, and how can these capabilities be developed? (c) how can one strengthen the global and national climate innovation systems so that different countries can respond to their climate and related challenges in a manner commensurate with their national context and needs? I believe the TEC needs to explore questions such as these as a way to develop activities that, complementing the CTC&N, can help us leverage technology to reshape the trajectory of national economies, especially those in developing countries, towards a low-GHG pathway.

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