



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

### International collaborative RD&D

**The Paris Agreement stipulates that accelerating, encouraging and enabling innovation is critical for achieving an effective, long-term global response to climate change and promoting economic growth and sustainable development.** Collaborative approaches to climate technology research, development and demonstration (RD&D) are crucial for deploying mature climate technologies and developing emerging ones on a large scale. The aim of international RD&D collaboration is to enable each region and country to develop the capabilities to find its own path towards a low-emission, climate-resilient society and economy. Collaborative RD&D initiatives can be successful and effective, but careful attention must be given to their design and implementation, which has to be systemic and support capacity-building globally. This approach would ensure that such initiatives are better placed to help achieve the overarching goal of strengthening climate innovation around the world to address the urgent global climate challenge.

#### KEY FINDINGS FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

International organizations are active partners in various international RD&D initiatives; though not always directly engaged in actual RD&D on hardware technologies, they participate in RD&D efforts with dedicated networks that make a significant contribution to the worldwide exchange of knowledge and best practice, thereby facilitating

access of countries, particularly developing countries, to new climate technologies. International organizations play a critical role at various level, including by:

- **Supporting equal participation and joint ownership:** in international RD&D collaboration, all engaged researchers need to be able to cooperate on an equal footing. Meaningful participation of developing country researchers requires some external support, which needs to be structured in a way that avoids negatively affecting ownership;
- **Facilitating knowledge-sharing and local capacity-building:** all international RD&D initiatives that have involved meaningful developing country participation have supported local knowledge-sharing and capacity development, which can present challenges for many developing countries with relatively weak innovation systems and low levels of funding for academics and researchers;
- **Encouraging private sector involvement:** the participation of the private sector is crucial to translating RD&D results into market deployment. Although concerted efforts have been made to engage with the private sector under various RD&D initiatives, the extent of the private sector's involvement remains limited in the early stages of the technology cycle, mainly focusing instead on the demonstration, incubation, commercialization and diffusion phases.

#### OPTIONS FOR ACTION

International organizations can play a crucial role in providing **local support** to countries and their administrations in relation to the **assessment of technology needs** and the design of RD&D initiatives in line with national needs and priorities. Adopting a more active role from the earliest stages of decision-making would give participating countries a greater sense of ownership and make the utilization of RD&D outputs more likely since they are driven by locally identified objectives, such as nationally determined contributions.

Thanks to their global networks and regional presence, international organizations can play a fundamental role in establishing **local offices and centres** with qualified personnel. Building capacity of local offices and training their staff to specialize in RD&D matters could quicken the pace of technological development and help to expand the network of local actors that share an interest in undertaking RD&D.

Support to local offices could also expedite and improve coordination among government, academia, the **private sector and financial institutions**. International organizations can facilitate the adoption of funding models, such as **public-private partnerships**, which would incentivize the participation of industry actors and diminish the high level of risk entailed by research and innovation for the private sector, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises.

Providing support to enable local actors from different backgrounds to participate in the RD&D process would bring together a range of knowledge sources, including **local traditional knowledge and techniques**.

Building capacity of local policymakers and researchers would enable more effective and equal participation of countries in RD&D programmes. **Capacity-building** can be offered in the form of technical training, workshops or study tours, which may be an integral part of or complement the activities of RD&D programmes.

The involvement of international organizations in RD&D programmes can also help to identify **private or international donors** to support the effective participation of countries, particularly the least developed countries. They may, for instance, leverage funds from **private investors and financial institutions** that implement environmental, social and governance provisions in their portfolios.

**For more information** please refer to the compilation of good practices and lessons learned on international collaborative research, development and demonstration initiatives of climate technology, available [here](#) on TT:CLEAR.

