



Technology Executive Committee

29 August 2017

Fifteenth meeting

Bonn, Germany, 12–15 September 2017

Inputs to the assessment of the existing technical examination process on mitigation so as to improve its effectiveness

Background note

I. Background

1. The COP resolved to strengthen, in the period 2016-2020, the existing technical examination process on mitigation (TEP-M) (decision 1/CP.21 paragraph 109) and decided to conduct in 2017 an assessment of the existing TEP-M so as to improve its effectiveness (decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 113).
2. In response to decision 1/CP.21 paragraph 111 and as per activities 5 and 25 of its workplan for 2016–2018, the TEC has provided recommendations to the High-Level Champions, the Chairs of Subsidiary Bodies and the secretariat with regard to potential topics for future technical expert meetings (TEMs) on mitigation. In response to decision 1/CP.21 paragraph 109 (c) and as per activity 21 of its workplan for 2016-2018, the TEC is to engage and provide updates during the TEMs on its work related to mitigation on the TEP.
3. At its 14th meeting, the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) discussed its future engagement in the TEP and requested its task force on mitigation to provide inputs to the assessment of the TEP-M to improve its effectiveness, pursuant to decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 113.

II. Scope of the note

4. This background note provides draft inputs to the assessment of the TEP-M to improve its effectiveness elaborated by the task force on mitigation of the TEC.

III. Possible action by the Technology Executive Committee

5. The TEC will be invited to consider and agree on the draft inputs to the assessment of the TEP-M to improve its effectiveness as contained in section V of this background note.
6. The agreed inputs will be submitted to COP 23 as an annex to the joint annual report of the TEC and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) to the COP for 2017.

IV. Relevant background on the technical examination process on mitigation

7. The TEP-M consists of regular in-session thematic technical expert meetings (TEMs)¹ and focused follow up work to be conducted by Parties, international organizations and partnerships throughout the year. Parties to the Convention resolved to start this process in 2014 and to further accelerate it by 2020 in order to implement scalable best practice policies and bridge the ambition gap.

¹ <http://unfccc.int/resource/climateaction2020/tep/technical-expert-meetings/index.html>.

8. The TEMs facilitate the identification of policy options, practices and technologies with high mitigation potential. The TEMs intend to 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. The topics and content of the TEMs as of May 2017 are contained in Table 1.

9. The outcomes of TEMs discussion are captured in technical papers.² The technical papers summarize information on best practice mitigation policies, practices and technologies that are widely used around the world in the examined thematic areas. In addition to the TEMs' discussions, the papers also reflect proposals from Parties and observers, and the latest findings published by leading international organizations and partnerships that collaborate with the UNFCCC.

Table 1.

Topics and content of the TEM as of May 2017

Land use (II) - 2017	Agricultural, forestry and other land use activities with climate and sustainable development benefits Technical and financial support for accelerated actions Attracting private sector investors and business solutions for ambitious mitigation actions in land use
Cross-cutting issues in urban environments (II) - 2017	Regional meeting focusing on technology solutions for low emission and sustainable cities in Africa
Cross-cutting issues in urban environments - 2017	City level collaboration to achieve emission reductions and sustainable development Innovative policy and technology solutions for sustainable urban development Technical and financial support for accelerated actions
Social and economic value of carbon - 2016	Economic and social value of carbon associated with early climate action
Transport - 2016	Low-carbon transportation policies, technologies and opportunities
Renewable Energy (III): supply – 2016	Follow up: recent developments of post-Paris agendas, follow-up activities and initiatives since the TEMs last year
Energy Efficiency (III): urban environments - 2016	Follow up: Recent developments of post-Paris agendas, follow-up activities and initiatives since the TEMs last year
Renewable Energy (II) – 2015	Most promising and feasible policies and options for renewable energy supply that could be implemented and scaled up
Energy Efficiency (II) – 2015	Broader aspects of energy efficiency and urban environments
Non-CO2 gases - 2014	Good practice mitigation actions and existing incentives; Identify barriers for scaling up measures to address non-CO2 GHG emissions from a wide array of sources; Options to overcome such barriers
CCS – 2014	Views and experiences on options and opportunities to advance action on CCS; Explore barriers for scaling up action; Options to overcome such barriers
Land use (I) - 2014	Unlock mitigation opportunities in land use in the pre-2020 period
Urban Environment – 2014	Stakeholders' experiences in capitalizing on opportunities that cities face in moving towards low-carbon pathways
Renewable Energy (I) – 2014	Efforts and perspectives in scaling up the deployment of renewable energy technologies
Energy Efficiency (I) – 2014	Experiences on capitalizing on the potential of energy efficiency, lessons learned, challenges and plans for further scaling up energy efficiency improvements

² <http://unfccc.int/resource/climateaction2020/tp/index.html>.

10. Discussions from the TEMs are also annually reflected in the Summary for Policymakers.³ The aim of the Summary is to transform the information into a comprehensive, high-level summary of concrete actions that Parties can pursue, in accordance with their national circumstances.

11. In June 2016, the High Level Champions (HLC) sought views of Parties and non-Party stakeholders⁴ on the road map for the global climate action agenda, including views on the role of the TEMs.

12. In October 2016, in their reflections on the way forward,⁵ the HLC reported the concerns expressed by Parties that the execution of the TEP should be improved. In November 2016, the HLC published a note⁶ that presents the concerns expressed by the Parties and the areas of improvement that Parties have identified, such as:

- (a) A structured approach based on well-defined themes with clearer priorities and objectives;
- (b) Ensuring that the events can be attended by those involved directly in implementation;
- (c) Facilitating the incorporation of the outcomes into the work of the relevant UNFCCC institutions;
- (d) Reducing the overlap between formal negotiation activities and activities related to action and implementation in order to facilitate the active participation of Parties;
- (e) Providing Ministers with a clear set of policy recommendations for discussion during the COP; and
- (f) Placing equal attention on adaptation and mitigation outcomes.

13. In regard to TEMs, Parties have also expressed the need for a better preparation and organization ahead of the meetings as well as for the use of streaming media technology to ensure a broader and easier participation.

14. In 2017, the TEM-M was held in conjunction with the subsidiary bodies meetings (SB) 46. The following were observed:

(a) *Format:* the TEM-M has changed its approach in the attempt to address Parties' concerns and inputs from the HLC, and abandoned the full-day meeting format. In order to encourage a wide participation of relevant actors, and to engage them in targeted discussions, the approach to the TEM-M 2017 includes an opening plenary to set the context for the TEM-M, followed by seven thematic sessions/events of 90-minute in duration, spread during the first week of the May Subsidiary Bodies sessions;

(b) *Participation:* Each of thematic sessions brought the speakers from various backgrounds including practitioners and organizations directly involved in the work related to the topic. Yet the audience were still dominated by mainly negotiators attended the SB 46 sessions, who may not necessarily be involved directly in the implementation;

(c) *Topic:* The focus of the TEM-M 2017 was on cross-cutting issues in urban environment and land use, which are among the sectors identified by the TEC as priority sectors for future TEM as also communicated to the HLC and the Chairs of SBI and SBSTA;

15. In 2017, the first regional TEM-M was also organised in conjunction with the Africa Carbon Forum 2017 held in Cotonou, Benin.⁷ A similar TEM-M is being organised back-to-back with the Latin America & Caribbean Carbon Forum and the Asia & Pacific Carbon Forum planned for October and December 2017 respectively.

³ <http://unfccc.int/resource/climateaction2020/spm/introduction/index.html>.

⁴ <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/climate-action/global-climate-action-agenda/#Call>.

⁵ http://unfccc.int/files/paris_agreement/application/pdf/reflections_on_the_way_forward_final.pdf.

⁶ http://unfccc.int/files/paris_agreement/application/pdf/tep_discussion_note_by_champions.pdf.

⁷ http://unfccc.int/focus/mitigation/technical_expert_meetings/items/10382.php.

V. Draft inputs to the assessment of the existing technical examination process on mitigation so as to improve its effectiveness

16. Considering the call to enhance mitigation efforts in the pre-2020 period, the views expressed by the Parties as well as inputs provided by intergovernmental organisations like IRENA, the following areas and options could be considered to improve the TEP-M:

(a) Re-focusing the work of the TEP in the context of enhanced action prior to 2020 and beyond

(i) A long term vision for the TEP-M process should be defined, with the aim to enhance mitigation ambitions and reduce the existing emission gap by 2020 and beyond;

(ii) A long term work plan for the TEP-M activities should be defined accordingly, including through the setting of quantifiable indicators to measure the contribution of the TEP to the enhancement of mitigation ambitions and the reduction of the emission gap prior to 2020 and beyond;

(iii) In this regard, a system should be introduced for monitoring TEP performance and achievements against the objective of enhanced action prior to 2020. The system should track the implementation of policy options and mitigation technologies as a result of the TEP activities as well as collaborations and initiatives established by TEM participants afterwards. In this regard, synergies with the NAZCA platform may be considered.

(b) Enhancing effective and broader participation:

(i) The profile of speakers of the TEMs should continue to be the same, i.e. experts that are involved in their field, have decisional power and recognised institutional relevance.

(ii) Events should target the right audience, i.e. those that are involved directly in the implementation of policies and technologies with high mitigation potential in their respective countries;

(iii) Conferences of the Parties (COP) proved to attract a high number of researchers, technology developers and practitioners from both industrialized and developing countries. Holding the TEMs during COPs, or back to back with the COP, instead of the May sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies may enhance broader participation of the right audience, taking into account that the timeline for the production of technical papers and summaries for policy-makers may need to be adjusted accordingly.

(iv) Similarly, the process should be organized through more region-wide settings in order to enhance stakeholder engagement and ensure continuity and consistency in participation and discussions. In this regard, synergies with other regional and thematic meetings, including the TEC thematic dialogues, should be strengthened.

(v) The events/meetings should be structured to allow optimum interactions and discussions between speakers and audience, but also among participants themselves

(vi) The use of streaming media technology (e.g. webcast, YouTube Live, etc.) should be considered to allow remote participation and enable broader dissemination of the TEM outcomes.

(c) Enhancing stakeholder engagement:

(i) Stakeholders should be more involved in the organisation and management of the TEP process. They should be given opportunities to contribute to the definition of the TEMs' agenda and to the drafting of technical papers and summary for policy makers;

(ii) The creation of task forces or working groups may be considered to guide and support the work in the different thematic areas.

(d) Linking the TEP to Global Climate Action initiative and other institutions

(i) Links between the TEMs and the Global Climate Action initiatives and other partnerships as well as the NDCs-related activities should be strengthened in order to trigger

a mutual reinforcing dynamic where efforts are aligned towards ensuring the highest possible mitigation efforts in the pre-2020 period and beyond. *+ place holder for further information to be added resulting from the deliberations at TEC15, particularly on how to achieve these linkages.*

(ii) Similarly, a more focussed collaboration should be promoted between constituted bodies and institutions supporting the collaborative development of climate technology and policies such as the TEC, the CTCN, the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) as well as with relevant intergovernmental organisations. *+ place holder for further information to be added resulting from the deliberations at TEC15, particularly on how to achieve these collaborations.*
