Framework Convention on Climate Change

Technology Executive Committee

02 April 2024

Twenty-eighth meeting

16–19 April 2024 (19 April TEC-CTCN Advisory Board Joint session)

Potential collaboration with the UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub

I. Background

1. Decision 19/CMA.4 requested the UNFCCC secretariat to ensure that the relevant activities of the UNFCCC Global Innovation Hub (UGIH) contribute to supporting the implementation of the joint work programme of the Technology Mechanism, as guided by the technology framework to avoid duplication and fragmentation of efforts in the area of innovation.

2. As a follow up to the decision, in 2023 the technology team of the UNFCCC secretariat organized a number of meetings between the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the TEC and the Advisory Board of the CTCN with the team supporting UGIH to enhance understanding of each other workplans and to find synergies and common areas of work for potential collaboration.

3. A proposal by the UGIH on potential collaboration to support the implementation of the joint work programme of Technology Mechanism was submitted on 16 March 2023 to the TEC and the CTCN Advisory Board. However, given the proposal was submitted just before the start of the meeting of TEC26, there was no time to fully discuss the proposal at the joint session in March 2023.

4. Regardles, follow up actions of the proposal were implemented, for example, the UGIH connected T-systems and Open Earth Foundation to the technology team, which then followed on introducing the work of the Technology Mechanism. At COP28 in Dubai, the UGIH provided two slots to be used by TEC and CTCN for the organization of a session on Digitalization and a session sharing the findings of the RD&D survey.

II. Scope of the note

5. The annex to this note contains proposal for potential collaboration and support by the UGIH to support the implementation of the joint work programme of the Technology Mechanism.

III. Expected action by the Technology Executive Committee

6. The TEC and the CTCN Advisory Board will be invited to discuss the potential collaboration areas between the Technology Mechanism and UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub and provide guidance on the next steps.

Annex

Concept Note – Collaboration with TEC and CTCN

UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub

United Nations Climate Change
Global Innovation Hub

1   Why the UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub

Vision

To contribute to accelerating and upscaling the effective use of innovation to serve the many people and the planet through the achievement of two goals:

Goal 1: To contribute to accelerating the upscaled deployment of existing transformative climate and sustainability solutions.

This is done by facilitating an integrated approach to innovation, combining innovative technologies, policy instruments, financial instruments, business models, cooperative approaches, and products from the culture and creative industries to ensure the accessibility and acceptability of existing solutions and their deployment at scale.

Goal 2: To contribute to accelerating the development of new transformative climate and sustainability solutions, to respond to the current demand from cities and the demand from the GST.

To achieve these two goals, the UGIH has built four spaces:

a) **Systemic Innovation Workshops (SIW):** The workshops are spaces for connection, inspiration, systemic awareness, meta-cognitive reframing, radical collaboration, and learning. They use the envisioned future that cities and corporates want to build as inputs. Through a back-casting normative scenario, these visions are translated into needs in terms of climate and sustainability solutions, then to challenges, and the outputs are specific Global Innovation Projects (GIP). Participants include city officials, research centers, tech companies, startups, venture capital firms, philanthropists, accelerators and incubators, entities from the culture and creative industries, urban planners, and architects.
b) **Ad Hoc Working Groups**: they use as inputs the Global Innovation Projects identified and formulated during the Systemic Innovation Workshop and turn them into climate and sustainability solutions, following a co-creation and co-evolution process
c) **COP Dialogues**: Hosting more than 80 sessions with the participation of more than 400 speakers.
d) **Digital Platform** that will host a database of cities' climate and sustainability needs and potential solutions.

2   Collaboration Opportunities with TEC and CTCN

UGIH is committed to collaborate with the Technology Mechanism by ensuring that the activities of the Innovation Hub contribute to supporting the objectives of the joint work programme as requested by the CMA through its decision in para 14 Decision 19/CMA.4.

UGIH at COP 27 and COP 28 supported TEC and CTCN by providing them opportunity to organize sessions at its pavilion in the COP venue, to showcase the achievements of the Technology Mechanism. UGIH will continue to provide such support to the TEC/CTCN   at COP 29.

Further, UGIH will invite TEC/CTCN members to participate at Systemic Innovation Workshops, and co-create challenges with UGIH's partners in response to the needs raised by participating cities. These challenges can relate to identifying other innovative solutions in finance, business models, cooperative

approaches, and products related to culture and creative industries to enhance the development and upscaled deployment of new/existing technologies. Such challenges can focus on topics of common interest to the UGIH and TEC, for example the need for transformative low-carbon building materials. More specifically, the support of the UGIH to the Technology Mechanism in 2024 may include:

a) **Technology needs assessment and technology planning tools to support NDC implementation**: Through their joint work programme, the TEC and the CTCN focus on facilitating and stimulating the uptake of technologies to support NDC ambition and implementation and enhancing the role of innovation in deploying technological solutions at a faster pace and at scale. UGIH can support upscaled technology uptake by:

   i. Inviting the TEC and CTCN members to bring to the UGIH SIW, challenges related to the identification of other innovative solutions (i) on finance, (ii) on business models, (iii) on cooperative approaches, and (iv) related products from the culture and creative industry such as digital games that can be combined and are needed for the development, transfer, and upscaled deployment of transformative climate and sustainability technologies.

   ii. Providing space to TEC and CTCN during the UGIH COP dialogues to showcase success stories and lessons learned in preparing and implementing TAPs.

   iii. Facilitating substantive inputs from UGIH's experts to TEC documents by sharing the documents, such as the TNA guidebook on the energy sector, including aspects of just transition.

   iv. Inviting strategic stakeholders from UGIH's networks to participate in the planned TEC/CTCN thematic workshops and events.

   v. Support the communication and outreach of the TEC and the CTCN by sharing key messages related to the Technology Framework as well as the TEC and CTCN joint work programme in different forums and events

b) **Digitalization**: As part of their work, the TEC and CTCN seek to explore the role of distributed ledgers and green technology databases as supporting tools and resources for innovation cooperation. UGIH can contribute to digitalization through:

   i. Collaborating with UGIH's partners on using digital technologies for climate policymaking, including the end-to-end digitalization of the activity cycle using IoT, DLT, AI, smart contract, and connectivity.

   ii. Co-organizing events, such as those at the UGIH COP pavilion, that bring together different stakeholders, such as cities and tech companies, to explore how digitalization can support the climate and sustainability agenda.

   iii. Facilitating substantive inputs from UGIH's experts to documents produced by the Technology Mechanism, for example, the planned Concept note for a technical paper on AI for climate action, including risks and challenges on the use of AI at TEC 28.

   iv. Inviting speakers from UGIH's networks to speak at some of the TEC/CTCN digital technologies-related events.

c) **Buildings and resilient infrastructure** are identified as a dedicated area of work for the TEC in its next work plan as part of a focus on transformative and innovative solutions. UGIH can support this item by:

i. Facilitating substantive inputs from UGIH's experts   to documents produced by the Technology Mechanism related to Buildings and Infrastructure
ii. Inviting the TEC and CTCN to bring to the UGIH SIW challenges related to the development and deployment of low-carbon buildings and infrastructure
iii. Facilitate the exchange of knowledge and information, for example, by co-organizing a thematic dialogue at COP 29 that focuses on innovative green building and infrastructure technologies and other innovations such as finance needed for their upscaled development and deployment.

d) Water-Energy-Food Systems

i. Inviting experts, for example, members of UGIH's High-Level Working Group on Nutrition and Health, to provide substantive support in the form of inputs to knowledge products prepared by TEC/CTCN on the Water-Energy-Food Systems nexus.
ii. Co-organize a session at COP 29 on Water-Energy-Food Systems with TEC/CTCN and other partners, for example, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Food Programme.
iii. UGIH, through its planned Systemic Innovation Workshops, can facilitate the exchange of knowledge and information on how to transition the nutrition and health value chain with the objective of achieving SDG2 and, as a constraint, alignment with the climate goals, the goal of biodiversity and land regeneration. This will require work on the nexus of agriculture, water, food security, energy, and climate.

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