



Technology Executive Committee

24 March 2026

Thirty-second meeting

14–17 April 2026 (17 April 2026 TEC-CTCN Advisory Board Joint session)

Engagement of national designated entities in TEC open-ended activity groups

Cover note

A. Background

1. At TEC 31, the TEC highlighted the need for clear guidelines and procedures that establish fair, transparent, and balanced participation of NDEs as experts in TEC open-ended activity groups. The TEC noted that NDEs from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention often have limited capacity compared with NDEs from Annex I Parties, which may result in imbalanced representation. Furthermore, the TEC recalled guidance from the COP inviting the TEC to strengthen systematic engagement with NDEs.¹ The TEC requested the secretariat to propose options for engaging NDEs in the implementation of its rolling workplan for 2023–2027, for consideration at TEC 32.

B. Scope of the note

2. At TEC 27, the TEC endorsed the note on "Strengthening engagement of the TEC with national designated entities",² which provides background on the role of NDEs and outlines options for how the TEC could collaborate with NDEs in implementing its workplan activities. In addition, the note outlines several options to strengthen the TEC's engagement with NDEs. These include:

(a) Creating opportunities to contribute to the scoping of TEC activities and/or provide early feedback on the direction of planning activities;

(b) Engage NDEs more systematically in the implementation of TEC activities. The TEC could systematically integrate their participation in events, workshops, and consultations, whether as speakers, participants, or experts contributing to knowledge products;

(c) Disseminate information regarding upcoming TEC meetings to NDEs proactively and provide opportunities for NDEs to participate in TEC meetings (online, for example, with the option of interacting).

3. The note further suggests that the TEC may wish to clarify the role NDEs can play in supporting the implementation of its activities when updating its workplan. NDEs could also participate in TEC taskforces (since 2023 called "open-ended activity groups") as observers, by rotation or through other manageable modalities, similarly to how observer organizations and UNFCCC constituency groups are invited to participate.

¹ See decision 18/CP.27 paragraph 6.

² Available at:

https://unfccc.int/ttelear/misc/_StaticFiles/gnwoerk_static/TEC_documents/d006d7c605eb4cd6b2da5eb0c97c1fbc/14ab5e5e1fd745799f0da8ac92fdbaae.pdf.

4. As of 15 February 2026, there are 168 NDEs, 23 NDEs from Annex I Parties and 145 NDEs from Non-Annex I Parties.
5. At [TEC 26](#), the TEC agreed to establish open-ended activity groups, co-led by at least two TEC members, to support the implementation of activities of the rolling workplan, with agreed outputs in 2023–2024. The TEC Chair and Vice-Chair developed modalities of work for the open-ended activity groups to guide the co-leads in performing their functions.
6. At that meeting, the TEC agreed to open the activity groups to representatives of all UNFCCC observer constituencies and requested the secretariat to send a notification to this effect. Other relevant partners may be invited to these open-ended activity groups at the discretion of the co-leads. Members of the activity groups will be invited to participate in the TEC meetings.
7. The list of members of the TEC open-ended activity groups is available [online](#).
8. At TEC 31, it was noted that establishing clear guidelines and procedures is essential to ensure fair, transparent, and balanced participation of NDEs serving as experts within activity groups. The discussion also acknowledged that NDEs from Non-Annex I Parties often face capacity limitations compared to those from Annex I Parties, which may lead to an imbalance in representation.
9. To ensure balanced participation, the following option is proposed:
 - (a) A NDE may participate in only one TEC open-ended activity group;
 - (b) NDEs will act as thematic experts and may not delegate their participation in TEC activity groups to other members of their organization;
 - (c) Engagement will be limited to a maximum of two NDEs per open-ended activity group, one NDE from an Annex I Party and one NDE from a Non-Annex I Party.
10. The following process for engaging NDEs is proposed:
 - (a) The secretariat will notify all NDEs regarding the TEC’s ongoing workplan activities for 2026–2027 and invite expressions of interest from those wishing to contribute to activity implementation. NDEs will be asked to indicate their interest and relevant expertise via an online form;
 - (b) The secretariat will compile expression of interests and communicate them to the TEC Chair and Vice-Chair, who will then agree on the admission of NDEs to the respective open-ended activity groups;
 - (c) If only a single NDE expresses interest in joining a specific open-ended activity group, admission will be deferred until there is at least one expression of interest from a NDE from an Annex I Party and a NDE from a non-Annex I Party, respectively, to ensure balance.
11. All admitted NDEs will remain a member of the respective open-ended activity groups until the completion of the 2023–2027 rolling workplan.

C. Possible actions by the Technology Executive Committee

12. The TEC will be invited to consider the option contained in this document and agree on modalities for engaging NDEs in its open-ended activity groups.