



Technology Executive Committee

25 August 2026

Thirty-third meeting

15–18 September 2026 (18 September 2026 TEC-CTCN Advisory Board Joint Session)

Draft key messages and recommendations to the COP and CMA on climate technology incubators and accelerators in developing countries

Cover note

A. Background

1. As per Activity A.2.2 of its rolling workplan (2023-2027), in 2026, the TEC is to develop a knowledge product on climate technology incubators and accelerators in developing countries, in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as the lead partner for this activity, and produce key messages and recommendations thereon for inclusion in the TEC annual report to the COP and CMA.

B. Scope of the note

2. The annex to this note contains draft key messages and recommendations on climate technology incubators and accelerators in developing countries, drawing on the joint work of the TEC and UNIDO on this topic.

C. Possible actions by the Technology Executive Committee

3. The TEC will be invited to consider and agree on the key messages and recommendations in the annex, for inclusion in its annual report for 2026.

Annex

Draft key messages and recommendations to the COP and CMA on climate technology incubators and accelerators in developing countries

1. Climate technology incubators and accelerators (I&As), along with other support modalities for strengthening start-up ecosystems and entrepreneurship, play a pivotal role in strengthening national systems of innovation (NSI) and accelerating technological change in line with the climate and sustainable development goals in developing countries. Drawing on its joint work with UNIDO on climate technology I&As, the TEC highlights the following key messages regarding the establishment, performance and long-term operation of climate technology I&As in developing countries:

(a) Climate technology I&As are diverse, evolving and context-dependent, and no single I&A model is universally applicable. The design of climate technology I&As should reflect climate and sustainable development goals, technology priorities and national circumstances, existing gaps and challenges, and available capacities and support options in developing countries;

(b) Supportive policy and regulatory frameworks are essential for the effective performance of I&As within NSI. Aligning public policy and regulatory frameworks across climate, economic and innovation domains can enhance coherence and coordination for climate action and sustainable development, across sectors and levels of governance, at the national level, and in the context of multilateral support and international cooperation;

(c) Leveraging partnerships and adopting an ecosystem approach to innovation systems is essential for effective design and operation of climate technology I&As. University- and corporate-anchored start-up support vehicles, enabled by supportive public policies and institutional mandates, can play an important role by providing the infrastructure, technical expertise and market linkages needed to advance climate technologies from validation to deployment;

(d) Strong, place-based local innovation ecosystems are essential. Digital technologies can help expand the reach, accessibility and inclusiveness of climate technology I&As. However, virtual services and support modalities complement rather than replace local innovation ecosystems. Countries are increasingly leveraging STI parks, innovation hubs, centres of excellence and similar platforms to strengthen these ecosystems by clustering support for start-ups;

(e) Adaptation-focused climate technology I&As require sustained public and concessional support, given the context-specific nature of adaptation solutions and limited availability of commercial financing models for them.

2. Drawing on its joint work with UNIDO on climate technology I&As, the TEC highlights the following recommendations, for consideration by a range of actors across the NSI in developing countries:

(a) With regard to enabling environment, policymakers and development partners could strengthen the role of I&As within NSI by:

(i) Aligning support mobilized for and operations of I&As with climate and development priorities, and relevant national, sectoral and local policies and regulatory measures;

(ii) Strengthening coordination and clustering functions within local innovation systems, and promoting institutional linkages with NSI actors;

(iii) Promoting the inclusion of youth, women, Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the operation of climate technology I&As and the ventures they support;

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- (iv) Applying effective monitoring, evaluation and learning approaches to enhance the design, delivery and long-term contribution of I&As to NSI and climate action.
 - (b) With regard to mid-stage infrastructure and the deployment and scale-up gap, policymakers and development partners could consider:
 - (i) Investing in shared mid-stage infrastructure, including through public-private partnerships;
 - (ii) Providing policy signals and financial incentives to companies that open their R&D facilities and industrial assets to start-ups;
 - (iii) Utilizing corporate- and university-anchored I&As as institutional hosts for such infrastructure;
 - (iv) Prioritizing sectors where physical testing environments are critical e.g. energy, transport, water, and agriculture.
 - (c) With regard to financing of climate technology I&As, policymakers and development partners could consider the following to strengthen their long-term viability:
 - (i) Diversifying sources of finance to support the operation of I&A and the ventures they support by combining public, concessional, philanthropic and private finance, with effectiveness, complementarity and accountability in mind;
 - (ii) Diversifying revenue streams to reduce donor dependence, enable financial viability of I&As, and increase the scale of financing for climate technology innovation;
 - (iii) Leveraging strategic partnerships to strengthen local and national climate innovation systems and address financing and infrastructure gaps for climate technology innovation.
 - (d) With regard to embedding I&As into climate projects and programmes supported by multilateral climate funds, policymakers, project developers and development partners should consider:
 - (i) Positioning I&As as delivery mechanisms to advance the development, demonstration and deployment of prioritized climate technologies, rather than as standalone entrepreneurship activities;
 - (ii) Incorporating considerations related to inclusion (e.g. for youth and women), sustainable development co-benefits, and opportunities for scaling impact in the design of projects and programmes;
 - (iii) Tailoring support modalities of climate technology I&As to the local needs and circumstances of the ventures they support;
 - (iv) Building on existing institutions and partnerships for implementation of climate technology I&As; and
 - (v) Including measures to promote local ownership, ensure capacity retention, and enable effective exit strategies for donor-backed climate technology I&As.
 - (e) With regard to the sustainability and effectiveness of I&As, policymakers and development partners should consider, among other things:
 - (i) Institutional sustainability;
 - (ii) Financial sustainability;
 - (iii) Operational sustainability;
 - (iv) Functional sustainability;
 - (v) Inclusivity and diversity; and
 - (vi) Learning, knowledge management and exchange mechanisms.
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