



Technology Executive Committee

02 April 2024

Twenty-eighth meeting

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

Draft Workplan for the Technology Mechanism Initiative on AI for Climate Action (2024–2027)

Cover note

I. Background

1. In June 2023, the TEC and the CTCN Advisory Board launched the Technology Mechanism Initiative on AI for Climate Action to explore the role of AI as a powerful technological tool for advancing and scaling up transformative climate solutions for mitigation and adaptation action in developing countries with a focus on least developed countries and small island developing States.¹
2. In September 2023, at their subsequent joint session, the TEC and the CTCN Advisory Board agreed on a concept note for the Initiative, including the development of a draft workplan for the Initiative (2024–2027) and the establishment of a TEC-CTCN joint taskforce on AI to guide the work on joint activities under the Initiative.²
3. COP 28 requested the TEC and the CTCN to implement the Initiative in a manner that gives special attention to the capacity needs for its use and consider how it can support the implementation of technology needs assessment outcomes and the joint work programme of the Technology Mechanism for 2023–2027. COP 28 also requested the TEC and the CTCN to enhance awareness of AI and its potential role in, as well as its impacts on, the implementation of the outcomes of technology needs assessments and the joint work programme of the Technology Mechanism for 2023–2027.³
4. The establishment of the Initiative in June 2023 post the adoption of the first joint work programme of the Technology Mechanism in 2022, and the immediate request for a series of additional activities to be implemented in 2023 and 2024 has, to date, stretched thin the resources and capacities of the TEC and the CTCN secretariats, which in parallel also started implementing activities under the first joint work programme of the Technology Mechanism in 2023, including the most comprehensive TEC rolling workplan and CTCN programme of work to date.
5. One of the additional activities undertaken by the two secretariats is the development of a draft workplan for the Initiative, which is separate from the TEC rolling workplan and the CTCN programme of work.

¹ https://unfccc.int/ttclear/artificial_intelligence.

² TEC/2023/27/21, Annex III.

³ Decision 9/CP.28, paragraphs 7 and 8.

II. Scope of the note

6. The annex to this note contains a draft workplan for the Technology Mechanism Initiative on AI for Climate Action for the 2024 to 2027 period based on proposals made by the TEC-CTCN joint taskforce on AI.

7. The inclusion of proposed activities in the draft workplan was guided by the respective mandates of the TEC and the CTCN with proposals of similar nature merged where feasible.

III. Expected action by the TEC and the CTCN Advisory Board

8. The TEC and the CTCN Advisory Board will be invited to consider the draft workplan.

9. In considering the draft workplan, the TEC and the CTCN Advisory Board may wish to note that the TEC and the CTCN secretariats will not be able to support the implementation of the activities under the Initiative, including the finalization of its workplan or any other additional activities, unless additional human and financial resources are adequately provided to the secretariats to support the implementation of the activities in a timely manner.

Annex

Draft workplan for the Technology Mechanism Initiative on AI for Climate Action (2024–2027)

Workstream	Lead	Activity	Deliverables			
			2024	2025	2026	2027
1. Support the implementation of the Technology Mechanism Joint Work Programme (2023–2027) and the implementation of TNA outcomes	TEC Activity Group on Digital Technologies	1.1. Support the implementation of the TEC rolling workplan (2023–2027)	1.1.1. Technical paper on AI for climate action, including an audit of the potential role of AI for supporting the implementation of the joint work programme and the implementation of TNA outcomes <i>Supported by: UNIDO</i> 1.1.2. Inputs on AI to the TEC/GEO knowledge product on emerging and transformational adaptation technologies (EWS)	1.1.3. Policy brief on opportunities, risks and challenges of AI for climate action 1.1.4. Inputs on AI to the TEC knowledge product on NSI 1.1.5. Inputs on AI to the TEC work on energy storage 1.1.6. Inputs on AI to the TEC knowledge product on carbon footprint and building codes 1.1.7. Inputs on AI to the TEC analysis of standards for low and near zero emissions solutions for hard-to-abate industries 1.1.8. Inputs on AI to the knowledge product on how developing countries can be supported in updating their TNAs and implementing their TAPs and TNA outcomes	1.1.9. Inputs on AI to the TEC tool to identify country needs for the setup and implementation of NSI 1.1.10. Inputs on AI to the TEC knowledge product on RD&D	
	CTCN Secretariat	1.2. Support the implementation of the CTCN programme of work (2023–2027)	1.2.1. Capacity-building of NDEs on AI for climate action	1.2.3. Capacity-building of NDEs on AI for climate action	1.2.5. Capacity-building of NDEs on AI for climate action	1.2.7. Capacity-building of NDEs on AI for climate action

Workstream	Lead	Activity	Deliverables			
			2024	2025	2026	2027
			1.2.2. Implementation of technical assistance with components of AI as per the demand by the countries	1.2.4. Implementation of technical assistance with components of AI as per the demand by the countries	1.2.6. Implementation of technical assistance with components of AI as per the demand by the countries	1.2.8. Implementation of technical assistance with components of AI as per the demand by the countries
	TEC-CTCN Joint Taskforce on AI	1.3. Support the implementation of common areas of work and joint activities		1.3.1. Knowledge product/event on the use of AI for improving energy systems <i>Proposed partners: IEA, IRENA, Clean Energy Ministerial, Mission Innovation</i>	1.3.2. Knowledge product/event on the use of AI for the water-energy-food nexus <i>Proposed partners: FAO; Innovation Commission for Climate Change, Food Security and Agriculture; Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate</i>	
		1.4. Support the Advisory Group for the AI Initiative	1.4.1. Finalization of terms of reference for the Advisory Group 1.4.2. Coordination of nomination and selection of Advisory Group members 1.4.3. Facilitation of meetings of the Advisory Group 1.4.4. Facilitation of inputs by the Advisory Group to the Initiative	1.4.5. Facilitation of meetings of the Advisory Group 1.4.6. Facilitation of inputs by the Advisory Group to the Initiative		
		1.5. Undertake resource mobilization and partnership development	1.5.1. Fundraising proposal for the Initiative	1.5.2. Framework for developing an alliance of public and private sector stakeholders worldwide active in this space		

Workstream	Lead	Activity	Deliverables			
			2024	2025	2026	2027
2. Enhance the capacity of stakeholders from LDCs and SIDS regarding the use of AI for climate action, in a way that is responsive to gender and vulnerable communities	TEC Activity Group on Digital Technologies	2.1. Enhance the capacity of stakeholders from LDCs and SIDS	2.1.1. AI Innovation Grand Challenge <i>In partnership with Enterprise Neurosystem</i> 2.1.2. Workshop on AI for climate action, including representatives of LDCs and SIDS <i>In partnership with UNU</i>	2.1.3. Concept note on practical means to support AI implementation for transformative climate solutions in developing countries, with a focus on LDCs and SIDS, such as an AI climate accelerator	2.1.4. Knowledge product/event on the local development of AI-powered solutions for climate action in LDCs and SIDS, including perspectives of women, indigenous, and marginalized groups on the use of AI for climate action	
	CTCN Secretariat	2.2. Enhance the capacity of stakeholders from LDCs and SIDS		2.2.1. Online platform of regional AI4ClimateAction network		
	TEC-CTCN Joint Taskforce on AI	2.3. Enhance the capacity of stakeholders from LDCs and SIDS	2.3.1. AI Climate Application Hub <i>In partnership with Enterprise Neurosystem</i>			
3. Raise awareness of AI for climate action, including on challenges and risks posed by AI such as energy consumption, data security and the digital divide in this context	TEC-CTCN Joint Taskforce on AI	3.1. Raise awareness of AI for climate action	3.1.1. Summary of COP 28 High-level event on AI, including video recording and presentations 3.1.2. COP 29 event 3.1.3. Virtual participation in the Climate Change AI Summer School 2024	3.1.4. Inputs to the work of the UN Secretary-General Advisory Body on AI as appropriate		

Note: Other potential partners and supporter for the implementation of the workplan proposed by members of the TEC-CTCN joint taskforce on AI include the UNFCCC observer constituency of business and industry NGOs, the International Chamber of Commerce, Amini, Boomitra, Enterprise Neurosystem, Google (including Google Flood Hub), IBM (including the IBM Sustainability Accelerator), and Microsoft (including the Microsoft Africa Research Institute), Planet, US Council for International Business, Green Spider, PlantVillage, George Washington University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Southern California, LinkedIn, Allen Institute for AI, Bezos Earth Fund, Bloomberg Philanthropies, ClimateWorks Foundation, Gates Foundation, Open Earth Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, United Nations Foundation, ITU AI for Good Initiative.