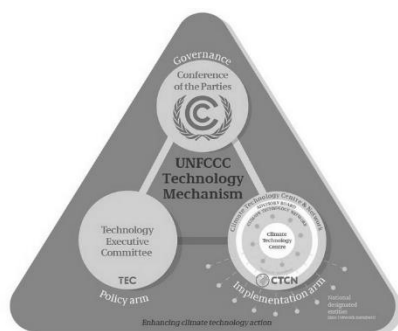


TECHNOLOGY: A KEY ELEMENT IN THE FUTURE PARIS AGREEMENT

Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) were gathered in Bonn in early June 2015 to advance the negotiations on the new climate agreement to be finalized in Paris in December 2015. Many challenges need to be addressed before the formalization of the Paris agreement, including: operationalizing equity; establishing a facilitative regime to support technology transfer; and for intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) to go beyond mitigation to include finance, technology and capacity building support¹.

● State of Play on Technology Within the UNFCCC



The technology mechanism of the UNFCCC convention. Source: UNFCCC

Two technology mechanisms already exist and function under the UNFCCC since the 16th Conference of Parties in 2010. There are namely the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) and the Technology Executive Committee (TEC).

The CTCN, as the operational arm of the UNFCCC's Technology Mechanism, offers services to country members to curb greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience to the inevitable impacts of climate change. It counts 20 members, a mix of climate experts and negotiators. The CTCN prides itself in providing rapid response to requests from countries. Upon receipt of such requests, the Centre in Copenhagen quickly mobilizes its global Network of climate technology experts to design and deliver a customized solution tailored to local needs.² The TEC is an independent institution based at United Nations Environment Program in Copenhagen. Its mandate is to facilitate a network of national, regional, sectoral and international technology networks, organizations and initiatives. Moreover the committee responds to requests made by developing countries through their focal points in countries of the CTCN.

● Any Advancements on Technology in Bonn?

Technology is one of the main pillars of the UNFCCC negotiations and has been, once again, a critical and challenging subject of the negotiations in Bonn. Climate negotiators mainly focused on streamlining the different options contained in the negotiating document coming from Geneva climate conference.

▶ QUICK FACTS

» At the UNFCCC Lima Conference in December 2014, CTCN director Juka Uosukainen said that "Without technology, we can't solve the climate crisis. The UNFCCC has finally switched to the implementation phase of technology. When governments finalize the new global climate agreement in Paris next year, technology will be a central part of the solution."

» UNFCCC parties met in Bonn (Germany) from 1st to 12th June 2015 to advance the negotiations on the draft climate agreement to be adopted in Paris in December.

» The 2015 Paris agreement has the opportunity to (i) set global technology goals and scale up innovation dramatically; (ii) define capacity-building in the context of climate technology needs.

CUTS Action alerts are to draw attention and call for action on key trade and development-related issues. Readers are encouraged to quote, reproduce and distribute this paper for advocacy purpose.

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¹IISD, Coverage of Selected Side Events at the Bonn Climate Change Conference - Issue No. 1 - 2 June 2015

²UNFCCC Newsroom - Technology Transfer Picking up Speed- ARTICLE / 03. DEC, 2014

G77/China opposed conceptual discussions on technology. They argued that the mandate of the ADP co-chairs is to continue streamlining. In consolidating the text, parties focused on steps by developed countries to: leverage enhanced support from the private sector for technology development and transfer to developing countries; address barriers to accessing technology “and know-how”; and promote access to public sector technology, and its development and transfer to developing countries.³

Some new proposals and ideas also emerged during Bonn Climate Conference deliberations. For instance, United States of America, Australia, and Mexico proposed changing reference to “developed parties” in the articles related to technology to “all parties, noting that both developed and developing countries need to address barriers to technology transfer.⁴ Moreover, many countries agreed that the critical issue of global collaboration should be inserted in the agreement. Concretely, the African Group proposed text on a framework for scaling up technology development and transfer, in order to provide a strategy to guide the UNFCCC technology mechanism. Finally Japan cautioned against creating new obligations for parties on technology, stressing that providing incentives to the private sector would be more effective.⁵

and sustainably implement their INDCs to tackle climate change at national/regional level.

The Paris agreement should acknowledge the technology mechanism, and include actions that strengthen the technology mechanisms already in place. For instance, the TEC may be reformed to fully and effectively discharge its mandate.

Moreover, a specific framework for technology should be included in all the intended nationally determined contributions submitted by all country parties, as these documents will certainly constitute the basis of the next climate agreement/roadmap. Finally, based on a discussion with Mithika Mwenda, Director of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, the new climate agreement should reinforce platforms and institutions that allow for the sharing between governments of technology, capacity building and best practice in the energy sector. It is critical than the system chosen by the negotiators ensure that finance and technology are transferred in line with needs and capacities and based on strict rules, regulations and commitments.



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● Enhancing Technology for a Successful Paris Agreement

Climate negotiators have not really considered conceptual ideas, and there are only 6 months left before the Paris Climate Conference. Parties need to depoliticize the meeting and realize the urgency and criticality of the reach of an ambitious Paris agreement.

Developed countries have the technologies and resources at their disposal to quickly transform their energy systems away from fossil fuels and towards energy efficiency and 100% renewable energy.⁶ They hence need to take the lead in their own countries as well as transfer those technologies to developing and least developed countries for them to be able to effectively

USEFUL RESOURCES



ECO Climate Action Network, Outside issues, June 2015

Newsletter on the advancements and challenges of Geneva Climate Negotiations

► <http://goo.gl/oKldi>



International Institute for Sustainable Development, Earth

Negotiations Bulletins, June 2015 News report on the main outcomes and issues raised during Lima Conference

► <http://goo.gl/xOdfye>



International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development,

(June 2015). BioRes, Volume 9, Issue 5. BioRes provides news and analysis on the current climate negotiations.

► <http://goo.gl/IDqOa0>



UNFCCC Newsroom News written by UNFCCC staff on issues directly related to negotiations and the convention.

► <http://goo.gl/WRUcBK>



Pan African Climate Justice Alliance Press statement disseminated on 11th of June 2015 in Bonn.

³ IISD, Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB) - Volume 12 Number 633 | Saturday, 6 June 2015

⁴ IISD, Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB) - Volume 12 Number 633 | Saturday, 6 June 2015

⁵ IISD, Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB) - Volume 12 Number 633 | Saturday, 6 June 2015

⁶ ECO newsletters/ reporting services –3 June 2015