

Regional and National Centres on Climate Technology



Faster adoption of cleaner and more efficient technologies and standards is crucial for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change, and is particularly important to developing countries, which face the most immediate climate challenges. There is an urgent need for climate-related technology development and diffusion capacity development in developing countries in order to meet the climate challenges effectively and efficiently.

For these reasons, in recent years the concept of climate technology centres has come to the fore in academic literature and climate change discussions. The need for augmented and networked global climate technology centres has also been underlined by parties at the UNFCCC climate negotiations. Such centres need to be shaped by local needs and tailored to country and regional specific conditions.



**United Nations System
Chief Executives Board for Coordination**

UN system-wide response to climate change

Under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General, the Chief Executives Board (CEB) brings together the leaders of 29 UN system organizations to jointly support Member States in meeting the global challenges faced by the international community.

In 2008, the CEB adopted the Climate Change Action Framework, a joint, action-oriented approach in line with the ongoing UNFCCC negotiating processes and the emerging agendas of the Parties of the Convention.

The UN system stands ready to support Member States in implementing their commitments. At COP 16 / CMP 6, it is presenting its ongoing work and practical tools available through side events, exhibits and by sharing a joint package with thematic information.

For more information on the CEB and its joint work on climate change, please visit:
<http://www.unsceb.org/ceb/priorities/climate-change/>

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Objectives

Climate technology centres can be described as a, “one-stop shop to foster the rapid expansion of climate technologies in developing countries, to meet both climate and development needs.” Building a strong network of technology centres is critical to enable developing countries to leapfrog to low greenhouse gas emission development paths.

Activities

The UN system has been playing a critical role in several areas of climate technology development and innovation. Its most important functions are summarized below:

- Building appropriate human and institutional capacity;
- Supporting enabling investment environments;
- Assessing appropriate climate technologies for local conditions;
- Coordinating R&D efforts across public and private organizations;
- Supporting the creation and incubation of companies to develop products for local markets;
- Providing early stage funding for companies;
- Developing technical standards and certification;
- Providing policy and market analysis to help governments and firms choose appropriate strategies.

Specific Examples

Since 1994, UNIDO and UNEP have been successfully working together to establish National Cleaner Production Centres and Programmes to strengthen clean technology innovation systems.

Moving forward

Building on successful experiences to date, the UN system will strengthen and build regional and national technology centres in developing countries. While successful centres have been developed individually on an *ad hoc* basis, greater value could be provided by promoting a network of connected centres.

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Other significant programmes of the UN system include:

- infoDev's Climate Technology Programme, which is working to support the establishment of Climate Innovation Centres (CICs) in developing countries.
- UNFCCC programmes that provide a range of support to developing country parties to facilitate action on technology development and transfer.
- ITU is creating key standards in ICT and is raising awareness of the use of ICTs and standards in promoting technology transfer and innovation in developing countries.

Results

Several international technology centres are currently operating, including business incubators, seed funds, and multilateral organizations. However, two thirds of developing countries have no identified organization focusing on climate technology development, deployment and demonstration.

Much remains to be done – the role of the UN system in fostering the diffusion of climate technology centres in poor countries is therefore critical. Several UN programmes have proven successful in this area. In addition, the UNFCCC negotiations are aware of the critical aspect of this topic.