



COP17/CMP7
 UNITED NATIONS
 CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2011
 DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

Technology Transfer

UN system-wide response to climate change

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

In 2007, the CEB adopted the Climate Change Actions Framework, a joint action-oriented approach in line with the decisions of the UNFCCC Parties. The UN system supports Member States in implementing their commitments and in responding to the emerging challenges.

At COP 17 / CMP 7, the UN system is presenting its ongoing work and practical solutions and tools at side events, exhibits and by sharing a joint package with thematic information.

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Achieving the 2°C climate target will require technological innovation and the rapid and widespread transfer of environmentally-sound technologies for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and for adapting to the inevitable impacts of climate change. Likewise, achieving sustainable development on a global scale will require a fundamental technological change in both developed and developing countries. The transition to a green economy offers a pathway to sustainable development that developing countries cannot afford to miss. It offers an opportunity to move to better, environmentally-sound technologies and to create and strengthen the associated institutions needed to extend access to these technologies. Technology transfer must therefore operate on a broader scale, covering these challenges and within the framework of a global transition to green economy for sustainable development and poverty eradication.

The Cancun Agreements adopted at COP16 established a “Technology Mechanism” which is intended to facilitate the implementation of enhanced action on technology development and transfer in order to support action on mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The Technology Mechanism consists of the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and a Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN). COP17 in Durban is expected to take a decision to make the Technology Mechanism fully operational in 2012.

The UN system organizations can provide a valuable contribution to the work of the Technology Mechanism and in particular the Climate Technology Centre and Network. The UN system is well placed to support the work of the CTCN, in view of its wide range of capacity building activities for developing countries, on innovation infrastructure and to support the transfer, adaptation and dissemination of technologies.

United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

Climate Change Action Framework

Focus (left) and Cross-Cutting Areas (right) have been identified in pursuance of the broader mandates and capacities in the UN system (with corresponding convening agencies) to ensure better coordination and cooperation for concrete deliverables:

Adaptation
 Technology transfer
 Forestry and Agriculture
 Financing mitigation and adaptation action
 Capacity-building

Climate knowledge; science, assessment, monitoring and early warning
 Supporting global, regional and national action
 Public awareness-raising
 Social Dimensions of Climate Change

Technology Transfer

Objective

The objective of the UN system is to significantly increase the capacity of developing countries to innovate and to transfer, adapt and disseminate environmentally sound technologies and standards to support a transition to green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication.

Activities

- Access to technology information through WIPO's global technology databases combined with capacity building activities to facilitate access to patent data and scientific journals (www.wipo.int/global_ip) through WIPO's network of Technology and Innovation Support Centres.
- The development of *WIPO Green* which is a marketplace for the sustainable exchange of ESTs and enables owners of proprietary technologies to make selected technologies and solutions available as packages, including related know-how, services and materials and facilitates the matching of specific user-formulated needs with technology providers.
- UNIDO and UNEP's National Cleaner Production Centres and Programmes to strengthen clean technology innovation systems.
- UNDESA's national studies on clean technology and green growth for sustainable development climate change adaptation.
- UNDESA's study on trends in global technology and RD&D cooperation, and a study for Rio+20 on global sustainable development scenarios.
- UNDP's support for transferring environmentally sound technologies through assessing technology needs and options (e.g. UNDP has assisted over 75 Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) processes); developing national strategies and enabling frameworks; building capacities – institutions, individuals and systems; facilitating financing; delivering tools, policy options and best practices; promoting partnerships; measuring results.
- UNEP work, with the support of GEF, on technology needs assessments.
- InfoDev (World Bank)'s Climate Technology Program, includes launch of Climate Innovation Centers (CICs) in Kenya, India, Ethiopia and Vietnam. The South African CIC has been selected by the Government of South Africa as one of its Top Ten projects to showcase at COP 17.
- ITU's work in the creation of green ICT standards and in raising awareness of the use of ICTs and standards in promoting technology transfer and innovation in developing countries (www.itu.int/climate).
- WTO's awareness-raising activities, including side events and explanatory papers, describing TRIPS provisions and related issues that have been raised in the technology transfer discussions at the UNFCCC.

Benefits

- Increased resilience to climate change.
- Industrial and private sector development.
- Employment creation.
- Co-benefits of advanced climate technology: increased sustainable energy access for the poor, higher agricultural yields, water supply.
- Increased economic competitiveness.
- Identification of progress, gaps, and issues in terms of green technology for consideration by policy makers.
- Reduced costs due to international standards.
- Transfer of environmentally beneficial technology to areas of greatest need, such as UNRWA's work to construct a climate neutral school in Gaza to improve learning outcomes, showcase the technology in the area, raise awareness for climate neutral technology, and build the capacity to replicate the technology.

Moving forward

The Technology Mechanism agreed in Cancun, with the aim of being fully operationalized in 2012, represents an important and practical step in scaling up support to developing countries in building their capacity for innovation and deploying technology to meet the challenges of climate change and sustainable development. The UN system organizations can make a significant contribution to the success of the CTCN and help ensure that its actions have a real impact at the country level and in key sectors of the economy.