

Delhi High-level Conference on Climate Change: Technology Development and Transfer

22-23 October 2009

Concept Note

Background

Progress in the development, deployment and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, particularly cleaner energy technologies and technologies for adaptation, will be an essential component of a comprehensive global effort for combating climate change.

The international community has long emphasized the importance of technology for sustainable development and for meeting climate change challenges in a reasonable time-frame, both in developed and developing countries. Development and transfer of mitigation and adaptation technologies are of importance to align sustainable development and economic growth imperatives in an era of climate change. In addition, appropriate mitigation technologies can align energy security with climate change concerns.

This understanding of the central role of technology development and transfer has been incorporated in the Bali Action Plan, which emphasizes the critical importance of technology to successfully implement mitigation and adaptation actions in developing countries. However, the global community has yet to develop a strategy to unlock the full potential of technology.

The Delhi Conference will advance the discussions initiated at the *Beijing High-level Conference on Climate Change: Technology Development and Technology Transfer*, co-organized by the Chinese Government and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) on 7-8 November 2008. The Beijing Conference took stock of the clean technologies, the barriers to transfer and the potential for technology collaboration. Participants also presented case studies. The conference clearly recognized the need for new and innovative mechanisms of international co-operation, particularly in research, development, deployment and transfer of climate-related technologies.

Objectives

In order to promote international technology development and transfer in the context of the Bali Action Plan for enhancement of long term cooperation for implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Government of India and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs are jointly organizing a high level conference in New Delhi on October 22-23, 2009. The conference will bring together governments, experts, industry representatives and civil society to help formulate a roadmap for technology in the context of climate change mitigation and adaptation to support the UNFCCC process.

The Delhi Conference will seek to advance understanding on key actions needed to accelerate technology development and transfer in all countries in accordance with their national needs. The conference will throw light on technology scenarios, institutional and business models of development and deployment, and mechanisms to

promote technology transfer to developing countries and to enhance the scope for cooperation on research and development.

Towards a Common Understanding

Enhanced mitigation and adaptation under the UNFCCC requires an acceleration of the development, deployment, adoption, diffusion and transfer of environmentally sound technologies among all Parties and in particular from Annex II Parties to non-Annex I Parties. This is critical in order to avoid the lock-in effects of non-environmentally sound technologies on developing country Parties. There is also a critical and urgent need for identification, development and adoption of technology for adaptation at regional and national levels, enabled by capacity-building.

The climate change related technology challenges, therefore, include (i) the development and diffusion of new technologies and (ii) the adaptation and diffusion of existing proven technologies. In both cases, the goal is to accelerate the availability of, and access to, affordable and effective products in viable markets, with profitable firms. The uptake of climate-friendly technologies in developing countries is limited by access to the technologies, their high prices, and inadequate capacity to manage, operate and maintain these technologies.

In order to achieve the goal of accelerated technology development and transfer, a shared understanding is needed on:

- (a) Technology scenarios that address climate change concerns and simultaneously the national imperatives in the short and the long term, such as energy security, economic growth, resilient livelihoods, with a view to identify key technologies and end-use applications for these technologies. Also it is necessary to accelerate and facilitate the access and deployment of more efficient low-carbon energy technologies to the most vulnerable countries and in particular support the building of capacity on technologies and process for adaptation.
- (b) The nature and scope of technology transfer mechanisms to support developing countries in addressing climate change, including structure, governance and funding. Also requiring consideration are the activities and costs that should be eligible for funding, as well as monitoring, reporting and verification processes for technology development and transfer activities and of the supporting and enabling activities. Enhanced global cooperation on R&D for key technologies, including the IPR issues, also need to be addressed.
- (c) Global technology cooperation is needed to promote the identification, development and adoption of key technologies. These actions could include, inter alia, innovative institutional and business models, including global procurement and incentives, formation of markets, etc. The cooperative actions could be channelled through Climate Technology Innovation Centres in different parts of the world that could work on problems and technological solutions specific to that region. The centres would cover all aspects of technology innovation, going from basic/applied research to demonstration and early deployment, with the combination of activities for any specific technology being shaped by an understanding of the innovation gaps for that technology.

A tentative structure of the proposed sessions dealing with the above issues is contained in the provisional programme.

Participation

Invitations will be issued to all Member States. Ministers, high-level representatives of Governments, industry representatives, and members of civil society will be invited. Invitations will also go to members of academic institutions and policy think tanks. High-level participation is also expected from various international organizations and UN system entities.

Detailed information on visa arrangements, airport transfers, registration, hotel accommodation options and other travel arrangements will be provided in a separate *Information Note for Participants*, which will in due course be posted on the Conference website listed below.

Financial assistance

Limited funds will be available to finance the participation of representatives from developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Assistance will be provided in accordance with UN rules and regulations, and funding decisions will be based on the principle of equitable geographical distribution, taking into account the order in which requests are received. Changes in representatives will be considered as new requests.

Proceedings and Language

The proceedings of the Conference will be published on the Conference and DESA websites. The official language of the Conference is English.

Contacts for further information

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