

Advisory Board to the CTCN
Fifteenth meeting

18 June 2020
AB/2020/15/1.2

Report from the CTCN Advisory Board Taskforce Meeting (held 30-31 March 2020)

Advisory Board members in attendance
Ms. Orly Jacob (Chair)
Mr. Ping Zhong (Vice-Chair)
Mr. Kim Doyoon (representing Mr. Seo Gon Ko)
Ms. Moa Forstorp
Mr. Omedi Moses Jura
Mr. Matthew Kennedy
Mr. Sergio La Motta
Ms. Rose Mwebaza
Ms. Meropi Paneli
Mr. Henrique Schneider
Mr. Shiv Shrikanth
Mr. Peter Tarfa
Mr. Spencer Linus Thomas
Ms. Maia Tskhvaradze
Mr. Kenichi Wada

The Advisory Board was joined on the call by Nicola Benton of the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy as well as CTCN staff members and select host institution staff.

Agenda March 30

1. Opening of the Taskforce call (Orly Jacob)
2. 2019 Review of the CTCN
 - a. COP25: Overview of key achievements and guidance (Rose Mwebaza)
 - b. CTCN highlights from 2019 (Karina Larsen)
 - i. Technical assistance
 - ii. Capacity building
 - iii. Network
 - iv. Knowledge sharing & communication
 - v. Gender & youth
 - vi. Monitoring & evaluation
3. Resource mobilisation (Tomoo Machiba)
4. Strategic issues (Rose Mwebaza)

Agenda March 31

1. Opening of the Taskforce call and brief recap of the day 1 Taskforce call (Orly Jacob)
2. UNEP plans in response to COP 25 guidance (Mark Radka)
3. Plans for the fall Advisory Board meeting (Orly Jacob)
4. Update on the work of the Taskforce to improve Advisory Board meetings (Orly Jacob)
5. Update on the work of the Network engagement Taskforce (Orly Jacob)
6. Other issues and meeting closure (Orly Jacob)

Summary of March 30 call:

1. Orly Jacob, Chair of the CTCN Advisory Board and the Taskforce, welcomed the AB and introduced the agenda. She also noted that the Taskforce calls are not official AB meetings. While the calls present a good opportunity for the AB to stay informed and provide guidance to the CTCN, no formal decisions or official endorsements will be made.
2. Rose Mwebaza presented main outcomes from COP25. She reported on the increased media visibility (including the numerous events hosted, number of media mentions and social media engagement), and the COP25 technology-related decisions.¹ She also presented on the CTCN's engagement with the Technology Executive Committee (TEC), National Designated Entities (NDEs), host agencies, UNFCCC Constituencies and the Financial Mechanism at COP25, and the launching of two major collaborations; the selection of the CTCN and UNDP to jointly manage the Adaptation Fund's new Adaptation Innovation Aggregator Fund, and the GEF Challenge Fund focusing on adaptation support to select cities. An update on the CTCN liaison office in Songdo was also provided. Its aim is to facilitate collaboration with the GCF, support south-south knowledge sharing, and research and development aspects of the CTCN's work. The Government of Korea will provide R&D assistance and support for staff and office space.
3. Karina Larsen delivered a summary of the [2019 Annual Operating Plan report](#), detailing main outcomes and activities of CTCN operations over the last year. In 2019, there was a strengthened focus on a regional approach which enabled stronger relationships with NDEs and regional stakeholders. She also presented on the increased number of technical assistance (TA) requests and an analysis of trends in terms of sectorial and thematic priorities of TA requests received. Strengthened partnerships with the GCF, AF, GEF, NDC Partnership and other key stakeholders were highlighted, as well as capacity building activities such as the NDE forums and SME clinics conducted in 2019. The CTCN knowledge platform is now among the world's largest online source of climate technology information and experienced a 70% increase in users in 2019. Ms. Larsen provided an overview of cross-sectoral activities including communications, gender mainstreaming, monitoring & evaluation and private sector engagement. It was noted that work still remains to strengthen the CTCN's work on private sector engagement. The AB noted the quality and timely delivery of the AOP report with appreciation. In terms of the development of CTCN's new M&E system, it was suggested by the Board that Kate Faulhaber, the M&E expert working with the CTCN as a result of USAID pro-bono support, present her reflections and take-aways from the CTCN M&E system to the AB via e-mail or at the fall AB meeting. AB members highlighted the importance of demonstrating real impact on the ground to attract donors, indicating that donors are less concerned with the number of requests and more with the impact on beneficiaries and markets. AB members also expressed their appreciation for the regional approach to programme management and the regional offices. Mr. Peter Tarfa attended the intersessional briefing between the CTCN and the African group of negotiators at COP25. He suggested that it would be helpful to regularly update focal points in those countries and continue communications so that they will be aware of CTCN services and activities.

¹ file:///C:/Users/shanar.tabrizi/Downloads/cop25_ctcn_guidance_0.pdf

4. Tomoo Machiba presented on the CTCN's 2019 resource mobilisation efforts. New contributions include renewed funding from Sweden, considerable pro-bono support from the Government of South Korea as well as an additional \$3 million USD from Japan. Pro-bono support was also provided by USAID through the support of an M&E expert. Resource mobilisation via the private sector has proven challenging. Advisory Board members commented from their experience that maximum amounts which can be provided are often around \$20-50 thousand USD. In terms of foundations, it was suggested that the CTCN's activities may not be what such institutions are generally looking to fund. The Board thanked existing bilateral donors for their contributions. The CTCN was requested to share an updated budget table including the recent Japanese contribution, as well as separate tables showing budget performance with and without pro-bono contributions. Nima Joshi from the Secretariat noted that the 2020 annual operation plan, including operations and staff costs, are fully funded. However, there is an urgent need for further resource mobilisation with particular regard to unearmarked funding. The AB Taskforce noted the need for securing long-term financing of the CTCN to ensure human resource costs are covered and a sustainable delivery of the mandate is supported. The optimal number of CTCN Secretariat members in order to deliver on said mandates was discussed. The suggestion was to not go below the current number of team members as otherwise a significant decrease in services would result. Ms. Mwebaza shared that an analysis of CTCN HR capacity needs has been performed.
5. Rose Mwebaza presented strategic issues for the CTCN going forward, including an increased programmatic approach to CTCN activities. Examples mentioned, based on identification of needs and trends, were focusing on e-mobility in Asia, circular economy in LAC, or focusing on a specific cross-sectoral programmes such as gender and youth. As the CTCN M&E system is now completed, focus will be on implementation with the aim of providing an interface for AB members, donors and the public to follow progress against targets online.

AB Taskforce members noted with appreciation the CTCN's strategic effort to analyse risks and potential impact of COVID-19 on CTCN operations and implementation of 2020 AOP. Board members provided a number of recommendations in terms of considerations for future activities. In terms of innovation and R&D, the support provided by the Republic of Korea in terms of providing a dedicated secondee as well as a liaison office in Songdo was welcomed. Moreover, Taskforce members expressed agreement with the new approach of focusing on knowledge sharing issues from a regional perspective. They encouraged presenting solutions based upon best practices, which should include practical examples. The best practices should ideally address what countries are doing in terms of their actions; not just their institutional arrangements; and seek to identify what solutions are leading to real transformative change. They welcomed the involvement of Network members and NDEs in the development of such knowledge sharing efforts. It was also suggested that the CTCN highlight collaboration between various stakeholder groups such as the academic, CSO, private, public and research sectors.

In view of COVID-19, it was suggested that the CTCN could consider how support to countries could be aligned with the need for transformational impact with regard to emission reductions from lifestyle change as well as co-benefits for job creation and other key priorities emerging from a post-COVID society. The CTCN was reminded that Nationally Determined Contributions will be

updated this year, and long-term strategies will be submitted, which provides opportunity for the CTCN to identify in dialogue with countries how it can support NDC implementation in relation to the Technology Framework and guidance from Parties.

Summary March 31

1. Orly Jacob opened the Taskforce call and provided a brief recap of the March 30 Taskforce call.
2. Mark Radka presented on the United Nations Environment Programme's support in the CTCN's resource mobilisation efforts. UNEP plans to coordinate efforts and advocate for continued and reliable funding for the CTCN, including through support provided by UNEP's Executive Director Inger Andersen. He noted that both long-term and short-term funding will be requested, but as some governments have 2-year funding cycles a donor-specific approach would be taken. UNEP's planned provision of support to the CTCN in terms of resource mobilisation includes a joint letter to governments and institutions (drawing inspiration from previous efforts by Achim Steiner and Christiana Figueres to seek climate financing from governments). Mr. Radka requested suggestions from the AB in terms of to which national institutions or stakeholders the letter should be directed. He also summarised support for resource mobilisation provided to date, which includes engagement in discussions with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and DANIDA about continued support for the CTCN (including provision of rent-free offices for the CTCN Secretariat), and signing an MoU with the Government of South Korea on the shared interest of seeing enhanced cooperation between GCF and the CTCN. As reported, a liaison office is currently being established in Songdo to support this cooperation. UNEP is also engaging with Denmark to lead engagement and outreach to other donors. A change in personnel in Denmark has set these discussions back but the plan is still to move ahead. Mr. Radka also noted that UNEP's partner in hosting the CTCN, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), is also engaging in CTCN resource mobilization and this was confirmed by the CTCN-UNIDO liaison, Mr. Patrick Nussbaumer. Mark Radka noted in response that the intention is to implement actions this year. While the intention is to report on UNEP's support to CTCN's resource mobilisation at COP26, as requested by the COP, a preliminary report can also be shared with the AB members.

The presentation was followed by discussions on proposed modalities and sources of funding. An increased collaboration and alignment with the Financial Mechanism and its priorities, without compromising the CTCN core mandate, was encouraged. The new CTCN liaison office in Songdo was welcomed as a good opportunity to enhance engagement with the GCF. Ms. Mwebaza noted that the CTCN has explored the possibility of receiving support for staff costs from the GCF. While this is not in line with GCF procedures, positive discussions have been held and the CTCN is following up. The CTCN was reminded that the GCF board is currently reviewing its strategic plan for the next four years. It was encouraged by some AB members that the best approach to GCF engagement would be to pursue it from multiple points of entry; Secretariat to Secretariat, Board to Board, and Managers to Managers.

Board members suggested that donors may be encouraged to fund the CTCN if funding is made jointly with other donors such as was done during COP22 in Marrakech. The multi-donor trust fund

was referenced by the Secretariat as an approach which enables more efficient reporting, donor management, and lower overhead costs so that a larger portion of funds can be utilized on CTCN operations. It was also suggested that donors may be discouraged by the need to make several transactions over a short period of time and that the CTCN may wish to consider approaches to overcoming administrative barriers. Furthermore, the CTCN should make use of its ability to combine climate finance and technologies, as many governments lack knowledge of this while they are still looking for ways of engaging PPP's, academia and the private sector (especially the indigenous/endogenous private sector in developing countries). The CTCN's strength lies in its ability to combine several of these aspects in its support to developing countries. Further emphasis should be placed on showing the transformational impacts and outcomes from the CTCN operations to facilitate discussions with donors.

It was suggested that a virtual AB meeting or Taskforce be held to continue discussions on resource mobilisation in May or June. Ms. Jacob will plan to discuss this matter with the Secretariat and propose dates to the AB.

3. Plans for the fall Advisory Board meeting were discussed. A meeting space is currently reserved at UNIDO headquarters in Vienna, Austria for September 7—11 for the fall AB meeting. This timing occurs a week before the planned TEC meeting and would allow adequate time for the development of the Joint Annual Report in time for the COP². Points for AB consideration included 1) whether to move forward with this date and location; 2) whether to organize an online meeting in the event that health precautions preclude an in-person meeting; and 3) whether to integrate elements of AB15 into AB16 (which would include the approval of the 2019 financial statement) or to hold a separate call for that agenda item. Several AB members expressed scepticism about being able to travel in September and suggest looking at what partners such as UNFCCC are doing in terms of online meetings. The online platform Voice is suggested as a possible mode of hosting the AB meeting. It was also suggested that the CTCN consider whether AB meetings could routinely be hosted online in the future. Due to COVID-19, it is difficult to know when next AB meeting can be held in person, but there was a strong agreement voiced for continuing to organize AB meetings even if that requires online arrangements.
4. Only Jacob presented the outcomes of the AB Taskforce calls on improving Advisory Board meetings and Network engagement. In terms of management of the AB meetings, it was discussed whether future AB documents could be shared even earlier so that comments and revisions may be provided in advance of AB meetings. This would enable the meetings to focus more on discussing strategic matters. It was cautioned that certain revisions to the AB documents would still need discussions in larger groups. Amanda Lees noted that the accounts for the CTCN close at the end of March, so from the finance side it would be challenging to share AB documents earlier for the spring meeting.

² We have since been informed that COP26 has been deferred until 2021 and the UNFCCC SB meetings previously scheduled for June will now be moved to October 4-12.

However, other documents can indeed be prepared earlier for the Board's review in advance of AB meetings.

The Board Taskforce encouraged more agenda items focusing on strategic matters to enable the best opportunity for the AB to provide guidance to the CTCN. The Taskforce also indicated that more Network members, strategic partners and beneficiaries could be invited to the AB meetings to share experiences and lessons learned (via video and online means if necessary). It was further suggested that thematic experts be invited to the AB meetings to present on topics such as high-impact technologies or resource mobilisation, followed by breaking AB members and observers out into working groups. While some AB members suggested that a progressive approach towards the meetings could be taken, including the possible opening of the AB to guide on selected operational matters of the CTCN, others cautioned that AB meetings require effective time management in order to deliver on their main mission and time spent on expert presentations and working groups risk having an impact in terms of the AB delivering on its mandate. The CTCN responded that it would review COP guidance on the Advisory Board mandates in order to propose a potential format for future AB meetings without overstepping the main mission and purpose.

In addition, the AB Taskforce noted that the current circumstances make changing AB leadership challenging at the moment. Orly Jacob accepted continuing as Chair in the interim until a suitable time can be found to hand over the role and for the Board to elect a new Vice-Chair.

In terms of outcomes from the Taskforce calls on CTCN network engagement, a number of short-term and long-term actions were proposed with the aim of enhancing network engagement.

Proposed short-term actions for network engagement include:

- Regular online communication with network via software programme, with minimal facilitation from the Secretariat but the ability to bring communities together online for exchange
- Targeted events for best practise sharing and matchmaking
- Learning opportunities and partnerships
- Network members as ambassadors with an award
- Alignment of network activities with the CTCN communication strategy

Proposed long-term actions for network engagement include:

- Provision of further non-TA opportunities
- Identification of gaps in membership for targeted recruitment. Analysis to see which TAs are not receiving enough bids, to map the lack of expertise in the Network.
- Innovative engagement of academia and research institutions, for example through provision of project design
- Simplification of the technical assistance bidding process
- Creation of membership tiers (higher level vs regular network membership)

AB members noted with appreciation the outcomes of the Taskforce call and proposed activities, but cautioned that a network membership in tiers would need to be carefully developed in terms

of what the service offerings and value added would be for the different memberships, and that such a setup would not necessarily lead to higher levels of network engagement. Ms. Mwebaza highlighted that the Secretariat would analyse how the short-term activities could be aligned with the 2020 AOP. The 2020 AOP currently does include planned activities which support network engagement, including TA bidding opportunities, organizing of webinars and development of knowledge products. The medium-and long-term actions and goals will be discussed further at next AB meeting for decisions on inclusion in 2021 AOP.