

Potential collaboration with the UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub Cover note

I. Background

1. Decision 19/CMA.4 requested the UNFCCC secretariat to ensure that the relevant activities of the UNFCCC Global Innovation Hub (UGIH) contribute to supporting the implementation of the joint work programme of the Technology Mechanism, as guided by the technology framework to avoid duplication and fragmentation of efforts in the area of innovation.
2. As a follow up to the decision, in 2023 the technology team of the UNFCCC secretariat organized a number of meetings between the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the TEC and the Advisory Board of the CTCN with the team supporting UGIH to enhance understanding of each other workplans and to find synergies and common areas of work for potential collaboration.
3. A proposal by the UGIH on potential collaboration to support the implementation of the joint work programme of Technology Mechanism was submitted on 16 March 2023 to the TEC and the CTCN Advisory Board. However, given the proposal was submitted just before the start of the meeting of TEC26, there was no time to fully discuss the proposal at the joint session in March 2023.
4. Regardless, follow up actions of the proposal were implemented, for example, the UGIH connected T-systems and Open Earth Foundation to the technology team, which then followed on introducing the work of the Technology Mechanism. At COP28 in Dubai, the UGIH provided two slots to be used by TEC and CTCN for the organization of a session on Digitalization and a session sharing the findings of the RD&D survey.
5. At TEC 28, the presentation was made by the UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub on potential areas of collaboration between the Technology Mechanism and the UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub. The TEC and the CTCN Advisory Board suggested taking steps to establish collaboration in the area of common interest. The TEC and the CTCN Advisory Board requested the UNFCCC secretariat to continue coordination on this topic and to identify potential ways to address the concerns raised by members at the meeting and report thereon at the next joint session.
6. The CTCN AB Chair and TEC member participated at the UGIH's Eighth Systemic Innovation Workshop, in Shenzhen, China on 9th September, 2024 and made a presentation on behalf of the Technology Mechanism.

II. Scope of the note

7. The annex to this note includes an update on planned activities, for potential collaboration and support by the UGIH to support the implementation of the joint work programme of the Technology Mechanism.

III. Expected action

8. The TEC and the CTCN Advisory Board will be invited to provide guidance on the next steps regarding potential collaboration areas between the Technology Mechanism and UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub.

Annex

UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub

UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub

Concept Note – Collaboration with TEC and CTCN

2 September 2024



United Nations Climate Change
Global Innovation Hub



1. Why the UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub

Vision

To contribute to accelerating and upscaling the effective use of innovation to serve the many people and the planet through the achievement of two goals:

Goal 1: To contribute to accelerating the upscaled deployment of existing transformative climate and sustainability solutions

This is done by facilitating an integrated approach to innovation, with innovative technologies, innovative policy instruments, innovative financial instruments, innovative business models, innovative cooperative approaches, and innovative products from the culture and creative industries being combined to ensure accessibility and acceptability of existing solutions and their deployment at scale.

Goal 2: To contribute to accelerating the development of new transformative climate and sustainability solutions, to respond to the current demand from cities and the demand from the GST

2. What is the UN Climate Change Global Innovation Hub

To achieve these goals, the UGIH has built four spaces:

- A. **Systemic Innovation Workshops (SIW):** they are spaces for connection, inspiration, systemic awareness, meta-cognitive reframing, radical collaboration, and learning. They use the envisioned future that cities and corporates want to build as inputs. Through a back casting normative scenario, these visions are translated into needs in terms of climate and sustainability solutions, then to challenges, and the outputs are specific Global Innovation Projects (GIP). Participants include city officials, research centers, tech companies, startups, venture capital firms, philanthropists, accelerators and incubators, entities from the culture and creative industries, urban planners, and architects.
- B. **Ad hoc working groups:** they use as inputs the Global Innovation Projects identified and formulated during the Systemic Innovation Workshop and turn them into climate and sustainability solutions, following a co-creation and co-evolution process.
- C. **COP dialogue:** hosting more than 80 sessions with the participation of more than 400 speakers.
- D. **Digital platform:** This platform will host a database of climate and sustainability needs and have the following key functions:
 - Identification of innovation needs with AI and Large Language Models.
 - A deep search engine
 - A curation system
 - An AI tool able to identify a suitable combination of innovative solutions to address specific needs.

Collaboration Opportunities with TEC and CTCN

UGIH can contribute to the implementation of the Joint Work Programme of the UNFCCC Technology Mechanisms for 2023 - 2027 in the following ways:

- a) **Technology Roadmaps:** Through their joint work programme, the TEC and the CTCN focus on facilitating and stimulating the uptake of technologies to support NDC ambition and implementation and enhancing the role of innovation in deploying technological solutions at a faster pace and at scale. UGIH can support upscaled technology uptake by:
 - i. Inviting the TEC and the countries they are supporting to bring to the UGIH SIW challenges related to the identification of other innovative solutions (i) on finance, (ii) on business models, (iii) on cooperative approaches, and (iv) related to the product from the culture and creative industry such as digital games that can be combined and are needed for the development, transfer, and upscaled deployment of transformative climate and sustainability technologies.
 - ii. Providing space to TEC and CTCN during the UGIH COP dialogues to showcase success stories and lessons learned in preparing and implementing Technology Roadmaps (TRMs) to stimulate the development and uptake of technologies that support NDC implementation.
 - iii. Support the communication and outreach of the TEC and the CTCN by sharing key messages related to the Technology Framework as well as the TEC and CTCN joint work-programme in different forums and events

- b) **Digitalization:** As part of their workplan, the TEC and CTCN seek to explore the role of distributed ledgers and green technology databases as supporting tools and resources for innovation cooperation. UGIH can contribute to digitalization through:
 - i. Collaborating with UGIH's partners on using digital technologies for climate policymaking, including the end-to-end digitalization of the activity cycle using IoT, DLT, AI, smart contract, and connectivity.
 - ii. Co-organizing events, such as those at the UGIH COP pavilion, and bringing together different stakeholders (especially non-party actors including cities and tech companies) to explore how digitalization can support the climate and sustainability agenda.
 - iii. When fully operational, the collaboration can also include using the UGIH digital platform to exchange data and information among UGIH, TEC, and CTCN and between these entities and other innovation hubs. Knowledge sharing on available technologies, as well as technologies of the future that need to be developed, can also be shared

- c) **Buildings and resilient infrastructure** are identified as a dedicated area of work for the TEC in its next work plan as part of a focus on transformative and innovative solutions. UGIH can support this item by:
 - i. Provision of substantive support in the form of inputs to documents produced by the Technology Mechanism related to Buildings and Infrastructure
 - ii. Inviting the TEC and the countries they are supporting to bring to the UGIH SIW challenges related to the development, and deployment of low-carbon buildings and infrastructure
 - iii. Facilitate the exchange of knowledge and information, for example, through the co-organization of events that showcase innovative building and infrastructure technologies, such as bamboo as an alternative building material and nature-based solutions in cities

(for example, incorporating white roofs and trees) that reduce the need for heating and cooling in buildings.

d) **Transformative and innovative solutions:** In its third workstream, TEC has identified water-energy-food systems, buildings and infrastructure, transformative industry, and nature and ecosystem solutions as key focus areas. To further support the work on these priority areas:

- i. UGIH through its SIW can facilitate the exchange of knowledge and information on how to transition the nutrition and health value chain with the objective of achieving SDG2 and, as a constraint, alignment with the climate goals, the goal of biodiversity and land regeneration. This will require work on the nexus of agriculture, water, food security, energy and climate.

3. Planned Activities

a) Systemic Innovation Workshops

UGIH has invited TEC/CTCN members to participate in its Systemic Innovation Workshops. For instance, at its next workshop scheduled to take place in Shenzhen on the 8th of September 2024, UGIH has provided a session to the Vice-Chair of CTCN AB to showcase the work of Technology Mechanism. This workshop also presents an opportunity for TEC and CTCN to exchange knowledge and information on how best technological solutions can be combined with other forms of innovation such as finance, business models, and cooperative approaches that are needed for development, transfer, and upscaled deployment of transformative climate and sustainability solutions.

UGIH has also extended the invitation to the members of TEC to attend other UGIH Systemic Innovation Workshops in:

- Bonn, Germany (11 and 12th of June 2024)
- Brasilia, Brazil (16th of September 2024)
- New York, United States of America (26th of September 2024)
- Baku, Azerbaijan (Date tbc)

b) COP 29 UGIH Dialogues

UGIH will explore opportunities to co-organize a session with TEC and CTCN at COP 29. This session may contribute towards the implementation of the Joint Work programme of TEC and CTCN.