

Annex

Roles of the National Designated Entities (NDEs) for technology development and transfer

1. Purpose of this note

The Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) is the operational arm of the Technology Mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and it is hosted and managed by UNEP.

National Designated Entities (NDEs) were established by Parties through decision 4/CP.13, which “invites Parties in a position to do so to identify and designate their national entity for the development and transfer of technologies and to communicate this to the secretariat by the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties”.

Following the establishment of the Technology Mechanism by COP16 in 2010, NDEs were designated to manage technology collaboration activities supported through the CTCN.

Decision 2/CP.17 Annex VII paragraph 8 assigned one function to NDE of developing countries: “The Climate Technology Centre will receive these requests from developing country Parties through the national entity designated for this purpose under decision 4/CP.13.” In its decision 14/CP.18 (para 12), the Conference of Parties (COP) of the UNFCCC - “invites Parties to nominate their national designated entities for the development and transfer of technologies, in order to facilitate the operationalization of the CTC”.

The nomination of NDEs is a prerequisite for Parties to engage with the CTCN. Nonetheless, COP decisions provide only limited guidance regarding the specific roles of NDEs, leaving it to each Party’s discretion to define their functions.

The Technology Executive Committee (TEC) is the policy arm of the Technology Mechanism. It focuses on identifying policies that can accelerate the development and transfer of low-emission and climate-resilient technologies. Serving the Convention and the Paris Agreement, the TEC performs the following functions, all of which are relevant to NDEs:

- Provide an overview of countries’ climate technology needs and analyse policy and technical issues related to climate technology development and transfer;
- Recommend actions to promote climate technology development and transfer;
- Recommend guidance on climate technology policies and programmes;
- Promote and facilitate collaboration between climate technology stakeholders;
- Recommend actions to address barriers to climate technology development and transfer;
- Seek cooperation with climate technology stakeholders and promote coherence across technology activities;
- Catalyse the development and use of climate technology road maps and action plans.

The COP's guidance to the TEC regarding the engagement with NDEs mainly pertains to enhancing the reach of TEC's outputs to NDEs (Decision 13/CP.24), strengthening systematic engagement with NDEs, enhancing technical and logistical support to NDEs, enhancing efforts related to the monitoring and evaluation of the Technology Mechanism (Decision 18/CP.27), and reporting on engagement with NDEs (Decision 9/CP.28, para 4).

The first periodic assessment of the Technology Mechanism under the CMA, offers valuable insights into the role of NDEs (FCCC/SBI/2022/13) in engagement with the TEC and CTCN, encompassing the results of NDE surveys in 2020 and 2022. For example, in one of the recommendations, the TEC and the CTCN are encouraged to strengthen their collaboration regarding the outreach of TEC products and the creation of knowledge products that address the practical needs of developing countries.

A joint note published by the TEC and CTCN Advisory Board in 2023 (TEC/2023/26/17) on potential modalities for the implementation of the Joint Work Programme of the Technology Mechanism also provides innovative ideas on how NDEs may be engaged in delivering the mandate of the TEC and CTCN, particularly in the context of common areas of work and joint activities.

In addition, the TEC endorsed at its 27th meeting a note¹ on “Strengthening engagement of the TEC with national designated entities” which provides suggestions on possible engagement with both annex I and non-annex I NDEs.

The third NDE survey conducted in 2024 adds additional insights on the needs, priorities and potential avenues for enhanced systematic engagement of the TEC and CTCN with NDEs (TEC/2024/29/21).

At the Joint session in September 2024, TEC and CTCN Advisory Board invited the secretariats to develop the guidance document on the role of Annex 1 NDE's, incorporating survey responses, for consideration at the next joint session.

Against this background, this note aims to outline potential tasks that NDEs from UNFCCC Annex I Countries (Annex I NDEs) may undertake. For the sake of conciseness and clarity, the potential role of Annex I NDEs in engaging with the CTCN and the TEC are discussed in separate sections. However, it must be noted that the two bodies work hand-in-hand, including through common areas of work and joint activities, to deliver as one Technology Mechanism.

2. Role of CTCN Annex I NDEs

The impact of the CTCN greatly depends on the involvement of Parties' NDEs, both from Annex I and Non-Annex I countries. Proactive NDEs will act as leaders to accelerate the engagement of stakeholders working on climate change issues and to nurture and enhance collaboration among them. By doing so, NDEs shall significantly increase the

¹ The note is available [here](#)

chances of countries reaching their goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and strengthening their resilience to climate change effects.

Therefore, Annex I NDEs can play a key role in linking the efforts and priorities of national stakeholders working on mitigating and/or adaptation to climate change with the services and opportunities offered by the CTCN. NDEs will act as focal points to liaise among key decision-makers at all levels, including development organizations, bilateral and multilateral donors, private companies, government agencies, academic and research institutions, civil society organizations, technology providers etc. Their involvement in the CTCN and in broader arenas related to climate change will create and open the door for new synergies and collaboration among actors that tend to reach similar objectives and avoid duplication of work.

In particular, Annex I NDEs can take on the following roles:

- i. As national and, where applicable, regional representatives to CTCN, Annex I NDEs can promote and enhance the work of the CTCN by identifying possible opportunities for collaboration, funding, or knowledge transfer. They play a pivotal role in facilitating engagement across the CTCN's core services - technical assistance, information and knowledge sharing, and network and capacity-building - by leveraging their institutional position to convene relevant stakeholders;
- ii. As ambassadors for the CTCN, NDEs can enhance the visibility and awareness of CTCN's work by integrating CTCN-related messaging into national and regional forums in which they participate, ensuring that the CTCN's role and activities are effectively communicated to decision-makers, policymakers, and potential partners;
- iii. Identify synergies between the work of the CTCN and their national government strategies and other NDEs to find opportunities to maximize the impact of existing and future funding streams while strengthening international cooperation in climate technology development and transfer;
- iv. Support Non-Annex I countries and their NDE's in engaging with the CTCN activities and enhancing their capacities to deploy climate technologies.

3. Examples of CTCN Annex I NDE roles

The table below provides examples of actions Annex I NDEs may undertake in fulfilling their roles. These examples are intended to serve as an illustration, recognizing that the specific responsibilities of NDEs will vary across countries and remain subject to national circumstances.

Possible NDE Role	<i>Example of specific actions NDEs can undertake</i>
<p>1. Act as a focal point between the CTCN and their country</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify opportunities for collaboration and potential resource mobilization, including funding, with relevant national stakeholders (governmental and non-governmental agencies, private sector, development organizations, research institutes, academia and where applicable regional structures). b. Increase CTCN visibility and highlighting CTCN success stories and drawing attention to CTCN's Unique Value Proposition (UVP) in speaking engagements at various conferences, and facilitate, where applicable, CTCN events being hosting by their governments or other national stakeholders. c. Identify national opportunities, such as on climate technologies and climate change related programs and initiatives, events, regulations, workshops, reports, donor strategies, success stories and share these with the CTCN and, where applicable, connect the CTCN to various stakeholders to benefit from these opportunities. d. Liaise with national development organizations, the private sector and philanthropies who are working or looking into expanding in developing countries, to identify possible collaboration and synergies between their activities and the efforts of developing countries to address climate change issues. e. Advocate for the integration of climate technology challenges in their country's policies and actions for cooperation and development assistance. f. Provide suggestions on how the CTCN can improve the quality of its support and procedures, e.g. contact the CTC with suggestions, share feedback from partners.

<p>2. Increase efficiency of CTCN technical assistance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Advocate linkages and collaboration between development organizations and developing countries, to identify capacity building needs, to develop and follow-up on requests and support developing country NDEs, e.g. by highlighting success stories, through national consultations, donor coordination groups, ongoing discussions with partners and government stakeholders. b. Leverage existing partnerships in public and private sectors to systematically assess and address technology and capacity building needs in developing countries and support them in developing requests. c. Promote sustained engagement and financing for climate related projects by advocating for follow up support from donors, development organizations and private sector, to further build capacities of developing countries, and increase the impact and success of CTCN support. d. Answer CTCN calls for technical assistance to respond to requests from Non-Annex I NDEs, if relevant to scope of expertise of the NDE.
<p>3. Contribute to increased information and knowledge sharing through the KMS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide the CTC with documents and information that are relevant to the scope of the CTCN Knowledge Management System (KMS), and showcase best practices from their country stakeholders, e.g. trainings and e-learning materials, briefs, reports and other resources.

<p>4. Increase collaboration and networking opportunities and develop the CTN</p>	<p>a. Map programmes, initiatives and organizations that are related to climate technologies and CTCN activities, e.g. public agencies, government institutions, private companies, academic and research institutions, non-profits, intergovernmental organization, development agencies.</p> <p>b. Invite potentially interested organizations, experts and decision-makers to CTCN events. e.g. regional and international forums, trainings, workshop, peer learning programs and participate and contribute to events organized by the CTCN or related to climate technologies.</p> <p>c. Raise awareness of the CTN among relevant organizations and encourage them to apply to the CTN membership, e.g. send information to private and public companies, set-up meetings.</p>
<p>5. Contribute to capacity building activities of CTCN</p>	<p>e. Support collaboration with CTCN to organize joint events on climate technologies, e.g. international forums, regional forums, workshops for public-private partnerships, peer learning, NDE workshops.</p> <p>f. Provide, as applicable, general capacity-building support to Non-Annex I NDEs with the CTCN. e.g. co-organize workshop to build NDE capacities, organize peer visit, one-on-one mentoring.</p>

4. Role of Annex I NDEs in the context of TEC work

Taking into account the mandate and functions of the TEC, NDEs from both Annex I and non-Annex I countries have a critical role to play in informing the policy work of the TEC, with their first-hand experience from advancing technology policy and implementation, in-depth understanding of technology priority and needs of countries, and practical knowledge of barriers, enablers and solutions for innovation and technology development and transfer in their national contexts.

NDEs are well positioned to utilize and improve in-country communication and coordination on technology-related matters among various stakeholders and strengthen institutional interactions on climate technology, in line with the goals of the Convention and the Paris Agreement. This includes channeling insights and support provided under the Technology Mechanism and technology-related developments in intergovernmental processes into relevant national processes and networks.

In particular, Annex I NDEs can take on the following roles:

- Support TEC’s policy work by fostering collaborative partnerships, contributing knowledge, resources, and implementation efforts, and facilitating dissemination and impact. They can also promote policy coherence by aligning TEC’s work with national technology initiatives;
- Act as technology champions by informing and disseminating TEC’s policy recommendations, supporting their implementation, and sharing insights from technology policies in their contexts. Additionally, they can broker collaboration among diverse stakeholders, including research and private sector actors, to advance the Technology Mechanism;
- Adopt and test innovative policies, Annex I NDEs can help address barriers to climate technology development and transfer. They can also support the development and piloting of climate technology roadmaps and action plans in high-impact sectors, working with TEC and relevant partners.

5. Examples of Annex I NDE roles in the context of TEC work

The table below provides examples of actions Annex I NDEs may undertake in fulfilling their roles. These examples are intended to serve as an illustration, recognizing that the specific responsibilities of NDEs will vary across countries and remain subject to national circumstances.

<i>Possible role of Annex I NDEs</i>	<i>Example of specific actions NDEs can undertake</i>
Act as technology champions to inform and disseminate TEC’s outputs	This may include organization of and participation in relevant events, forums, networks and initiatives, as well as sharing insights from the implementation of technology policy and action in both developed and developing country contexts, thereby supporting the data landscape and evidence-based on climate technology issues.
Act as brokers of collaborative technology solution	This may include organization of peer-exchanges, sectoral and regional technology implementation forums, and pursuing north-south and triangular cooperation among NDEs.
Act as early movers for innovative policy uptake	This may include development of technology implementation stories, best practices and guidelines.
Act as technology coordinators and promote policy coherence	This may include integrating the work of the TEC into collaborative technology initiatives and high-level climate pledges that have a strong focus on innovation and climate technology development and transfer.

Act as catalysts for the use of climate technology roadmaps and action plans

This may include supporting the sectoral work of the TEC on technology roadmaps with relevant partners, and supporting the piloting and implementation of TAPs and roadmaps in developing countries, including through the work of the CTCN.