

UN CTCN

2026 Joint Programme: NDE Forum and Capacity Building on National Systems of Innovation in Africa

23-26 March 2026 in Hammamet, Tunisia, In-person meeting

Background

NDE Forum

The Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) is the implementation arm of the Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) Technology Mechanism. For a decade, the CTCN has been promoting accelerated development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies for low-carbon and climate-resilient development at the request of developing countries. Implementing this mission, the CTCN has focused on the stimulation of technology cooperation and enhancement of the development and transfer of climate technologies to developing countries. Taking its mandate, CTCN has supported over 110 countries benefited from climate technology innovation, transfer, and knowledge sharing to date.

The CTCN provides technology solutions, capacity building and advice on policy, legal and regulatory frameworks tailored to the needs of individual countries. With the ongoing Programme of Work, the focus lies on achieving transformative impacts and scaling up through national innovation systems and digitalization across five key areas: Water-Energy-Food nexus, Buildings and Infrastructure, Sustainable Mobility, Energy Systems and Business and Industry. As part of its mandate and as one of its activities it organizes a Regional Forum for the National Designated Entities from African countries on an annual basis. The objective of these forum is to share experiences and best practices from CTCN technical assistance in the region, strengthening collaborations and enhancing linkages with other mechanisms under the convention and create networking opportunities through showcasing innovative climate technologies that respond to country priorities and support them in meeting their Nationally Determined Contributions.

Capacity Building on National Systems of Innovation (NSI)

The year 2026 marks the fourth year of CTCN's 3rd Programme of Work (PoW), which places increased emphasis on moving from discrete technology support toward integrated, system-level transformation pathways. In parallel, the Network Engagement Strategy proposed during 26th Advisory Board meeting responds to the continued growth of the Network by calling for more systematic, visible, and meaningful engagement modalities that move beyond ad hoc participation and project-based interaction. This direction takes into consideration COP decisions, including the 2024–2027 workplan and the Belém Technology Implementation Programme, which emphasizes demand-driven implementation, capacity building, and a more complete technology cycle to support deployment and diffusion.

CTCN's 2026 Capacity Building Programme focuses on system transformation, understood as coordinated change across technologies, institutions, and decision-making processes to deliver lasting climate impact. Feedback from the 2025 thematic programmes on Climate Finance and Co-creation reinforces the need to *move beyond the status quo, to improve livelihoods, and to measure progress*. Together, these perspectives underscore that impact is understood by NDEs as a system-level outcome, achieved when capacity building enables coordinated change across interconnected layers.

The 2026 workshop uses the lens of National Systems of Innovation (NSI) to translate system transformation into actionable practice, enabling participants to examine sectoral innovation, institutional coordination, and support mechanisms such as incubators and accelerators. Strengthening these systems supports countries in aligning technology priorities with broader development and climate objectives, ensuring that innovation contributes to durable and scalable impact.

Objectives of the Joint Programme

The Africa NDE Forum 2026 will provide an opportunity to review experiences, including sharing of good practices and lessons learned from 2025 and devise ways for further enhancing collaboration in 2026 in line with regional, sub-regional and national priorities.

The key objectives of the Forum are:

- Present the latest development of CTCN services to developing countries in the region and intra-regional sharing of experiences and best practices from technical assistance in the Africa region and innovations in climate technologies that are a priority for the region.
- Present the linkage between the CTCN support and National Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the Technology Needs Assessment (TNAs) / Technology Action Plans (TAPs).
- Develop and strengthen the regional NDEs network and its relationship with other climate actors through engagement initiatives such as the first-ever Network Fair.
- Identify financial opportunities for climate technologies.

The Forum will be held in conjunction with a region-tailored thematic capacity-building programme, this year on National Systems of Innovation (NSI) for the NDEs from Africa.

The Capacity Building sessions are designed to achieve the following expected outputs:

- Peer-to-peer learning on the concept of NSI and their application to climate technology deployment.
- Insights from country examples on strengthening sectoral innovation, institutional coordination, and innovation ecosystems.
- Identification of actionable TA project ideas and opportunities to leverage incubators, accelerators, and digital tools to enhance resilience, scale, and impact.

Duration: The Africa NDE Forum will be held from 23-25 March 2026, followed by the Capacity-building Programme on 26 March 2026.

Participants

- NDEs from Africa
- Selected CTCN AB members
- Members of the TEC in Africa
- UNFCCC Secretariat and CTCN Secretariat
- Selected Network members and other stakeholders

	Plenary session
	Workshop format
	Bilateral
	Offsite event

Agenda

Day 1: Africa NDE Forum (Monday 23rd March)

Arrival and Registration	
08:30~09:00	Arrival and Registration
Official Opening and Introduction to the Forum	
Moderator: Mr. Bouzghaya Fethi, NDE Tunisia	
09:00~09:05	Welcome Sofiane Tanfour, Regional Governor, Sousse
09:05~09:10	Remarks Ariesta Ningrum, Director, CTCN
09:10~09:20	Opening Remarks Habib Abid, Minister, Ministry of Environment of Tunisia
09:20~09:30	Group photo
09:30~09:50	Round of Introductions
09:50~09:55	Overview of the Agenda Robinson Mugo, Africa Regional Manager, CTCN
Session 1: Updates by UNFCCC Technology Mechanism	
Moderator: Valentin Rudloff, Climate Technology Specialist, CTCN	
09:55~10:10	CTCN Activities and Outlook for 2026-2027 Robinson Mugo, Africa Regional Manager, CTCN
10:10~10:30	TEC Activities and Outlook for 2026-2027 Fred Onduri, TEC Member, Non-Annex I, Uganda
10:30~10:40	Q&A
10:40~10:50	Technology Development and Transfer under the UNFCCC (COP 30) Sousan Torabiparizi, Programme Officer UN Climate Change Secretariat
10:50~11:00	Updates from the African Group of Negotiators Hortense Traoré Kagambèga, CTCN AB member, Non-Annex 1, Burkina Faso
11:00~11:10	Q&A
Coffee break – 20 minutes	
Session 2: Roundtable Discussion with NDEs	

Moderator: Valentin Rudloff, Climate Technology Specialist, CTCN	
11:30~11:45	Summary of 2025 Roundtable and Framing Robinson Mugo, Africa Regional Manager, CTCN
11:45~13:00	Roundtable Discussion with NDEs A moderated peer exchange amongst NDEs focusing on what is working, what is challenging, and ideas from peers to provide mutual support within the network of African NDEs. Moderated by: Benjamin S. Karmorh, TEC Member, Non-Annex I, Liberia Halima Bawa-Bwari, CTCN AB Member, Non-Annex I, Nigeria

Lunch break – 75 minutes

Session 3: Gender, Youth, Indigenous peoples and climate technologies Moderator: Valentin Rudloff, Climate Technology Specialist, CTCN	
14:15~14:30	CTCN updates Molly Sharone, Climate Technology Specialist, CTCN
14:30~15:15	Roundtable Discussion Local representatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zoubaier Yahia, Member, Group of Young Negotiators of Tunisia - Malek Ben Romdhane, Young Negotiator, Gender Mainstreaming - Rabeb Aloui, Young Negotiator, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
15:15~15:30	Q&A

Coffee break – 15 minutes

Session 4: Workshop Tour on CTCN Procedures Moderator: Valentin Rudloff, Climate Technology Specialist, CTCN	
15:45~16:15	Using CTCN Logistical Support to strengthen NDE positioning and build project pipelines Zakarie Ismael Sheikh, NDE, Somalia This session highlights how NDEs can use CTCN logistical support to strengthen their national role, convene stakeholders, and build a pipeline of climate technology projects, as well as support follow-up actions after project completion, drawing on Somalia's recent experience.

16:15~16:45	<p>Developing High-Quality CTCN Requests El Hadji Diop, NDE, Senegal</p> <p>This session discusses what makes a high-quality CTCN request, focusing on alignment with NDCs, TNAs and TAPs, strong stakeholder engagement, and national ownership, drawing on Senegal's practical experience.</p>
16:45~17:15	<p>Coordinating High-Impact Technical Assurances Molly Sharone, Climate Technology Specialist, CTCN</p> <p>This session examines the key success factors for high-impact technical assurances and explores how each stakeholder, CTCN, implementing partners, NDEs, and project proponents, can contribute to achieving strong results throughout the process.</p>
17:15~18:00	<p>Post-Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Valentin Rudloff, Climate Technology Specialist, CTCN</p> <p>This session introduces the new CTCN post-implementation monitoring and evaluation form, providing guidance on how to complete it effectively and highlighting its benefits for tracking results, learning, and follow-up.</p>

Day 2: Africa NDE Forum (Tuesday 24th March)

Session 5: NDE Exchanges	
8:30~10:00	NDE Exchanges Voluntary exchanges between NDEs
Session 6: Introduction to the World Café	
10:00~10:10	Introduction to the World Café Robinson Mugo, Africa Regional Manager, CTCN The World Café sessions bring NDEs together to explore and discuss proven and emerging climate technologies across key system transformation areas. Each session begins with a short keynote by a CTCN Network member, followed by moderated small-group discussions that foster practical exchange, peer learning, and collective insight.
Session 7: System transformation areas – Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus	
Moderator: Robinson Mugo, Africa Regional Manager, CTCN	
10:10~11:00	Workshop: WEF Nexus Dr. Ali Kanzari, Senior Expert in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, Planair Emel M'RAD, Director Process & Innovation, Ideaconsult Caroline Plaza, Managing Director France, Becquerel Institute
11:00~11:15	Reflections from each group
Coffee break – 20 minutes	
Session 8: System transformation areas – Buildings & Infrastructure	
Moderator: Robinson Mugo, Africa Regional Manager, CTCN	
11:35~12:25	Workshop: Buildings & Infrastructure York Ostermeyer, Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC) / CAPSA
12:25~12:40	Reflections from each group
Lunch break – 75 minutes	

Session 9: System transformation areas – Energy Systems

Moderator: Robinson Mugo, Africa Regional Manager, CTCN

13:55~14:45	Workshop: Energy Systems Raja Fradi, Head of Department, ANME
14:45~15:00	Reflections from each group

Session 10: System transformation areas – Business & Industry

Moderator: Robinson Mugo, Africa Regional Manager, CTCN

15:00~15:50	Workshop: Business & Industry Tomasz Pawelec, Industrial Development Expert, UNIDO
15:50~16:05	Reflections from each group

Coffee break – 20 minutes

Session 11: System transformation areas – Sustainable Mobility

Moderator: Robinson Mugo, Africa Regional Manager, CTCN

16:25~17:15	Workshop: Sustainable Mobility Nabil Ezzedine, Head of Quality and Safety Unit, Compagnie Tunisienne de Navigation (CTN)
17:15~17:30	Reflections from each group

Day 3: Africa NDE Forum (Wednesday 25th March)

Site visit: International Centre for Environmental Technologies	
08:00~09:00	Transfer from Hammamet to Tunis <i>Meeting point: Royal Tulip Taj Sultan</i>
09:00~11:30	Site visit at the International Centre for Environmental Technologies <i>Programme proposed by CITET:</i> 09:00- Presentation of CITET, including its main programmes and areas of activities 09: 45 - Coffee Break 10:00 - Guided Tour, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The Environnemental Analysis Laboratory · The Composting unit · The Matériathèque
11:30~12:30	Transfer from Tunis to Hammamet <i>Drop-off point: Royal Tulip Taj Sultan</i>

Lunch break – 75 minutes

CTCN Network Fair and Bilaterals	
13:45~14:15	Opening and guided tour
14:15~16:30	<p>Network Fair</p> <p><i>A curated matchmaking space where network members can showcase and pitch their solutions directly to NDEs in a structured and time-efficient setting. This would allow the NDEs to explore available technology solutions aligned with their priorities, while enabling network members to gain visibility, feedback, and potential pathways for collaboration.</i></p> <p>Confirmed Participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tunis International Centre for Environmental Technologies (CITET) • National Gene Bank (BNG) • National Environmental Protection Agency (ANPE) • National Sanitation Office (ONAS) • National Energy Management Agency (ANME) • IdeaConsult • Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC) / CAPSA • Planair • Becquerel Institute <p>Bilateral interactions with:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CTCN Secretariat• TEC Secretariat
--	--

NDE Feedback & Engagement

16:30~17:15	NDE survey Robinson Mugo, Africa Regional Manager, CTCN
-------------	---

Summary and closing

17:15~17:20	Closing remark Robinson Mugo, Africa Regional Manager, CTCN
-------------	---

Day 4: Capacity Building on National Systems of Innovation (Thursday 26th March)

Moderator: Thanh Thanh Tranova, Network Engagement Specialist, CTCN

Opening and Overview of the Workshop	
09:00~09:05	Opening Remarks Halima Bawa-Bwari, AB member, Nigeria
09:05~09:15	Overview of the Workshop with a live survey on System Transformation Thanh Thanh Tranova, Network Engagement & Capacity Building Specialist, CTCN

Session 1: The Concept of National Systems of Innovation	
09:15~09:30	National Systems of Innovation as a Concept of “Actors, Institutional context, Linkages” Benjamin S. Karmorh, Jr, TEC Member, Non-Annex I, Liberia
09:30~09:45	Lessons learned from the National System of Innovation in South Africa Kogilam Govender, NDE, South Africa
09:45~10:00	On the path of strengthening the National System of Innovation Antonio Uaissone, NDE, Mozambique
10:00~10:15	Q&A
10:15~10:45	Reflection on the concept and examples of NSI presented Facilitator: Benjamin S. Karmorh, Jr, TEC Member, Non-Annex I, Liberia Group discussions with guiding questions: 1) How does the NSI operate in your country, and which actors or linkages are currently present or absent? 2) What gaps and challenges do you see between your work and the national innovation system? 3) What are the lessons learned regarding the set-up and strengthening of the NSI in your context?

Coffee break – 15 minutes

Session 2: Fostering Sectoral Innovation through an NSI Approach	
11:00~11:30	Examination of TEC Policy Brief - Setup and implementation of National Systems of Innovation <i>Facilitator:</i> <i>Thanh Thanh Tranova, Network Engagement Specialist, CTCN</i> 4 grouped tables work through 1 case study each with guiding questions: - What is the market structure of the sector (e.g., competitive, concentrated, state-led)?

	<p>- What regulatory or policy frameworks shape innovation in this sector? - Which stakeholder segments were engaged, and what roles did they play?</p> <p>Case studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Bioethanol activities in Brazil B. Disaster risk reduction in Haiti C. Bureau of energy efficiency India D. Urban flood management in Jakarta
11:30~11:40	<p>Sharing of Case Learnings NDEs will be invited to share their key learnings from this session in plenary setting.</p>
11:40~12:10	<p>Individual work: Application of NSI logic to National priority sector</p> <p>Each NDE is assessing the existing and further improving the national system of innovation for one priority sector (e.g. main economic sector, priority sector as per NDCs, TNAs, TAPs, etc.).</p>
12:10~12:30	<p>Peer feedback on the designed sectoral NSI</p> <p>Each NDE will present the designed sectoral national system of innovation to a smaller working group of 5 NDEs (and discuss on how to bring finance into this sectoral NSI)</p>

Lunch break – 75 minutes

Session 3: Fostering Endogenous Innovation through Incubators and Accelerators	
13:45~14:05	<p>Incubators and Accelerators within NSIs <i>Fred Onduri, TEC Member, Non-Annex I, Uganda</i></p> <p>Insights from mapping technology incubators and accelerators in developing countries <i>Omar Agodim, Consultant, TEC-UNIDO (virtual)</i></p>
14:05~14:15	<p>Supporting Africa's Cleantech Transition <i>Manasa Suresh, Associate Industrial Development Expert, Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP), UNIDO (virtual)</i></p>
14:15~14:30	<p>Supporting Green Innovation in Tunisia <i>Chaima Soudani, Investment Director at CDC and Greentech Initiative Coordinator</i></p>
14:30~14:45	<p>Q&A</p>
14:45~15:15	<p>Individual Work: Mapping national needs and priorities related to climate technology incubator and accelerator – in NDCs, NAPs and TNAs</p> <p><i>Facilitators:</i></p>

	<p><i>Sousan Torabiparizi, Programme Officer, Climate Technology, UNFCCC</i> <i>Haruka Yoshida, Industrial Development Expert, UNIDO</i> <i>Valentin Rudloff, Climate Technology Specialist, CTCN</i></p> <p>Each NDE will review their latest NDC, NAP and TNAs to examine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are climate technology incubator and accelerators identified as part of these plans? - If yes, in <u>which sectors</u>, with <u>what objectives</u>, and with the involvement of <u>which actors</u>? - If not, which priority sectors may benefit from inclusion of incubators to promote and accelerate innovation, and why?
--	---

Coffee break – 15 minutes

15:30~16:15	<p>Group Discussions on opportunities and challenge for integrating incubators and accelerators in national climate planning and programming in Africa</p> <p><i>Facilitators:</i> <i>Fred Onduri, TEC Member, Non-Annex I, Uganda</i> <i>Haruka Yoshida, Industrial Development Expert, UNIDO</i> <i>Valentin Rudloff, Climate Technology Specialist, CTCN</i></p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do incubators and accelerators fit into NSIs in your country? (e.g. Linkages to universities, labs, firms, investors, ministries, NDEs) 2. What is working where and why? (e.g. sharing good practices and lessons learned from operation of incubators and accelerators in Africa, and discussing contextual factors, enabling environments, financing model, actors involved, talent, infrastructure) 3. How best to utilize incubators and accelerators for achieving national climate and sustainable development goals in your country? (e.g. ideas for TA and project concepts to design and implement I&As)
-------------	--

16:15~16:30	<p>Sharing of Learnings</p> <p>NDEs will be invited to share their key learnings from this session in plenary setting.</p>
-------------	---

Feedback and Closing

16:30~16:50	Feedback from NDEs
16:50~17:00	<p>Closing Remarks Fred Onduri, TEC member, Non-Annex I, Uganda</p>

