

NDE Forum in Eastern Europe

7-9 September 2026
Baku, Azerbaijan



Agenda

Background:

The Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) is the implementation arm of the Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) Technology Mechanism. For over 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 stimulating technology cooperation and enhancing the development and transfer of climate technologies to developing countries. In line with its mandate, the CTCN has supported over 115 countries to date, which have benefited from climate technology innovation, transfer, and knowledge sharing.

The CTCN provides technology solutions, capacity building support, and advice on policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks tailored to the needs of individual countries. CTCN's third Programme of Work focuses on achieving transformative impact and scaling up climate technology action through national innovation systems and digitalization across five priority areas: the Water-Energy-Food Nexus, Buildings and Infrastructure, Sustainable Mobility, Energy Systems, and Business and Industry. Since 2015, the CTCN has consistently organized annual Regional Forums for National Designated Entities (NDEs) as part of the regional capacity building activities outlined in its Annual Operating Plans.

Under CTCN's Annual Operating Plan 2026¹, the CTCN Advisory Board approved the convening of the Eastern Europe NDE Forum, bringing together, for the first time, NDEs from across the region in a dedicated platform for dialogue and collaboration.

The Forum will be held in conjunction with Baku Climate Week 2026², with its programme to complement the broader Climate Week agenda in order to maximize synergies, raise the visibility of the NDE network, and enable participants to engage with the broader community of

climate policymakers, technology providers, financiers, and international partners convening in Baku.

The objective of the Forum is to share experiences and best practices from CTCN technical assistance in the region, strengthen collaboration, enhance linkages with other mechanisms under the Convention, and create networking opportunities by showcasing innovative climate technologies that respond to country priorities and support countries in meeting their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

The key objectives of the Forum are:

- Provide an introduction to CTCN procedures and services to countries in the region, and present the linkage between CTCN support and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs) / Technology Action Plans (TAPs).
- Facilitate intra-regional sharing of experiences and best practices from technical assistance in Eastern Europe.
- Identify priorities for technical assistance and capacity building, and map opportunities for regional collaboration.
- Develop and strengthen the regional NDE network and its relationship with other climate actors, leveraging the Forum's meeting of Eastern European NDEs at the Baku Climate Week.
- Identify opportunities for matchmaking and financial support.

Duration: 7-9 September 2026.

Participants:

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

¹ <https://www.ctc-n.org/sites/default/files/resources/Annual%20Operating%20Plan%202026.pdf>

² <https://unfccc.int/news/climate-weeks-2026-in-republic-of-korea-and-azerbaijan-connecting-the-real-economy-and-negotiated>

Day 1 (7 September 2026)

Arrival and Registration

09:00~09:15	Arrival and Registration
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Official Opening and Introduction to the Forum

Moderator: Valentin Rudloff, Climate Technology Specialist, CTCN

09:15~09:45	Welcome Remarks Ariesta Ningrum, Director, CTCN
	Welcome Remarks Ketevan Vardosanidze, Chair, CTCN Advisory Board
	Opening Remarks Dr. Umayra Taghiyeva, Deputy Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan
	Congratulatory Remarks Naciye Başak Tuncer, Environment and Urbanization Expert, Directorate of Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, Türkiye
09:45~10:00	Group photo
10:00~10:20	Round of Introductions
10:20~10:30	Overview of the Agenda Valentin Rudloff, Climate Technology Specialist, CTCN

Session 1: Introduction to UNFCCC Technology Mechanism

Moderator: Valentin Rudloff, Climate Technology Specialist, CTCN

10:30~10:50	Technology Development and Transfer under the UNFCCC Pauline Namutebi, Associate Programme Officer, Technology, Means of Implementation, UNFCCC Secretariat
10:50~11:10	Introduction to CTCN Mandate and Activities Ariesta Ningrum, Director, CTCN

11:10~11:30	Introduction to TEC Mandate and Activities Stig Svenningsen, Member, TEC (virtual)
11:30~12:00	Q&A

Lunch break – 75 minutes

Session 2: The Role of National Designated Entities

Moderator: Ariesta Ningrum, Director, CTCN

13:15~13:30	Overview of Roles and Responsibilities of NDEs Ketevan Vardosanidze, Chair, CTCN Advisory Board
13:30~14:00	Roundtable discussion on NDE positioning within each country This roundtable invites NDEs to discuss their place within national climate ecosystems and how they navigate their mandate in practice. The exchange aims to identify common challenges, effective partnerships, and concrete ways the CTCN and TEC can strengthen their support to NDEs. <i>Guiding questions:</i> • <i>How well is the NDE's role understood and recognized by national stakeholders?</i> • <i>In which national ecosystem you, as the NDE, are situated, and who are your key partners?</i> • <i>What are the main opportunities and challenges in fulfilling your NDE role?</i> • <i>How can the CTCN and TEC better support and engage with NDEs?</i>

Session 3: The Role of Network Members

Moderator: Anastasiia Tiurmenko, Governance and Communication Specialist, CTCN

14:00~14:15	Overview of CTC Network Anastasiia Tiurmenko, Governance and Communication Specialist, CTCN
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	A brief introduction to the CTC Network, including its purpose, its composition (global and regional), the role of Network Members and opportunities for engagement.
14:15~15:15	Roundtable Discussion on Network Member Mobilization The roundtable will explore how the CTC Network can play a stronger role in accelerating climate technology implementation. The discussion will examine opportunities for collaboration, and the evolving role of Network Members beyond technical assistance, including knowledge sharing and capacity building. <i>Guiding questions:</i> • <i>How can CTCN better mobilize Network Members to support NDEs and climate technology implementation in Eastern Europe?</i> • <i>What incentives, engagement mechanisms or collaboration models would encourage more active participation from Network Members?</i> • <i>What types of support are NDEs looking for from Network Members, and how can the Network respond more effectively?</i> • <i>What concrete actions should CTCN take over the next two to three years to strengthen Network engagement and collaboration in the region?</i>

Coffee break – 15 minutes

Session 4: Onboarding on CTCN Processes

Moderator: Valentin Rudloff, Climate Technology Specialist, CTCN

15:30~15:45	Capacity Building Activities and Process Jeawon Kim, Capacity Building and Network Engagement Specialist, CTCN
15:45~16:00	Q&A on capacity building
16:00~17:00	Technical Assistance Process Valentin Rudloff, Climate Technology Specialist, CTCN

- Step 1: Developing High-Quality CTCN Requests + Screening
- Step 2: Response Plan Development + bidding
- Step 3: Implementation (incl. coordination, M&E and Gender monitoring)
- Step 4: Post-implementation

Bilateral Meetings

17:00~18:00

Bilateral Meetings

Dedicated slots for NDEs to meet individually with the CTCN and TEC Secretariat for focused discussions on country priorities and any questions they wish to raise.

Day 2: Eastern Europe NDE Forum (8 September 2026)

Session 5: Overview of Technical Assistance support

Moderator: Ketevan Vardosanidze, Chair, CTCN Advisory Board

09:00~09:15	TA overview Valentin Rudloff, Climate Technology Specialist, CTCN
09:15~09:30	Energy Systems: Energy Efficiency Building Retrofitting York Ostermeyer, CEO, CAPSA
09:30~09:45	Sustainable Mobility: Greening Road Freight Transport Rahul Bagdia, Chairman & Managing Director, pManifold (virtual)
09:45~10:00	Buildings and Infrastructure: Forest Fire Management in Georgia David Tsiskaridze, Chairman of the Board, International Business and Economic Development Center
10:00~10:15	Business and Industry: F-gases phase-out and Leakage Control Dietram Oppelt, NDE Germany (virtual)
10:15~10:30	Water-Energy-Food Nexus: Agricultural Crop Insurances Eliot Pernet, Deputy Head of Public Sector Consulting, AXA Climate (virtual)
10:30~11:00	Q&A on examples of technical assistance

Coffee break – 15 minutes

Session 6: Mapping Priority Sectors and Projects

Moderator: Valentin Rudloff, Climate Technology Specialist, CTCN

11:15~11:45	Individual Exercise: Mapping Priority Sectors and Projects Review NDCs, TNAs, TAPs, NAPs, LT-LEDS and other relevant national documents. Create an overview of technical assistance and capacity building needs.
11:45~12:15	Presentation and Discussion

Lunch break – 75 minutes

Session 7: Opportunities for Regional Collaboration

Moderator: Valentin Rudloff, Climate Technology Specialist, CTCN

13:30~14:00	Group Exercise: Mapping Opportunities for Regional Collaboration Review the technical assistance and capacity building needs of all countries. Create clusters.
14:00~14:30	Roundtable discussion on regional collaboration This roundtable will explore where countries share common technical assistance and capacity-building needs and how these can be addressed collectively. The discussion aims to identify concrete opportunities for regional collaboration and joint approaches to advancing climate technology priorities.

Coffee break – 15 minutes

Session 8: Facilitating Climate Technology Implementation

Moderator: Ketevan Vardosanidze, Chair, CTCN Advisory Board

14:45~15:00	Scaling up Technical Assistances Valentin Rudloff, Climate Technology Specialist, CTCN
15:00~16:00	Panel Discussion with Partners Moderated by Ariesta Ningrum, Director, CTCN This panel will explore how climate finance and implementation partners can support the scale-up of climate technology projects across Eastern Europe. The discussion will examine each institution's priorities and entry points for collaboration, and draw out practical recommendations for NDEs on building a stronger project pipeline. Panellists Patricia Marcos, Huidobro, Latin America Regional Coordinator & Senior Climate Change Specialist, Global Environment Facility (virtual)

	• Ms. Ekaterine Mikadze, Senior Climate Change Officer, Georgia Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank • Sarah Duff, Principal, Climate Strategy and Delivery, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development • Mijke Hertoghs, Regional Coordinator Climate Action, United Nations Environment Programme • Andrew Hollander, Climate Change Analyst, Programming and Innovation Unit, Adaptation Fund • Muthoni, Waweru, Multilateral Governance Senior Specialist, Office of Governance Affairs, Green Climate Fund
16:00~16:30	Roundtable Discussion on Technology Implementation This roundtable opens the floor for a broader exchange between partners and NDEs on turning climate technology priorities into implementation on the ground. It aims to draw out practical pathways for collaboration and to translate the partners' insights into concrete next steps countries can take to move projects forward.

Session 9: Wrap-up

Moderator: Ketevan Vardosanidze, Chair, CTCN Advisory Board

16:30~16:50	Feedback from NDEs
16:50~17:00	Summary and Closing Ariesta Ningrum, Director, CTCN

Bilateral Meetings

17:00~18:00	Bilateral Meetings Dedicated slots for NDEs to meet individually with the CTCN and TEC Secretariat for focused discussions on country priorities and any questions they wish to raise.
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Day 3: Eastern Europe NDE Forum (9 September 2026)

Session 10: Site Visit

09:00~13:00	Departure by bus at 09:00 in front of the Baku Convention Centre. Station 1: The Situation Centre of the National Hydrometeorology Service provides necessary climate information such as weather forecasts, climate monitoring and hydrological observations across the country, including the Caspian Sea basin. Station 2: The GIS Centre of the Space Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan utilizes satellite technologies to assess the impact of global climate change in the country, providing climate reports and digital mapping by harnessing AI tools.
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Lunch break – 90 minutes

Attendance of Baku Climate Week

14:30~15:00	Transfer to the Baku Convention Centre
15:00~18:00	Attendance of Baku Climate Week