

Report on Technology Executive Committee Meeting 15 (TEC 15)

The UNFCCC Technical Executive Committee (TEC) met for the 15th time in Bonn on 12 to 15 September, 2017 (TEC 15). RINGOs who attended included Rabhi Abdessalem, Marilyn Averill, and Stephen Minas. Documents presented at TEC 15 and links to webcasts can be accessed [here](#). As always, [TT:CLEAR](#) is “the UNFCCC home for technology,” and contains many materials about the Technology Mechanism (TM). TT:CLEAR is viewed by 6750 people a month, and has been accessed by at least one person in every country.

Work by the thematic bodies has been changing over the last year. Here are some of the changes demonstrated at TEC 15.

- Collaboration is now more than aspirational. The TEC talked continually about how it is actively collaborating with groups like the Climate Technology Network and Centre (CTCN), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Adaptation Committee (AC), the Technology Framework (TF), the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), and others. These groups are sharing and co-authoring materials, consulting with each other on common issues, and attending each other’s meetings. They are becoming aware of the overlaps in their mandates and areas of interests and are learning from each other.
- Coordination within the UNFCCC process is a major concern. The TEC has been researching how its programs, such as technology needs assessments (TNAs) and technology action plans (TAPs) relate to other significant country level activities, such as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). The TEC is seeking ways to coordinate such programs. Such efforts can provide lessons learned to be shared across processes and can increase efficiencies of the separate processes.
- Coordination with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a constant theme, along with a general concern for contributing to sustainable development. The separation between UN efforts on sustainable development and on climate change was quite pronounced for many years. TEC members clearly understand that their efforts go beyond climate change and can help build a more sustainable world. Frequent references were made to how TEC work relates to the SDGs, and to the co-benefits that often come with technology transfer.
- Observer participation continues to be quite strong. The TEC has been very open to observer participation at its meetings. Observers are encouraged to provide interventions and are active participants in break out groups. Several civil society constituencies have appointed observers to the five TEC task forces, and those observers participate in task force work intersessionally as well as at meetings.
- Capacity building is required by almost every program. Report after report mentions the need for capacity building in order to produce effective programs. At COP 21, the parties directed TEC to work on “the development and enhancement of endogenous capacities and technologies.”
- Communication moves information from the TEC to intended audiences, and makes the public aware of work underway and resources available. The TEC is focusing more on how to improve communications and enhance channels for knowledge sharing.
- Evaluation and accountability are of great concern. The TEC is pursuing ways to monitor and report on the outcomes of its programs, and is seeking to identify both best practices and barriers to implementation.
- Traditional and indigenous knowledge are beginning to be incorporated into discussions and may be addressed in a future TEC event.

Much of the meeting was spent editing and approving language for inclusion in various reports. We will not report on the wordsmithing. Instead, we will focus on some of the projects underway this year that will be described in the TEC and CTCN Joint Report to COP 23. The comments will be organized by the five task forces, with additional information about other activities at the end.

Mitigation. TEC 14 included a thematic dialogue on “Industrial energy efficiency and material substitution in carbon intensive sectors.” The TEC then co-sponsored a Technical Expert Meeting on Mitigation (TEM-M) at the May intersessional meetings in Bonn. A TEC brief on industrial energy and material efficiency in energy-intensive sectors has been developed, along with executive summaries for four target audiences: domestic policy makers, industry, financial institutions, and international organizations, to be launched at COP 23.

The chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific Technology and Advice (SBSTA) requested comments on how to improve the TEM-M process. Discussion focused on just who the TEMs are supposed to benefit, and whether negotiations meetings are the best place to hold expert meetings on technical issues. Regional meetings might be a better way to connect with people who will be making use of the information. Different kinds of information may be needed for negotiators to feed into the political process, and for practitioners who can turn information into action. The TEC agreed on inputs to the assessment of the existing technical examination process on mitigation so as to improve its effectiveness.

Adaptation. The adaptation task force has produced a draft paper on good examples of south-south cooperation. A break out group discussed matching programs to consultants, and how the matchmaking process can differ with the country and the type of program. The group discussed the need to identify best practices, but also to publicize practices that are less effective so that people can avoid replicating previous problems.

Climate Technology Financing. The TEC and the CTCN have increased coordination with both the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Representatives from both groups usually attend TEC meetings, although the GEF was not represented at TEC 15. The GCF holds an annual meeting with the UNFCCC thematic bodies, and a TEC co-chair will attend the meeting in Cairo in two weeks. The GCF is interested in funding technology projects, and has used TEC materials to understand more about technology issues, particularly RD&D. The TEC agreed on inputs to the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) on the draft guidance to both the GEF and the GCF, to be provided to the COP.

Innovation, Research, Development, and Demonstration. The importance of research and innovation were stressed throughout the meeting. The task force has produced a background paper mapping enabling environments, based on a review of CTCN projects. The TEC suggested that the study be expanded if resources are available, and possibly include a survey or interviews of parties’ perceptions about barriers to IRD&D.

Technology Needs Assessment. Technology is a cross-cutting issue. The task force is trying to coordinate the TNA process with national adaptation planning and the implementation of nationally determined contributions. The “Draft paper on aligning TNA process with NAP process” was developed in consultation with the CTCN, AC, and LEG. Work will continue of the project as well as on an “Update paper on linkages between the TNA and NDC processes”

“Draft guidance on monitoring of TAP implementation” provides methods for monitoring TAP implementation. The methods were tested with 14 countries at a TNA training workshop, and the results will be used to refine the draft guidance for preparing TAPs.

Emerging and Cross-cutting Issues. The TEC mandate includes facilitation of endogenous capacities and technologies. Working with the secretariat, the task force has produced a draft paper describing various views of endogenous capacities. The paper identifies key elements, mostly in the context of sustainable development. The paper also reviews materials from CTCN, GEF, and GCF for references to endogenous capacities. Examples of effective programs are provided. The task force plans to continue this work by refining the definition and researching the factors that should be included when thinking about endogenous capacities.

Coordination with CTCN. The director of CTCN and the head of the CTCN advisory board both attended most of the meeting. The respective roles of the two groups were discussed. The TEC is the policy arm of the UNFCCC technology mechanism, and the CTCN is the implementation arm. The two groups need to work closely together, and to work with both developing and developed countries.

Information on the Technology Framework (TF). The TF was created under Article 10 of the Paris Agreement, is intended to be transformative, and provides guidance on the work of the ongoing TM. SUBSTA, which is responsible for the TF, asked the TEC for input on how TEC work relates to the TF. The TEC produced a draft report on its task force activities and discussed possible future activities in break out groups.

Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM). The secretariat is involved in the United Nations-wide Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM), launched at the UN Sustainability Summit in 2015. The TFM facilitates capacity building and technical assistance to developing countries. The UNFCCC secretariat participates on the UN inter-agency task team. A representative from UNEP presented an update on TFM activities, and reported that the next multi-stakeholder forum will be held in May 2018.

TEC 16 will be held in Bonn on 13 to 16 March, 2018.