

11th Meeting of the Advisory Board of the Climate Technology Centre and Network, CTCN

The 11th meeting of the CTCN AB took place in Copenhagen on the 7-9th March 2018. The RINGO constituency sent two observers, Stephen Minas, Peking University, and Ingrid Sidenvall Jegou, the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, ICTSD. Below are some notes from the meeting for the RINGO-constituency. Interested readers are invited to also peruse the official report by the CTCN secretariat.

The meeting was chaired by the AB Chair Ms Mette Møglestue, Norway. In the absence of the regular vice-chair, she invited Mr. Samuel Adejuwon, Nigeria, to co-chair. The two host organizations, UN Environment and UNIDO, were represented by Ligia Norhona and Tareq Emtairah. The CTCN was represented by its Director Mr. Jukka Uosokainen, and several staff members.

Agenda item 3

After going through the organizational matters, the AB was offered an oral report by the CTCN Director of activities since the last AB-meeting. The Director reported that the CTCN had met almost all the output targets planned for 2017, while using less funds than budgeted. In particular, the CTCN has focused on designing technical assistance response plans and begun to implement some of these plans. The CTCN clients have mainly requested support for the development of national plans and their implementation. In this context, the Director stated that the Centre's expert support will enhance the enabling environment for technology development. Additional monitoring efforts will be required to demonstrate concrete impacts but the secretariat has a clear sense that the projects deliver emissions reductions and that the CTCN activities has facilitated the delivery of millions of dollars of funding. Actions have also allowed the avoidance of "mis-investments".

The Director also referred to the independent review of the CTCN (see agenda item 6 below), and highlighted that the review was positive with respect to its assessment of the effectiveness of the CTCN and had found that the CTCN is becoming established in the climate community.

The Director reported on CTCN efforts for promoting gender neutral technology and referred to its engagement in the establishment of the Gender Action Plan at COP23, in collaboration with the Women and Gender Constituency.

As mentioned, the CTCN had spent under budget in 2017, according to preliminary figures- 9.5 million dollars or 70% of the budgeted 13.7 million. Although this is an increase of 25% since the previous year, there is a need to scale up activities. Among the ideas for scaling up were an increased focus on regional outreach and collaboration. The CTCN will also focus more on new projects that are actionable, and will scale up successful projects in more countries. There was also a reference to developing quick technical assistance interventions.

The report also included references to specific activities during the period, such as the CTCN Partners meeting in Paris, a global workshop on science and technology on sustainable development in Brussels, CTCN activities at COP23, and touched upon the relationships with other relevant agencies, notable the Green Climate Fund, GCF, and the Global Environment Facility, GEF.

Agenda items 4 and 5

The AB then turned to reports on outcomes from relevant meetings, including the COP23 (6-17 November 2017), Adaptation Committee (19-22 September 2017 and 27 February-2 March), and

Green Climate Fund Board meetings (30 September-2 October 2017 and 27 February-1 March 2018), and Technology Mechanism. A report from the Standing Committee on Finance (18-21 September) was postponed for next meeting.

- The UNFCCC report included information about relevant developments at COP23 and about the upcoming SB48, SB49 and COP24. In addition to the joint annual reports of the TEC and the CTCN, presented at the COPs, COP 24 will complete the review of the technology framework and will review linkages between the Technology Mechanism and Financial Mechanisms of the Convention. The technology work will continue under the SBs but also under the Talanoa Dialogue. SB48 will host the 2nd Meeting of the Paris Committee on Capacity Building, the 7th Meeting of the Durban Forum on capacity building, as well as technical expert meetings on mitigation, adaptation, an in-session workshop on gender, and the SBI dialogue with the chairs on gender considerations in UNFCCC work streams.
- The collaboration between the adaptation committee and the CTCN was described as fruitful, and a few concrete examples were cited. In light of the substantive overlap between the two, there is a need to look for synergies while avoiding duplication. The adaptation committee reported about a focus on the role of micro and small enterprises, MSMEs, in the agriculture and food sector, which it saw as having potential for collaboration w CTCN.
- The report from the GCF highlighted a number of events where the CTCN had intervened as well as ways the two bodies work together. This includes for example CTCN support for design of terms of reference for GCF-funded projects and CTCN technical assistance provided through the GCF Readiness Program. There was also reference to an exchange of letters between UN Environment and the GCF on the occasion of COP23 which led to the identification of three key pillars of cooperation: 1. Technical assistance, 2. coordination mechanism, 3. country-level collaboration. The report noted that when CTCN-projects are carried out with GCF-funding, that adds approximately 6 months to the technical assistance cycle. This spurred a discussion of the needs to streamline the CTCN-GCF interface and to make it simpler for users, which in turn highlighted an inherent tension between the need to draw lessons and to maintain country ownership of the various projects. Regional workshops are one option to foster synergies but they are expensive. It was therefore discussed whether more lessons learning could take place at the level of the Convention.
- The Chair of the TEC reported on the work of the Technology Executive Committee under the Technology Mechanism. The TEC is currently implementing its work programme for 2016-2018, which is organised around 6 thematic areas: adaptation, mitigation, finance, emerging and cross-cutting issues, technology needs assessments and innovation. The TEC Chair also referred to meetings and events where the CTCN and the TEC have collaborated, referring notably to an upcoming workshop in Bonn in March. The TEC being the policy arm of the Technology Mechanism, the TEC Chair stated that he would welcome a list of issues from the CTCN that the TEC could look into from a policy perspective.

Agenda item 6

An independent review of the effective implementation of the CTCN four years after its inception has been carried out by Ernst and Young, commissioned by UNFCCC secretariat (FCCC/CP/2017/3). The findings of the review, including 11 recommendations for how to enhance the performance of

the CTCN, were considered by Parties at COP23. COP decision 14/CP.23 then invited UN Environment, as host of the CTCN, with the support of the CTCN and in consultation with its Advisory Board, to provide a management response to the relevant findings and recommendations of the independent review, for consideration at SBI48. UN Environment presented this response to the AB for guidance at the present meeting. For a full account of the management response, the reader is referred to the written report.

The oral presentation stimulated a discussion among AB members, which will serve to provide guidance on the CTCN's response to the Independent Review. Among the issues discussed were the role of the AB. Some members questioned the appropriateness of AB members being charged with a fund-raising role for the CTCN, and some questioned the recommendation to appoint AB members with technical expertise. There was also considerable discussion of how to enhance the effectiveness of the NDEs (Nationally Designated Entities) for example by enhancing NDE awareness of what the CTCN has to offer, clarifying the role of developed country NDEs and training NDE to prepare requests to the CTCN. Discussions took place on how to accomplish this at a low cost- for example the option of translating and printing communications material was criticised for being expensive and ineffective while a good use of social media such as webinars might be preferable. There were also discussions on how to deepen the involvement of network members, including by arranging meetings for network members that are also AB-members back to back with the AB, or by setting up conference calls. There were also discussions on how to reduce delays, and among the options that seemed to appeal to AB members were to develop procedures for providing "Fast Technical Assistance" as well as to work with the GCF to streamline processes and with the GEF to define a more programmatic approach.

Agenda item 7

The AB discussed the CTCN's engagement on RD&D. The Secretariat presented an update on RD&D activities, including the February meeting on National Systems of Innovation in Paris, which was partly targeted at creating practitioner communities. Observations included the need to move from a sector-based focus to systems-based focus; avoidance of pushing particular technologies; and the need for technology to be socially acceptable and inclusive, and financially affordable.

Agenda item 8

The Secretariat asked the AB what the process is that they want to finalise the vision for the CTCN. Inputs from AB members included: the need to wait next year to have all the inputs for the vision, i.e. following the COP; a desire for something more simple and clear, linked to national priorities in NDCs; more emphasis on private sector financing; avoiding use of language that is only understandable by people within the UNFCCC process; and referencing cooperative approaches under PA Article 6 as a potential avenue for financing and a possible driver for the private sector. The RINGO member cautioned that the AB has to be a little more minimal in our approach, in order not to burden the CTCN.

Agenda item 9

The CTCN present a paper on its support for TNAs and TAP implementation. The AB discussed the role of NDEs in upcoming TNAs: Ideas included planning to approach country through UNFCCC focal point but also addressing letter to NDEs, encouraging focal point to nominate NDA as TNA coordinator. This would allow NDEs to participate in the capacity building embedded in TNAs (regional workshops).

Agenda item 10

The AB was invited to take note of and provide guidance on the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system and the NDE outreach paper. Several AB members noted that the mandate is to monitor and evaluate impact of CTCN. Suggested elements for M&E included: how much private investment has materialized as a result of CTCN action; what are the strengths of the CTCN and where there is not return on investment; Why some countries need to wait longer to have their requests processed; whether there is a mechanism for feedback from NDEs; timeliness and appropriateness; and the need for more robust data for the 2021 independent review; and how to evaluate transformational change in the context of CTCN activities. One idea for M&E is a qualitative assessment using representative sample of projects, to see if there is an impact 1-2 years after the project.

Agenda item 11

- Concerning the financial update on CTCN operations, it was noted that that CTCN had secured \$55.5 million in financing from bilateral and multilateral sources to January 2018, with 53% unearmarked and 47% earmarked. Earmarked resources do not provide adequate funding to cover operational costs. There was debate over the role of earmarked resources, with one member commenting that earmarking should not have a 'pejorative' context.
- Concerning mobilization of resources to meet the costs associated with the CTCN, it was reported that CTCN does not have funds to cover 2019 operations to meet its mandates. The AB discussed the draft resource mobilisation strategy. There is a suggestion to divide the budget into core operational funding of \$10M per year, supplemented by in kind contributions, pro bono, GCF, GEF etc, coming to \$5M in 2018 and growing to \$15M p.a. By 2021. There was much debate over the future mobilization of resources to meet CTCN mandates. Ideas included linkages to Paris Agreement Article 6, reaching out to the High Level Champions, engaging with the Adaptation Fund and engaging with private sector foundations and trust funds. Several members that it is not an AB responsibility to raise funding for the CTCN.

CTCN Information Session: CTCN Experiences: Perspectives of NDEs and Technical Assistance Providers

- The AB heard presentations from the NDEs of countries Laos, Vietnam, Georgia and Jordan on their experiences with CTCN technical assistance. The Laos NDE presented on City Climate Vulnerability Assessment and Identification of Ecosystem-based Adaptation Intervention. The Vietnam NDE presented on Bio-waste Minimization and Valorization for Low Carbon Production in the Rice Sector and Pilot Demonstration of Energy Service Company model for greenhouse gases emission reduction in the cement sector. The Jordan NDE presented on Accreditation of Energy Efficiency Lighting Laboratory and Strengthening Capacity to Access International Financing for Climate Technology Priorities.
- The Georgia NDE presented on Assessment of Suitable Flood Mitigation Measures in Tbilisi. The main objective of the project was to improve flood risk management, involving definition of flood maps, designation of flood adaptation measures, etc. The resulting proposal was accepted by the GCF and involves enlarging an observational network. Technology knowledge transfer occurs through software and specialized training for staff.

Elections

On the final day of the meeting, Maia Tskhvaradze (Georgia) was elected chair of the AB. The new vice chair has yet to be chosen but will come from the Annex I members.