

Sixteenth meeting of the Technology Executive Committee  
13 – 16 March 2018, Bonn, Germany

RINGO representatives attending as observers:

- [Marilyn Averill](#) – University of Colorado at Boulder
- [Heleen DeConinck](#), Radboud University
- [Stephen Minas](#) – Kings College, School of Law
- [Yugratna Srivastava](#), Plant for the Planet Foundation

Notes prepared by Stephen Minas and Heleen DeConinck

### **RINGO TEC 16 meeting summary**

#### **Thematic Dialogue on “Boosting climate technology incubators and accelerators in developing countries”:**

The TEC at its 16th meeting held a thematic dialogue on incubators and accelerators. This was a collaboration between the TEC, the CTCN and the GCF. One of the key reasons to hold this thematic dialogue is that the GCF is looking into releasing a Request for Proposals to develop climate technology incubators and accelerators, and was looking for guidance on how to do that and what should (and should not) be in such a RfP.

The programme was populated by a diverse, global mix of distinguished speakers. They all contributed a 5-minute statement after which there was room for discussion. They mainly shared experiences and lessons on incubators from their environments, as an entrepreneur, development bank, incubator or start-up funding organisation.

The meeting was opened by Claudia Octaviano (vice-chair of the TEC), Jukka Uosukainen (director CTCN) and Carolina Fuentes (GCF), and by Prof. Wim Naude of Maastricht University who framed the thematic dialogue along the questions: Why technology? Why entrepreneurs? How to support them best? What are the obstacles they face? What can we foresee for the future?

Speakers in the panels focussed on a variety of issues, including the notion that incubation for the poor, the very poor or the abject poor requires a different approach than just market creation; the different nature of climate technologies compared to, e.g., ICT; the need for the right people with intrinsic motivation and a market-oriented mind for running start-ups, the need for running an incubator like a start-up, not a project; the role of incumbent large multi-national companies and how those could be constructively engaged, and, most of all, the relevance of the existing ecosystem which needs to shape the form of the incubator.

Ambuj Sagar, the current RINGO non-voting member in the CTCN Advisory Board summarised the discussion nicely. He called upon everyone to remember that incubators can only be one part of the ecosystem, it is not the answer to everything. But when it's used, it needs to do it well, which means: have the right people, focus on access to market, to networks and to finance. He called upon everyone to remember that the operation of the incubator itself is a risky business – not just the start-ups are supposed to spring from it. The incubator is embedded in an ecosystem and linked to the nature of that ecosystem, meaning the policy environment, the market, the people (and their qualifications) and finance. But the ecosystem

needs not lame an incubator: Incubators could also train policymakers, and engage with their ecosystem pro-actively. Such activities could be coupled with a broader development strategy. He also reiterated that, given the breadth of climate innovations (both services and technology) and the breadth of possible incubator types, making of strategic choices is needed. For this, it is necessary to clarify what are the objectives of the incubator, besides climate mitigation and/or adaptation. Is it economic diversification? Is it gender mainstreaming? Is it innovation for the poor, or the abject poor? Is it jobs?

Breakout groups then addressed the following questions:

1. What enabling activities could a government undertake to enhance the efficiency and impact of climate technology incubators and accelerators to achieve the Paris Agreement goals? What role could the TEC and CTCN play in this regard?
2. What are the drivers for attracting and unlocking investment in climate technology incubators and accelerators? Where are investments most strategic and what are the key financial instruments? What role could the GCF play in the regard?
3. How could we concretely fund the right kind of climate technology incubators and accelerators: what are characteristics of successful incubators, and how would funding them work? What role could the GCF and the Technology Mechanism play in that regard?

The findings and recommendations of these breakout groups will be taken into account by the GCF in their RfP.

The meeting was closed by Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, who highlighted the work in the Technology Mechanism (which was created under her COP-presidency at COP-10 in Cancun).

## **Elections:**

Claudia Octaviano Villasana (Mexico) was elected Chair of the TEC. A Vice-Chair was not elected and consultations on this topic among members will continue following the meeting.

## **Activity under 2016-18 rolling workplan:**

### Technology needs assessments

The TEC agreed to continuing working on the paper on aligning the technology needs assessments (TNA) process with the national adaptation plans process, with a view to finalising the paper at the next TEC meeting. The TEC further agreed to continue working on the issue of linkages between the TNA process and NDCs next year.

### Climate technology financing

The TEC heard from the GCF Secretariat on technology-relevant outcomes of the latest GCF Board meeting, and from the GEF Secretariat regarding support for technology innovation in the 7<sup>th</sup> GEF replenishment and on GEF project support for the Poznan Strategic Programme on Technology Transfer. The TEC requested the GEF to provide an update on the latter at the next TEC meeting, to inform the TEC's evaluation of the Poznan programme.

### Technologies for mitigation

On the technical expert meeting on mitigation (TEM-M), one member commented that the TEMS should become both more interactive and more specific. The CTCN noted that while the COP had invited the organisation of regional TEMs, this had not developed; the CTCN was testing the format of regional NDE meetings. The TEC requested the mitigation task force to work with the CTCN on the organisation of the regional TEM on industry sector efficiency in Africa in April 2018, prepare TEC participation in the TEM on circular economies in Bonn in May 2017 and TEC inputs for the Talanoa Dialogue, *inter alia*.

The adviser to Fiji's high level climate champion (HLC) joined the meeting remotely and discussed the TEM-M with the TEC. The TEC and the adviser agreed on the desirability of better communication among the TEC, Secretariat and HLCs on the organisation of TEM-Ms. The adviser agreed that the HLCs would meet with the Chairs of the TEC and other relevant stakeholders at the April-May SB session to discuss the technical expert process.

On the topic of further studying the potential application of South-South Cooperation (SSC) on adaptation and mitigation technologies, the TEC heard from adaptation and mitigation task forces on their work in this area. The TEC requested both task forces to continue exploring this area, including the idea of collaborating with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation on a joint publication.

#### Technologies for adaptation

On the technical expert meeting for adaptation (TEM-A), the TEC received an update on planning for the TEM-A's of the April-May SB session. The TEC will provide inputs on the TEM-A to the Adaptation Committee. The TEC agreed that Mareer Mohamed Husny will represent it at the "NAP Expo 2018: Advancing National Adaptation Plans" event in April 2018 in Sharm El Sheikh.

#### Innovation and research, development and demonstration

On the thematic dialogue on incubators and accelerators just held, the TEC agreed to produce an event brief for the GCF Board, a paper on incubators and accelerators capturing the thematic dialogue discussions for the benefit of the GCF Secretariat in relation to its planned call for proposals on incubators and accelerators, a TEC brief, and COP recommendations.

The TEC requested its innovation task force to prepare a background paper on potential TEC work in the area of emerging climate technologies, and requested the adaptation task force to work on mapping enabling environments and barriers in NDCs and CTCN technical assistance requests.

#### Emerging and cross-cutting issues

The TEC held a joint meeting with the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (Excom). The two bodies agreed to jointly produce a policy brief, and also to establish a joint working group to work on this brief between sessions.