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Item 3.5 of the agenda

Technology development and transfer

Expert workshop on the Technology Mechanism in conjunction with the fourteenth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention

Report by the Chair of the workshop

Summary

This report provides a summary of the expert workshop on the Technology Mechanism, organized in conjunction with the fourteenth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA). The workshop was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 4 to 5 April 2011. The workshop provided an opportunity for Parties to deepen understanding on the potential for the Technology Mechanism to support the implementation of the Cancun Agreements and to explore options to ensure that the Technology Mechanism is fully operational in 2012. The workshop addressed all matters in the work programme of the AWG-LCA in 2011 on technology development and transfer contained in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 128. The workshop participants also made some specific suggestions on possible next steps and inputs required to inform Parties in their further deliberation under the AWG-LCA on arrangements to make the Technology Mechanism fully operational in 2012.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. By its decision 1/CP.16, the Conference of the Parties (COP) underlined the importance of continued dialogue among Parties through the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA) under its work programme in 2011 on technology development and transfer, including on the following matters, with a view to taking a decision at its seventeenth session, in order to make the Technology Mechanism fully operational in 2012:

(a) The relationship between the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network, and their reporting lines;

(b) The governance structure and terms of reference for the Climate Technology Centre and Network and how the Climate Technology Centre will relate to the Network;

(c) The procedure for calls for proposals and the criteria to be used to evaluate and select the host of the Climate Technology Centre and Network;

(d) The potential links between the Technology Mechanism and the financial mechanism;

(e) Consideration of additional functions for the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network.

2. By the same decision, the COP requested that the AWG-LCA convene an expert workshop, in conjunction with one of its sessions in 2011, on the above-mentioned matters, drawing upon the preliminary work undertaken by the Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT), and to report on the results of this workshop at that session.

3. In responding to the mandate, the expert workshop on the Technology Mechanism was held from 4 to 5 April 2011 at the United Nations Conference Centre at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand.

B. General objectives and approach to the expert workshop

4. The objectives of the workshop were to deepen understanding among Parties, in dialogue with experts and stakeholders, on the potential for the Technology Mechanism to support the implementation of the Cancun Agreements and to generate ideas and seek clarity on outstanding issues to support further deliberations among Parties under the AWG-LCA, with a view to achieving a fully operational and effective Technology Mechanism in 2012.

5. The workshop was organized in a brainstorming mode built around presentations from Parties, with observers invited to contribute to the discussions, including through a moderated interactive panel discussion.

II. Workshop proceedings

6. The Chair of the AWG-LCA requested that Mr. Jukka Uosukainen (Finland) facilitate the workshop.

7. An information note¹ was made available to Parties prior to the workshop. The note encouraged workshop participants, when making presentations and interventions, to address specific questions structured around the three workshop sessions. The agenda for the workshop was made available on the UNFCCC website.²

8. In accordance with the information note, the agenda for the workshop was structured to give focus to items (b) and (c) in paragraph 1 above in order to inform the deliberations of Parties under the AWG-LCA on the design of the Climate Technology Centre and Network, which is essential for defining the relationship between the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network and their reporting lines (see para. 1(a) above). Following discussion of these items, the workshop addressed matters covered by paragraph 1(d) and (e) above under the heading of “Towards a fully operational Technology Mechanism”. This workshop report is structured to reflect the agenda and proceedings of the workshop.

9. Session 1 provided an introduction to the workshop with opening remarks by the AWG-LCA Chair, Mr. Dan Reifsnyder (United States of America), and a representative of the UNFCCC Executive Secretary. The workshop facilitator outlined the objectives of the workshop and the general approach to and organization of the work during the workshop.

10. Session 2 focused on the design of a fully operational Technology Mechanism in 2012 with a presentation by the former Chair of the Expert Group on Technology Transfer for 2010, Mr. Bruce Wilson (Australia), on the preliminary work undertaken by the EGTT on the operational modalities of the Technology Mechanism.

11. This was followed by a series of presentations (by Alliance of Small Island States, Australia, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), European Union, India, Japan and United States of America), and a general discussion on the governance structure and terms of reference of the Climate Technology Centre and Network.

12. Presentations were then delivered by two international organizations with relevant experience in operating existing technology centres and networks (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research via videoconference and the United Nations Environment Programme), followed by a panel discussion, which involved representatives of the Global Environment Facility, the International Energy Agency, the Indian Institute of Technology via videoconference, the South Centre, and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. The panel discussion provided various perspectives in response to a question posed by the workshop facilitator, which was: “What arrangements do you think are needed to achieve a fully operational Technology Mechanism?”

13. Following the panel discussion, session 2 was concluded with a discussion on the selection process and the criteria for evaluating proposals to host the Climate Technology Centre and Network, with a presentation by a representative of the European Union and interventions from several Parties.

14. Session 3 addressed the topic of the linkages within the Technology Mechanism and with other institutional arrangements, where participants also considered possible additional functions of the Technology Executive Committee and Climate Technology Centre and Network. Representatives of four Parties (China, Ecuador, European Union and South Africa) made presentations at this session, followed by a general discussion among participants with interventions from several Parties.

15. The workshop facilitator concluded the workshop by providing a summary of the workshop discussion and informing Parties that he would work with the Chair of the

¹ <http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/ad_hoc_working_groups/lca/application/pdf/tech_inf_note.pdf>.

² <http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/ad_hoc_working_groups/lca/application/pdf/agenda_technology_ws.pdf>.

AWG-LCA in preparing the report on the workshop to be made available prior to the resumed fourteenth session of the AWG-LCA. An oral report by the workshop facilitator to the AWG-LCA was made available on the UNFCCC website.³

III. Summary of the workshop discussion

A. Governance and terms of reference of the Climate Technology Centre and Network

1. Governance structure

16. Participants identified various potential models for the governance structure of the Climate Technology Centre and Network, as follows:

(a) Option 1: Technology Executive Committee, with additional relevant functions including those described in paragraph 45–46 below, undertakes the role of the governing body;

(b) Option 2: board or expert group interacting with and guided by the Technology Executive Committee with regional representation appointed by the COP or the Technology Executive Committee;

(c) Option 3: governing board with equal representation from developed and developing countries, representation from business, multilateral development banks, and including the Chair of the Technology Executive Committee and the Director of the Climate Technology Centre;

(d) Option 4: no new governing body with a Director General of the Climate Technology Centre and Network and a small team housed within an existing United Nations organization and with strategic guidance provided by the Technology Executive Committee.

17. Most participants indicated that the Climate Technology Centre and Network would be headed by a highly skilled and experienced Director. Participants were of the view that the head of the Climate Technology Centre and Network could be selected and be accountable to either the COP, the Technology Executive Committee, the governing body of the Climate Technology Centre and Network or the host organization of the Climate Technology Centre and Network.

18. In addition to exploring possible governance structures, participants presented their views on potential roles for a governing body of the Climate Technology Centre and Network. Potential roles identified included the following:

(a) Developing strategic direction;

(b) Providing policy on prioritization, operational criteria and guidelines;

(c) Evaluating operational performance and auditing of budgetary performance;

(d) Ensuring effective management and planning;

(e) Approving budget, operating/business plans and reports;

(f) Ensuring fiduciary standards, and legal and ethical integrity;

(g) Ensuring timeliness, appropriateness and responsiveness to requests from Parties, consistent with guidance provided.

³ <http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/ad_hoc_working_groups/lca/application/pdf/oral_report_technology.pdf>.

2. Oversight and accountability

19. A key issue identified by some participants related to how to achieve oversight of and effective accountability to the Convention, and oversight and guidance to the Climate Technology Centre and Network while ensuring that it remains innovative, flexible and responsive to the needs of Parties.

20. Several suggestions were made in this regard, including the following:

(a) A clear separation of responsibilities between the Technology Executive Committee in providing strategic guidance and direction (such as through the preparation of multi-year strategies for the Technology Mechanism) and the Climate Technology Centre and Network in the development of its operational plans and decision-making;

(b) An arrangement whereby the Chair, Vice-Chair or a member of the Technology Executive Committee chaired the governing body of the Climate Technology Centre and Network;

(c) An arrangement whereby the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the Technology Executive Committee were required to report jointly to the COP on the operations of the Technology Mechanism;

(d) An arrangement whereby the Technology Executive Committee provided regular feedback on the draft operational plans of the Climate Technology Centre and Network.

3. Roles and relationships

21. It is understood that the terms of reference would not duplicate the functions of the Climate Technology Centre and Network, since these have been agreed previously by the COP, but would make reference to them. While the agreed functions of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (see decision 1/CP.16, para. 123) characterize ‘what’ the Climate Technology Centre and Network would do, the terms of reference may then describe usefully ‘how’ the Climate Technology Centre and Network would undertake these functions.

22. Possible roles of the Climate Technology Centre were identified, including the following:

(a) Network hub, facilitator and stimulator: a role involving establishing the Network and allowing for its evolution in response to the needs of developing countries and stimulating the creation of tailor-made networks for specific requests and facilitating financing;

(b) Broker and technology accelerator: a proactive role of stimulating technology development and transfer through catalysing collaboration between the private sector, public institutions and the research community;

(c) Adviser and information provider: the Climate Technology Centre would provide advice, on request, to developing country Parties;

(d) “Matchmaker”: in this role, the Climate Technology Centre would match technical assistance and training support available in the Network with requests for support from developing country Parties;

(e) Catalyst and driver in the development of new and expanded programmes: a role in identifying key gaps and opportunities for expanding and enhancing existing technical assistance and workforce training programmes;

(f) Knowledge centre: where the Climate Technology Centre functions as a proactive knowledge centre and information clearing house;

(g) Adviser on proposals from developing countries: upon request, helping to transform ideas for technology initiatives, and adaptation and mitigation actions into bankable propositions, potentially with a 'stamp of approval' from the Climate Technology Centre.

23. Participants also discussed possible roles of the Network of the Climate Technology Centre as well as structural issues that are relevant to the relationship between the Climate Technology Centre and the Network, including that:

(a) The Climate Technology Centre would have a headquarters and a regional presence. In accordance with the Cancun Agreements, the Climate Technology Centre would "facilitate a Network of national, regional, sectoral and international technology networks, organizations and initiatives" with a view to engaging the participants of the Network effectively in agreed functions contained in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 123. Therefore, the Network may be organized at the regional, sectoral and thematic levels;

(b) The Climate Technology Centre would manage the flow of information within the Network, with other relevant institutions and would maintain and disseminate information on the competencies and capacities of participants in the Network. Advanced information and communication technologies would be used as much as possible to facilitate networking and for the operations of the Climate Technology Centre and Network, while access to services in areas with limited access to digital communication infrastructure and tools would be ensured through other forms of communication;

(c) The Climate Technology Centre would have a highly efficient and responsive request management system on a case-by-case basis and would have the capacity to respond to the specific circumstances of developing countries, particularly least developed country Parties and small island developing States;

(d) The majority of the substantive activities of the Climate Technology Centre and Network would be undertaken by the Network, with the Climate Technology Centre drawing upon the Network for required expertise in implementing its functions. To be effective, the Climate Technology Centre would need to possess sufficient internal expertise to engage effectively with Parties, stakeholders and the Network and be able to discern the most appropriate expertise to address particular requests by developing country Parties;

(e) National institutions would have a central role in relation to the Climate Technology Centre and Network to strengthen a country-driven approach and to build in-country capacity over the long term. The possible role of national institutions as focal points was emphasized for engaging with the Climate Technology Centre and Network and for making and liaising on requests for assistance;

(f) The Climate Technology Centre and Network would ensure that safeguards are applied so that appropriate advice is provided on the environmental and social impacts of technologies, with tools available to facilitate the environmental and social impact assessment of technologies;

(g) The Climate Technology Centre and Network would involve stakeholders at various stages in planning and undertaking its work;

(h) The Climate Technology Centre and Network would balance the allocation of available resources to both technologies for mitigation and adaptation.

4. Structure of the terms of reference for the Climate Technology Centre and Network

24. Workshop participants suggested that the terms of reference should be comprehensive and may include the elements discussed above, including the following: a clear objective, governance arrangements (structure, oversight, accountability and reporting), and the respective roles of and relationships between the Climate Technology Centre and the Network, as well as other key relationships.

25. Several participants emphasized that the governance arrangements and terms of reference for the Climate Technology Centre and Network should not be overly prescriptive regarding how it should operate and that it was important to encourage flexibility so that the Climate Technology Centre and Network can be a truly responsive and dynamic organization.

26. The workshop discussed possible elements of the terms of reference for the Climate Technology Centre and Network. Based upon these discussions a possible structure for the terms of reference is presented in the box below.

Possible structure for the terms of reference for the Climate Technology Centre and Network

Objective of the Climate Technology Centre and Network

It was suggested that the possible objective of the Climate Technology Centre and Network could be to help developing countries identify and implement technology projects and strategies to enhance low emissions, climate-resilient development.

Governance arrangements

Governance structure: reflecting a preferred option as outlined in paragraph 16 above;

Oversight and accountability: describing how the governance structure would exercise its oversight role with regard to the Climate Technology Centre and Network as well as the nature of the accountability of the Climate Technology Centre and Network within the Convention;

Reporting: describing which entity or entities the Climate Technology Centre and Network would report to, the reporting process, what form the reports may take, and what the reports may contain or address.

Roles and relationships

Roles of the Climate Technology Centre and Network would be defined as discussed in paragraphs 21–23 above;

Relationships between the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the Technology Executive Committee, to the extent that this is not addressed in the governance structure component of the terms of reference. Relationships with other institutions under the Convention could also be defined.

27. It was also suggested that the terms of reference may need to contain provisions regarding the legal status, funding arrangements, review procedures and other key provisions that would provide clarity to prospective hosts and participants in the Climate Technology Centre and Network on its status and linkages with the Technology Mechanism being operated under the guidance of the COP.

B. Selection criteria and procedure for the host

1. Selection criteria

28. Regarding the procedure for call for proposals for the host of the Climate Technology Centre and Network, participants emphasized the need for transparency and for a well-defined set of criteria that would attract high-quality proposals. Participants suggested specific ideas for a list of criteria including the following:

- (a) Suitability/strength of the proposed delivery mechanisms and the track record of the organization in delivering the type of functions and operational modalities assigned to the Climate Technology Centre and Network;
- (b) Demonstrated capability and experience, as follows:
 - (i) Harnessing external resources and mobilizing existing networks and institutions;
 - (ii) Engaging with and mobilizing the resources of the private sector in supporting the functions of the Climate Technology Centre and Network;
 - (iii) Engaging and mobilizing the academic and research communities;
 - (iv) Forming partnerships with public and social-sector institutions;
 - (v) Managing complex projects and initiatives;
 - (vi) Advising on technology development and transfer, including technology availability, appropriateness and affordability, and in technology innovation and business models;
- (c) Demonstration of long-term commitment to host the Climate Technology Centre and Network;
- (d) Extent to which the proposal is collaborative or demonstrates collaborative qualities;
- (e) Proximity or connectivity of the Climate Technology Centre to developing countries;
- (f) Value for money (benefit–cost ratio of the proposal);
- (g) Quality of administrative arrangements and logistics;
- (h) Suitability of the proposed management arrangements, including staffing arrangements and methodological approaches.

2. Selection procedure

29. Participants discussed various issues associated with the procedure for calling for proposals, including the following:

- (a) Whether the procedure for the call for proposals could encourage collaborative proposals or proposals from consortia;
- (b) Whether a call for information as a first step could be useful in revealing information about potentially interested organizations, which could also help to inform Parties in the design of the terms of reference;
- (c) What role the Technology Executive Committee, the subsidiary bodies and the COP may have in the evaluation and/or selection of the host;
- (d) That the process should be open, transparent, fair and neutral.

30. Participants suggested that in addition to responding to the selection criteria, prospective hosts of the Climate Technology Centre and Network would be required, by the call for proposals, to provide information that would be needed by Parties in undertaking the selection process. Information that could be required includes the following:

- (a) The proposed organizational structure, including the proposed governance model, management systems, team members and methodological approaches;
- (b) Detailed budgetary estimates for the Climate Technology Centre and Network including the financial and in kind contribution from the host organization (e.g. infrastructure, budgetary support, expertise and human resources) and information on the business model for the centre to ensure its financial sustainability;
- (c) The modalities or delivery mechanisms that the host would use to operationalize the functions of the Climate Technology Centre and Network;
- (d) An initial indication of how the host would structure the Network and involve a range of other organizations in the Climate Technology Centre and Network;
- (e) Administrative arrangements, logistics and infrastructural services to be provided by the host.

C. Relationship between the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network

31. It was recognized by participants that the question of the relationship between the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network is connected closely to the governance, oversight and accountability arrangements for the Climate Technology Centre and Network as discussed in paragraphs 16–20 above.

32. There were various views on the role of the Technology Executive Committee in guiding and/or governing the Climate Technology Centre and Network. Participants, however, emphasized the importance of achieving a coherent Technology Mechanism and recognized the need for close interaction between the two components of the mechanism.

33. The relationship between the Technology Executive Committee and Climate Technology Centre and Network identified by participants ranged from the following:

- (a) Where the Technology Executive Committee would be the governing body for the Climate Technology Centre and Network exercising all oversight and accountability functions;
- (b) Where the Technology Executive Committee was responsible for providing guidance to the Climate Technology Centre and Network only, with all other governing functions undertaken either by the host institution or by a separate governing body;
- (c) Where ‘soft’ governance approaches were used, such as transparency provisions, joint meetings, joint reporting, free exchange of information and peer review of strategies and plans, that would allow the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network to support each other, thereby creating a space for peer-to-peer feedback on performance;
- (d) Where the two institutions were kept purposely separate and independent from each other with distinct governance arrangements.

D. Issues related to financing the Technology Mechanism and its relationship to the financial mechanism

34. All participants emphasized the need to ensure adequate and stable financial support for the operations of the Technology Mechanism, including for the services that would be provided by the Climate Technology Centre and Network.

35. Workshop participants emphasized the need for a prompt start to the Technology Mechanism. Participants suggested that the Climate Technology Centre and Network could begin with an achievable scope of work and be flexible so that it could learn, adapt and expand its scope and reach over time in response to the needs of developing countries and the demands of the emerging international climate change regime.

36. The financing issue could be separated into four components. Firstly, the cost of funding the core operations of the Climate Technology Centre, including its staff and essential operational requirements. Secondly, the costs associated with mobilizing the services of the Network at the request of developing country Parties. Thirdly, the costs associated with implementing the projects or initiatives by Parties, once they have received support from the Climate Technology Centre and Network. Finally, there are the potential institutional linkages between both the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the financial mechanism, and other financial sources for the provision of technical advice on matters related to finance.

37. It was suggested that there is a need to identify sources of finance in the short term for the prompt launch of the Technology Mechanism, as well as long-term sources that will allow it to grow and develop in response to the needs of Parties. Some participants raised the question of whether a specific funding window for technology development and transfer should be established in the Green Climate Fund to support capacity-building, the preparation of technology development and transfer proposals and innovation initiatives that aim to achieve longer term, deeper and cheaper and more effective mitigation and adaptation outcomes, was discussed.

E. Links between the Technology Mechanism and other parts of the UNFCCC climate change architecture

38. Participants were of the view that the Technology Mechanism would have a key role in assisting Parties, at their request, in preparing technology initiatives, low emission development strategies or plans, nationally appropriate mitigation actions and national adaptation plans and actions.

39. In the view of workshop participants, the Technology Mechanism would be an important part of the UNFCCC climate change architecture, involving close operational interactions, particularly between the bodies supporting adaptation, mitigation and finance. It was suggested that efficient and direct linkages, which do not create additional layers of complexity that would impair decision-making or slow progress, should be established between these bodies.

40. On the relationship between the Technology Mechanism and the Adaptation Committee,⁴ it was suggested that modalities could include interaction through consultations and information sharing and where relevant, undertaking joint activities.

⁴ A compilation of submissions (FCCC/AWGLCA/2011/MISC.1 and Add.1) and a synthesis report (FCCC/AWGLCA/2011/3) on the composition of, and modalities and procedures for, the Adaptation Committee, including linkages with other relevant institutional arrangements was made available to Parties at the fourteenth session of the AWG-LCA that also addressed this topic.

41. On the relationship between the Technology Mechanism and the financial mechanism, participants made a clear distinction between the funding arrangements for the implementation of the Technology Mechanism on the one hand, and institutional linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the financial mechanism related to technical and policy advice on funding of activities under the Convention on the other. While participants did not suggest a role for the Technology Mechanism in reviewing and recommending Party proposals for funding, a potential role was identified in facilitating access to private-sector sources of finance, advising and reviewing strategies, policies and programmes for funding, in possibly giving a 'stamp of approval' to proposals for financing once they have met certain criteria, and in having an evaluative role in learning from projects after they have been implemented.

42. On the issue of funding the implementation of the Technology Mechanism, many participants emphasized the importance of stable funding, and that core funding for the mechanism should be secured. Participants emphasized that several sources of funding could be used to support the implementation of the Technology Mechanism, and that it was important to leverage funds from the private sector.

43. Some participants emphasized the importance of a sustainable business model for the Climate Technology Centre and Network. One option was an arrangement whereby participants in the Network made financial contributions to the operations of the Climate Technology Centre.

F. Possible additional functions of the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the Technology Executive Committee

44. Several presenters during session 3 of the workshop suggested the need for additional functions to be assigned to the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the Technology Executive Committee.

45. It was suggested by some participants that the Technology Executive Committee could undertake additional functions usefully. Possible additional functions related to supporting the technology needs assessments process and in undertaking an oversight or review role with respect to the Climate Technology Centre and Network (which is also discussed in paragraphs 16–20 and 31–33 above).

46. Some participants outlined some possible functions for the Technology Executive Committee related to review include the following:

(a) Evaluating the performance of the Technology Mechanism in the development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies in terms of speed, range and size of the technological flow;

(b) Supporting the Convention processes to measure, report on and verify the technology support for the actions of developing countries on mitigation and adaptation.

47. Some Parties also suggested a stronger emphasis on facilitating implementation with possible additional functions related to accessing capacity-building, mobilizing financial resources, establishing technology transfer sharing agreements, increasing access to technology providers, and leading innovation through the development of endogenous technologies.

48. Participants had differing views on whether the Climate Technology Centre and Network or the Technology Executive Committee should address issues related to intellectual property rights. While some participants did not see a place for IPR in the CTC&N discussions, some others suggested that the Climate Technology Centre and

Network or the Technology Executive Committee could undertake the following functions in this regard:

- (a) Identify the concrete intellectual property right obstacles and propose alternatives;
- (b) Support the use of flexibilities available within the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights;
- (c) Support the development of proposals for national legislation that would give effect to flexibilities in intellectual property rights;
- (d) Undertake initiatives to promote and benefit fully from innovations that are in the public domain;
- (e) Analyse and propose initiatives to deal with other patent issues;
- (f) Ensure that environmental climate-related technologies are in the public domain and free of patents;
- (g) Foster technology disaggregation;
- (h) Influence multilateral entities to enact policies that facilitate the transfer of clean technologies and reduce barriers to technology transfer.

G. Other issues

49. Participants emphasized that the Technology Mechanism must engage the private sector at many levels, and leverage its expertise and resources to accelerate and scale up technology development and transfer. The representatives of the private sector that participated in the workshop indicated that the private sector had specific suggestions on how it could support the Technology Mechanism becoming fully operational and that they would continue to engage and elaborate on these suggestions during the course of the deliberations of the AWG-LCA on the Technology Mechanism in 2011.

H. Possible steps and inputs that may be necessary to achieve a fully operational Technology Mechanism by 2012

50. Many participants emphasized the importance of having a clear road map on the way to the 2011 United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Durban, South Africa, that would enable a decision to make the Technology Mechanism fully operational in 2012. Participants had specific suggestions on the process, sequencing of discussions, and technical inputs from the secretariat and Parties that would be required. Specific suggestions included the following:

- (a) Some participants highlighted the benefit of having advanced information on the competencies and capabilities of existing institutions, centres and networks that have potential to host or participate in the Climate Technology Centre and Network, and that this information could help inform Parties in their deliberations;
- (b) In this regard, some participants suggested that the AWG-LCA, at its fourteenth session, could request the secretariat to explore and solicit information from relevant organizations and initiatives concerning their possible interest to host the Climate Technology Centre or to participate in the Network and their capability, experience and possible administrative and funding availability to support such activity, and to report on its findings to the fifteenth session of the AWG-LCA;

(c) Many participants emphasized that since the Climate Technology Centre and Network should be demand-driven, it would be useful for the design process to be cognisant and attentive to the needs of developing country Parties. Participants suggested that the Climate Technology Centre and Network could be ‘road-tested’ to see how it might respond to specific technology needs;

(d) In this regard, it was also noted that many Parties have already conducted technology needs assessments and that the synthesis of these needs could help to inform the design of the Climate Technology Centre and Network. The future of the technology needs assessment process in relation to the Technology Mechanism will require close attention.
