

**Submission
by Government of India
on
A Global Technology Facilitation Mechanism under the Auspices of the
United Nations**

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations has the honor to refer to the report of the Secretary General regarding a technology facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies, based on options identified by all relevant UN entities (A/67/348) and the call for submissions by member states to discuss options to move forward on this issue. This submission by the Government of India is in response to this request and conveys the views of Government of India on the Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM) in the United Nations.

2. Given the serious energy poverty and developmental challenges many developing countries face and are compelled to prioritize, access to critical mitigation and adaptation technologies is central to their ability to address climate change and achieve sustainable development. If we are to make progress towards eradicating poverty and ensuring the sustainability of our future development, technology is the golden key. Transformational change in the way we consume resources and energy can only come through technological solutions. Technology plays a key role in addressing development challenges across a wide scope of cross-cutting sustainability dimensions.
3. Actions to address climate change and sustainable development are critically dependent, for their success, on the availability and use of the relevant environment-friendly technologies. Enhanced mitigation to climate change and adaptation to its adverse effects requires an acceleration in the development, deployment, adoption, dissemination and transfer of

environmentally sound technologies among all countries, particularly from developed to developing countries, in order to avoid the lock-in effects of non-environmentally sound technologies on developing country, and to promote their shift to sustainable development paths. There is a critical and urgent need to provide access to technology for adaptation at a regional and national level, enabled by capacity-building and provision of new and additional funding to meet the costs of both integration of adaptation into the development process and stand-alone adaptation activities.

4. There is a need to enhance international financial flows to deliver technology development, deployment, dissemination and transfer to developing countries. Barriers to technology transfer and trade also inhibit the adoption of environmentally sustainable technologies in developing countries, highlighting the urgency for access to these technologies while balancing rewards for innovators with the common good of humankind. The immediate and urgent delivery of technology development, deployment, dissemination and transfer to developing countries requires suitable responses, including a continued emphasis by all countries on the enhancement of enabling environments, facilitating access to technology, and financing that leverages private sector financial resources. Current institutional arrangements are insufficient to deliver immediate and urgent technology development, deployment, dissemination, and transfer to developing countries.
5. In the run up to Post-2015 agenda, we are looking at a transformative agenda. Our approach therefore should also account for a transformative shift in the way we have been looking at technology issues till now. It is difficult to envisage how a transformative shift under the aegis of the post-2015 development agenda could come about in the absence of meaningful international cooperation in the field of technology development and transfer.

6. The Rio+20 Outcome Document identified technology as one of the key 'means of implementation' along with finance, capacity building and trade.
7. The importance of international cooperation on the development, transfer and dissemination of environmentally friendly technologies has been emphasized by many successive international conferences. Chapter 34 of Agenda 21 noted that *"The availability of scientific and technological information and access to and transfer of environmentally sound technology are essential requirements for sustainable development"* and that *"There is a need for favourable access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, in particular to developing countries, through supportive measures that promote technology cooperation and that should enable transfer of necessary technological know-how as well as building up of economic, technical, and managerial capabilities for the efficient use and further development of transferred technology"*. This call for urgent international collaboration to enhance the access of developing countries to environmentally friendly technologies was echoed in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation which noted the *"continued need for a dynamic and enabling international economic environment supportive of international cooperation, particularly in the areas of finance, technology transfer..."*.
8. The outcome document "The Future We Want" of the Rio+20 conference while underscoring the continued need for an enabling environment at the national and international levels, as well as continued and strengthened international cooperation, particularly in the areas of finance, debt, trade and technology transfer, called upon the UN Secretary-General to make recommendations regarding the facilitation mechanism to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session.
9. In the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), its Article 4 paragraph 5 mandates developed country Parties and Annex II Parties to take all practicable steps to promote, facilitate

and finance, as appropriate, the transfer of, or access to, environmentally sound technologies and know-how to other Parties, particularly to developing countries, to enable them to implement the provisions of the Convention. It further recognizes in paragraph 7 of Article 4 that *“The extent to which developing country Parties will effectively implement their commitments under the Convention will depend on the effective implementation by developed country Parties of their commitments under the Convention related to financial resources and transfer of technology and will take fully into account that economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of the developing country Parties”*, emphasizing thus the critical importance of technology development, dissemination and transfer for sustainable development. This commitment is echoed in similar provisions under the Kyoto Protocol (Article 10 c).

10. The Bali Action Plan agreed in 2007 required Parties to develop *‘effective mechanisms and enhanced means for the removal of obstacles to, and provision of financial and other incentives for, scaling up the development and transfer of technology to developing country parties’*, as well as to *‘accelerate deployment, dissemination and transfer of affordable environmental technologies’*.

11. At the 16th Conference of Parties (COP-16) in Cancun in December 2010, a Technology Mechanism, comprising a Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and a Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) has been established. While this is a possible development, this set of institutions is yet to be fully made operational.

12. However, despite the plethora of international mechanisms in place to address international cooperation in technology, persistent gaps in access to critical technologies by developing countries continue. An overwhelming percentage of the global spending on research and development in environmentally friendly technologies takes place in developed countries. Although developing

countries have increased their share of global R&D expenditure and patent applications, they continue to face many obstacles, particularly with regard to finance, capacity building and training throughout different stages of technology life cycle, from research to development, demonstration, market formation, and eventual dissemination in the marketplace.

13. One of the important issues to be addressed for the rapid development, dissemination and transfer of technologies is the global regime for Intellectual Property Rights. A facilitative global IPRs regime is required that balances rewards for the innovators with the common good of humankind and thereby enables developing countries to take early and effective mitigation and adaptation actions at the national level. In the absence of such a facilitative IPRs regime the objective of advancing climate change mitigation and adaptation and the pursuit of sustainable development actions at the scale and speed warranted by the scale of current challenges will not be achievable. The report of the Secretary General correctly emphasizes the need to pragmatically address intellectual property rights constraints for technology transfer, wherever they exist, by exploring innovative voluntary approaches.
14. It can be reasoned that the fragmentation of international efforts so far has been one of the key reasons why such efforts have fallen short of delivering the results that have been expected for years by the international community. The report of the UN Secretary General has itself pointed out that “...*the range of capacity-building activities...remain largely uncoordinated and ad hoc in terms of objective, content and country coverage. There is no global framework, agreement, assessment or monitoring mechanism for science and technology for sustainable development*”.
15. The UN has been in the lead on sustainable development and is also the global forum for the discussion of the post-2015 development agenda. This leadership role of the UN must be matched by it having the capability to assist

those in need to pursue sustainable development. Mere policy prescriptions will not suffice. Without a substantive forward movement on technology not much can be achieved on sustainability. Collaboration on research and development is key to the success of global initiatives on sustainable development and UN should take the lead on institutionalizing this effort. An international mechanism for technology facilitation is therefore the need of the hour, in order to take into account existing models, provide collective leadership and discuss and implement coordinated solutions to the various issues related to technology facilitation.

16. A global mechanism anchored in the UN would provide the much needed coherence in international efforts, enhance synergies and avoid the fragmented approach we have at present. Such a mechanism under the auspices of the UN would also provide an anchor to and bring about much needed coherence in many bilateral initiatives on technology issues.

17. The model pioneered in the 1960s and 70s for acceleration of food production which worked by integrating and coordinating the efforts of those who fund research and those who do the research should be replicated under the TFM. For this, the proposed TFM under the United Nations should develop a multi-stakeholder approach and involve Governments, IFIs, Regional Development Banks, the private sector and private foundations in order to pool in resources.

18. In the above context, Government of India welcomes the proposal made in the report of the UN Secretary General for the establishment of a Technology Facilitation Mechanism under the United Nations. Government of India further notes and welcomes the support expressed by panelists and speakers during the four workshops organized at the UN for establishing a global technology facilitation mechanism. **Government of India strongly supports the findings of the SG report (A/67/348) and its conclusions with regard to the**

establishment of an intergovernmental working group to agree on establishing a global mechanism for technology facilitation.

19. As a way forward, Government of India supports the proposal made in the report of the Secretary General for the immediate constitution of an intergovernmental preparatory working group, serviced by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and supported by a pool of experts, in order to work out institutional details, with a view to achieving an operational technology facilitation mechanism, that would report to the high-level political forum.
