

Submission

By G77 and China

Regarding international technology facilitation mechanism

20th June 2013

- 1- As we embark on the process of sustainable development and look towards a global 'transformative' development agenda, technology plays a key role in addressing development challenges across a wide scope of cross-cutting dimensions, as in food and agriculture, water, energy, industry development, and chemicals and waste management.
- 2- Developing countries rely heavily on technology in order to shift to a more sustainable development path. To help developing countries overcome certain obstacles to economic expansion and growth to achieve specific development goals, it is imperative that we seize the opportunity to bridge the technological divide to promote sustainable industrialisation, information and inclusive growth across the developing world.
- 3- As we stress the need for a 'transformational' change in the frame work of SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda, it is difficult to envisage how it could take place without making a break through with regard to international cooperation in the field of technology development, transfer and dissemination. Thus, there is a need for a technology mechanism that can accelerate technology development, transfer and dissemination on a global scale and that is commensurate with the sustainable development challenge.
- 4- The Rio+20 Outcome Document recognised technology as one of the key 'means of implementation' along with finance, capacity building and trade. In response to paragraph 273 of this Document, the Secretary-General has made, in his report ([A/67/348](#)) recommendations to the General Assembly regarding a technology facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technology. His report provided an overview of proposals, outlining recommendations on the possible functions, format and working methods of a technology facilitation mechanism, as well as on a potential global way forward, suggesting the establishment of an intergovernmental working group to agree on the details of such a mechanism.
- 5- In our view, the outcome of the Conference should be dealt with as a package, where the progress in achieving different elements is linked to progress made with respect to the means of implementation, particularly in finance, technology and capacity building.
- 6- The Group of 77 supported the findings of the report and its conclusions with regard to the establishment of an intergovernmental working group to agree on

establishing a global mechanism for technology facilitation. We understood some countries were of the view that we should first have more in-depth discussions on options to move forward. This is the reason it has been agreed on holding a series of four one-day workshops in order to discuss the matter further.

- 7- Whereas the first two workshops focused on the national level, by sharing experiences of some countries, mainly from the South, the last two focused on the international level. Sustainable development challenges are of global nature, thus they need global solutions with technology at its core.
- 8- Despite progress recently in access to technology, persistent technological and innovation divides between countries and regions continue. Around 70 per cent of R&D, spending worldwide still takes place in developed countries. Although middle- and low-income developing economies have increased their share of global R&D expenditure and patent applications, most of this increase is accounted for by East Asia. Gains have been more modest in other developing countries.
- 9- Developing countries are still facing 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 diffusion in the marketplace. An effective technology innovation system is one that excels in each stage and seamlessly bridges the gaps between them. In such a system, capacity-building, finance and technology transfer can play an important role in all stages.
- 10- Over the past 20 years, a system of capacity-building mechanisms for technology and sustainable development has emerged that is increasingly fragmented, including within the United Nations system. A recent survey of activities within the United Nations system illustrates the range of capacity-building activities, which 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
- 11- In this regard, it is noted that a certain degree of work has been undertaken with regard to technology development and transfer in many fora such as WTO, WIPO, UNFCCC, but has not yielded significant results yet. This clearly reflects the need for streamlining all these efforts, which are all related to sustainable development, as well as for making a breakthrough with regard to the issue of technology transfer. This gives more reasons why we need an international mechanism that takes in charge this task, taking into account existing models, and providing collective and coordinated solutions.
- 12- In this vein, the Group welcomes the support expressed by panelists and speakers during the four workshops for establishing a global technology facilitation mechanism, emphasizing the need for it. The Group reaffirms its support for 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.

13- There is a need for a technology mechanism that can accelerate technology innovation, and the development, transfer and dissemination of technology on a global scale and that is commensurate with the sustainable development challenge. It is a paradox of our times that we have failed to make use of our far greater scientific and technological possibilities and global wealth to effectively solve global sustainable development challenges.

14- A global technology facilitation mechanism should :

- a) Address gaps throughout the full technology cycle, from research to development, demonstration, market formation and diffusion;
- b) Foster a truly global, cooperative undertaking that engages all interested Governments and major groups, including the private sector;
- c) Greatly improve technology transfer, including between developing countries;
- d) Pragmatically address intellectual property rights constraints for technology transfer, wherever they exist, by exploring innovative voluntary approaches;
- e) Promote technology needs assessment;
- f) Build and greatly expand open international networks of collaboration in research, development and demonstration that allow for the participation of all countries, including the poorest;
- g) Better coordinate capacity-building work by the United Nations through partnerships to achieve truly global reach;
- h) Build partnerships to better coordinate and support the implementation of technology-related international commitments, agreements and conventions;
- i) Build upon and incorporate existing technology mechanisms developed under other initiatives under the UN system such as the UNFCCC;
- j) Provide for groups of countries that are marginalized by their remoteness and/or lack of critical mass;
- k) Facilitate information access, education and training, as well as support for project preparation;
- l) Facilitate coordination of activities implemented by different UN agencies, including its Funds, Programmes and Treaty Bodies
- m) Support joint research, networking and collaboration with technology development;
- n) Identify and development solutions for the removal of barriers to a wide deployment of environmentally sound technologies
- o) Facilitate creation of a regulatory environment by governments that stimulates investment in and acquisition of new technology, including through a more TFM lenient intellectual property regime
- p) Facilitate inter-governmental dialogues on transfer of publically-owned or funded technologies through the UN system

- 15- A global technology facilitation mechanism should consist of:
- a) A global mechanism, with a technology development fund, in order to strengthen global research, development and demonstration cooperation, technology transfer and participation of developing countries;
 - b) Network of technology transfer and information centers, based on existing global and regional centers, online platforms, clearing houses, international conventions with technology provisions and economic partnership agreements;
 - c) Public-private partnerships on collaborative intellectual property systems and licensing;
 - d) Capacity development programmes and knowledge platforms, and technology needs assessment
 - e) A management and coordination structure within the United Nations, including regional and sub-regional cooperative mechanisms and national coordination units, which could be assisted by advisory team composed of experts and stakeholders, possibly drawing on a large pool of experts;

16- AS a way forward, The Group of 77 and China reiterates its call 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. The Group of 77 and China reiterates that it is considering the possibility of tabling a resolution in the General Assembly in this regard.