General Assembly Structured Dialogues
"Possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies"

Background

The Rio+20 Outcome Document *The Future We Want* (Resolution 66/288, July 2012) highlighted the central role of technological cooperation for the achievement of sustainable development and requested relevant United Nations agencies to identify options for "a facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies by, inter alia, assessing the technology needs of developing countries, options to address those needs and capacity-building".

In its resolution 68/210 of December 2013, the General Assembly decided to hold a series of four one-day structured dialogues, "supported by the United Nations system and enabling the involvement of relevant stakeholders, including international and regional organizations, multilateral and regional financial and development institutions, universities and research institutions, the private sector and civil society, to consider possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies by identifying and addressing, where appropriate, fragmentation, synergies, areas of duplication and opportunities for cooperation between existing mechanisms and processes, thus improving overall coherence and enhancing inter-linkages, identifying and addressing gaps throughout the full technology life cycle, from research to development, demonstration, market formation, transfer and diffusion, fostering innovation, and promoting an enabling environment at all levels, while respecting the mandates of existing institutions, frameworks and processes".

The Assembly also decided that the dialogues will "result in a summary of the discussions and recommendations emerging there from, including on the possible modalities and organization of such a mechanism, to be submitted by the President of the General Assembly to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session and for consideration and appropriate action by the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, with the aim of reaching a conclusion in this regard".

The dialogues will build on four interactive Workshops on technology facilitation held by the General Assembly during its 67th session[1]. The Secretary-General produced a report (A/68/310), based on the discussions at the workshops and other inputs and building on his earlier report on the subject (A/67/348). [2]

As stipulated in the Outcome Document of the General Assembly Special Event of 25 September 2013, the outcome of these structured Dialogues is intended to inform the General Assembly on options for a technology facilitation mechanism in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

This Note lays out a proposed structure for the Dialogues mandated by resolution 68/210 of December 2013 around the overall theme of "possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies".

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[1]   The Workshops were mandated by A/Res/67/203.

[2]   "Options for a facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies" (A/67/348), and "Options for facilitating the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies" (A/68/310).

Structure and themes of individual Dialogues

Dialogue 1   "Stock-taking of the debates on development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies" "

Objectives:

- Identifying and addressing gaps throughout the full technology life cycle, from research to development, demonstration, market formation, transfer and diffusion, fostering innovation, and promoting an enabling environment at all levels, while respecting the mandates of existing institutions, frameworks and processes;
- Identifying and assessing existing international science, technology and innovation cooperation institutions, frameworks and processes within the technology life cycle, from research to development, demonstration, market formation, transfer and diffusion;
- How intergovernmental cooperation and public-private partnerships could foster innovation and diffusion of environmentally sound technology, while promoting an enabling environment at all levels? Enhancing the role of private sector- or non-profit-driven international development efforts in technology facilitation;
- Key lessons learned from existing mechanisms and processes meant to facilitate the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies.

Dialogue 2   Assessing fragmentation, synergies, areas of duplication and opportunities for cooperation between existing mechanisms and processes, thus improving overall coherence and enhancing interlinkages

Objectives:

- Fragmentation, synergies, areas of duplication and opportunities for cooperation between existing mechanisms and processes including the Technology Bank dedicated to LDCs, WIPO Green, the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism, and CGIAR;
- How to improve overall coherence and enhance interlinkages between existing mechanisms and processes;
- Lessons in fostering innovation and enabling conditions for successful technology facilitation;
- Relevant lessons and successful practices learned from existing national or regional initiatives such as ARPA-e or the European Framework Programme;
- The scope for specific and concrete areas where a convergence of views and joint action is worth exploring in this cycle of structured Dialogues;
- Pros and cons regarding the scope and feasibility of new mechanisms, including a global mechanism for facilitation of clean and environmentally sound technology.

Dialogue 3   Identifying the potential for development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies and identifying options for the way forward

Objectives:

- Promoting overall coordination and synergy, while respecting existing mandates and bodies, while identifying sectors in which technology facilitation would be critical for sustainable development in post-2015 context;
- Case studies and potential institutional scenarios for technology facilitation in practice;
- Identifying options for the way forward, based, inter alia, on existing relevant reports.

Dialogue 4   Possible arrangements to enhance technology facilitation
   Objectives:
- Areas of agreement or convergence regarding possible modalities and organization of a technology facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies;
- Assessing the contribution of multilateral and regional financial and development institutions and of public-private partnership to technology facilitation;
- Linkages with the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda;
- Linkages with other areas of means of implementation, promoting synergies and effectiveness;

Calendar

Each Dialogue will take a day. It is proposed to hold Dialogues 1 and 2 back-to-back.

Dialogue 1	29 April
Dialogue 2	30 April
Dialogue 3	4 June
Dialogue 4	23 July

Participation

The structured dialogues will allow for the involvement of relevant stakeholders, including Member States, international and regional organizations, multilateral and regional financial and development institutions, universities and research institutions, philanthropic foundations, global partnerships, the private sector and civil society.

The dialogues will be organized as multi-stakeholder, interactive dialogues assisted by moderators appointed by the President of the General Assembly.

Outcomes

To facilitate interaction amongst Member States during the inter-sessional periods, two preliminary summaries of the discussions will be circulated to Member States after dialogues 2 (reflecting the discussions in dialogues 1 and 2) and 3 (reflecting the discussions in this dialogue). In accordance with resolution 68/210 of December 2013, the dialogues will "result in a summary of the discussions and recommendations emerging there from, including on the possible modalities and organization of such a mechanism, to be submitted by the President of the General Assembly to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session and for consideration and appropriate action by the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, with the aim of reaching a conclusion in this regard".

Further information on the agenda and background information for the structured dialogues will be circulated to Member States in due course.

UN General Assembly Dialogues on Technology