



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

16 July, 2014

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to enclose herewith a letter from H.E. Mr. Paul Seger, Permanent Representative of Switzerland and H.E. Mr. Guilherme de Aguiar Patriota, Deputy Permanent Representative of Brazil, Co-moderators of the structured dialogues on possible arrangements for a technology facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies, related to the organisation of the fourth and last dialogue, to take place on 23 July 2014.

I encourage Member States to actively participate in this fourth dialogue on this important matter, recalling that complementary information on the structured dialogues so far can be found online at <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1822>.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John W. Ashe".

John W. Ashe

To All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



Permanent Mission of Brazil
to the United Nations



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations

His Excellency
Mr. John W. Ashe
President of the General Assembly
68th Session
CB - 0250
United Nations Headquarters
New York

New York, 16.07.2014

Mr. President,

We have the honor to enclose herewith the co-moderator's notes on the 3rd structured dialogue on possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies, which took place on June 4, 2014 at the UN Headquarters in New York. We kindly ask you to circulate it to all member states.

The aim of the co-moderators notes is to channel the discussions during the 4th and last dialogue in order to identify common ground with regards to possible arrangements for a potential technology facilitation mechanism. On the basis of this exchange, the co-moderators will produce a final summary of the discussions and recommendations emerging therefrom, including on the possible modalities and organization of such a mechanism.

Furthermore, and based on what has been discussed during the structured dialogues, co-moderators would like to invite member states to share their views on how the issue of possible arrangements for a technology facilitation mechanism should be discussed further in order to fulfil the mandate of resolution 68/210. In this regard, the co-moderators intend to inform member states about the suggestion by the President of the General Assembly to the co-moderators to submit a procedural resolution during the current session of the General Assembly, requesting the Secretary General to take into account the outcome of the structured dialogues in his synthesis report, and also encouraging member States to reach a conclusion during the 69th Session of the General Assembly in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. The co-moderators will be seeking for guidance from member states on this suggestion during the second part of the 4th dialogue on July 23, 2014.

We thank you, Mr. President, once again for entrusting us with this important mandate.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Guilherme de Aguiar Patriota
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative
of Brazil to the United Nations

Paul Seger
Ambassador Extraordinary Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Switzerland to
the United Nations

Notes from the Co-Moderators on the 3rd Dialogue on possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies

4 June 2014

The first two dialogues on possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies were dedicated to taking stock of the process to develop options for a technology facilitation mechanism, including by assessing existing mechanisms and processes. The third dialogue identified areas of convergence and tried to channel discussions and align different perceptions, while considering possible functions to be performed by a “technology facilitation mechanism”. In order to focus deliberations during the third structured dialogue, co-moderators provided Member States with notes that synthesized the main areas of discussion and outlined possible functions and tasks to be performed by a potential mechanism.

The aim of the present co-moderators notes is to channel the discussions during the 4th and last dialogue in order to identify common ground with regards to possible arrangements for a potential technology facilitation mechanism.

Delegations agreed that there is room for improvement with regards to the transfer of clean and environmentally sound technologies; there were however different perceptions on the most effective way to move forward to address this issue.

While many delegations agreed to focus the dialogues on the question of how to establish a technology facilitation mechanism, some delegations underlined during the dialogues that there is difference of opinion regarding what precisely was mandated by the Rio+20 conference and that there was no agreement at this moment to create a new UN mechanism. Others highlighted the importance of considering the options for its creation in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

Views were also expressed as to which of the following aspects mentioned by delegations – education, capacity building, finance, tech transfer, IP, R&D or all of them – could be addressed by a technology facilitation mechanism.

Some delegations considered non-government actors to be the primary drivers of technological advance. They also took the position that science, technology and innovation for sustainable development should not be seen only in terms of technology transfer, but more generally understood as the need to promote innovation, technology adaptation and diffusion and the acquisition of capacities and know-how. Successful technology transfer involves access to financing and promotion of entrepreneurship and FDI, STEM education and capacity building in STI, promoting good governance, an enabling environment and a regulatory framework, including for Intellectual Property Rights.

Others argued that intellectual property may constitute a barrier to or delay technology transfer to developing countries. Some underscored the role of governments and adequate public policies in the support for and promotion of science, technology and innovation, noting that the market alone and trade in technology embedded goods and services would not in and of themselves promote development of ST&I capacities in developing countries. Governments are still major actors in

funding and building the foundations for STEM education, which is a requisite for technological development.

Taking into account discussions during dialogues 1, 2 and 3, the co-moderators elaborated the following options for discussion during the 4th dialogue:

Possible modalities and organization of a facilitation mechanism

1. Better information and mapping of existing facilitation activities

Member States converged on the usefulness of providing more and better access to public information on existing technology facilitation mechanisms, frameworks and processes, including by promoting greater coherence, awareness and information sharing. This could include carrying out a mapping of technology cooperation initiatives, as well as knowledge sharing and learning, including through guidelines or handbooks.

Such function could be performed by an electronic knowledge platform, incorporating a global database, which could make available information on existing mechanisms, processes and frameworks, as well as learning material and other documents. Such platform should provide orientation and access to information, serving as an entry-point for government officials, private sector, civil society and other stakeholders interested in clean and environmentally sound technologies.

2. Improving coherence and synergy between existing facilitation activities

There was also wide support to avoiding duplication of efforts and to better utilising the existing infrastructure through increased coherence and synergies among technology transfer initiatives, programmes and mechanisms already operating within the UN system and under the Rio Conventions (e.g. LDC Technology Bank, the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism and technology transfer provisions under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity). A potential technology transfer mechanism should minimise duplication, maximise synergy, coordination, and effectiveness, enhance capacity and help those Member States that desire to learn from and adapt successful strategies.

In order to find ways to better coordinate, improve coherence, share best practices and pursuit of synergy among the large number of existing mechanisms, Member States suggested enhancing dialogue through the High-level Political Forum to connect relevant actors.

Further suggestions that were raised include creating an online-based clearinghouse of existing initiatives and networks in different thematic fields (energy, climate etc) or establishing an inter-agency coordination mechanism such as UN Water or UN Energy.

Engaging the private sector in a meaningful UN Technology initiative was also suggested, considering many current UN partner companies are from the technology sector. Adequate corporate responsibility and accountability to the UN membership would be required.

3. Conducting analyses of technology needs and gaps in addressing them

Delegations highlighted that a UN technology facilitation mechanism should promote technology needs assessments, identify key technologies that can accelerate sustainable development ("horizon

scanning") and address the needs of countries in special situation regarding appropriateness, affordability and adaptability of technologies (in particular, SIDS and LDCs).

Other delegations acknowledged the importance of conducting a broad and methodical examination of gaps in technology development, dissemination and adoption, including on basic capacity issues e.g., STEM education, development of innovation ecosystems and IP.

In order to advance in this field, it was suggested to delve deeper into an analysis of needs and gaps in facilitating clean and environmentally sound technology for developing countries, in particular, by studying options for focused capacity building initiatives to help countries, especially SIDS and LDCs, in navigating the international landscape of technology facilitation.

4. Promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies

Delegations also reiterated that the three key functions of the mechanism should be to develop, transfer and disseminate clean and environmentally sound technologies. They called for the establishment of a UN Technology Facilitation Mechanism, consisting of: a) A technology development fund, to strengthen global R&D and demonstration cooperation, technology transfer and participation of developing countries; b) Network of technology transfer, innovation and information centres, based on existing global and regional centres, online platforms, clearing houses, international conventions with technology provisions and economic partnership agreements; c) Network of universities, institutes and research, development and innovation institutions; d) Capacity development programmes and knowledge platforms, and technology needs assessment; e) PPPs including on collaborative IP systems and licensing; f) A management and coordination structure within the UN, including regional and sub-regional cooperative mechanisms and national coordination units, which could be assisted by an advisory team composed of experts and stakeholders.