



## Background

Developing countries with newly emerging or transitional economies are facing a tough choice. It is a choice between continuing over-exploitation of our planet's reserves or leaving their population in poverty and hunger. Consequently, developing countries are dependent on the developed for clean technology, which can aid sustainable development. The UNFCCC in recognition of this need, has laid down mechanisms for supportive technological cooperation and

As per the UN Convention on climate change, the developed country Parties and other developed Parties included in Annex II "shall 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" (Article 4.5). This commitment has been echoed in similar provisions under the Kyoto Protocol (Article 10 c).

In order to meet the chief objectives of the Convention, at COP 7, Parties agreed to work together on a set of technology transfer activities, to enhance the implementation of Article 4.5 of the Convention. This framework has the following five chief themes:

1. Technology needs & needs assessments
2. Technology information
3. Enabling environments
4. Capacity building
5. Mechanisms for technology transfer

At COP 13, Parties adopted a set of actions for enhancing the implementation of the technology transfer framework. The Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT) was agreed to be reconstituted and a strategic program to boost investment for technology transfer via Global Environment Facility (GEF) was proposed.

## Indian Government Position

The Government of India has outlined its position on technology transfer in its submission to UNFCCC on Technology Transfer Mechanism (17<sup>th</sup> October, 2008).

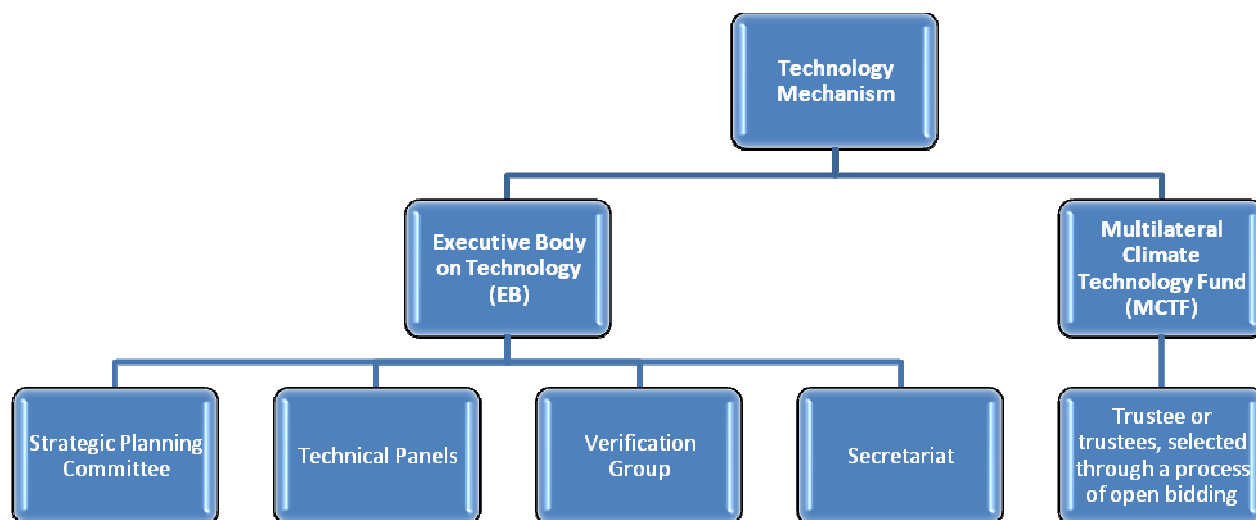
Based on the premise that existing institutional mechanisms are inadequate to meet the pressing demand for accelerated development, deployment, diffusion and transfer of technology for adaptation and mitigation to the non-Annex I Parties, India has proposed a **technology mechanism**.

The chief features of the proposed technology mechanism:

Will operate under and be accountable to COP



Institutional structure:



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A Technology Action Plan, identifying the actions, policies and funding requirements for research, development and transfer and diffusion of public domain, patented and future technologies will serve as the base framework for the EB.

An indicative and modifiable list of proposed activities for funding and support has been included.

### Indian Youth Delegation Stance

We unequivocally support the Government's position on

- the urgent need for additional financing and improved access to it
- creation of the technology mechanism to better meet the obligations of the Convention with regard to technology transfer, funding and capacity building
- developing clear strategies on sectoral, cross-sectoral, and cross cutting cooperation
- considering regional balance
- establishing an "international cooperation system to ensure lowest cost options"
- the need to resolve IPR barriers to make technology more affordable
- reinforcing Joint research and development
- stronger measures of capacity building and creating enabling environments in developing countries



## Indian Youth Delegation Recommendations

### ***Recommendations for International Action***

#### **Policy Recommendation 1: Resolution of issues related to trade and IPR barriers**

Existing intellectual property rights system has often been the biggest barrier in the transfer of cutting-edge technology to the developing nations. The IPR regime has to be made more flexible in order to make ESTs accessible and affordable to the developing economies. Globally, we can relook at the uniform patent system and decide if the system for cleaner technologies should be different considering that the benefits would be global too. However, IPR laws in the receptor countries need to be strengthened for this.

#### **Policy Recommendation 2: Positive incentives for private acquisition of clean technologies**

Positive incentives to enable greater private acquisition of clean technologies in different sectors presently seem either inadequate or altogether absent. This can be achieved through wider range of and greater level of economic incentives like tax cuts or subsidies, at national, bilateral and multilateral levels by different countries.

#### **Policy Recommendation 3: Greater collaborative efforts**

Unidirectional flow of funds and technology from the developed to the developing world is not a sustainable solution. A greater number of joint ventures between the Annex I or II and the non-annex countries need to be developed wherein greater and meaningful development of technical know-how, capacity building and piloting of otherwise unaffordable technologies could be facilitated.

#### **Policy Recommendation 4: Scale up financial commitments**

Funds provided by developed countries to organizations, outside the Convention should not be regarded as being in fulfillment of their commitments under the UNFCCC article 4.3. The Annex I and Annex-II countries must make stronger and more accountable financial commitments to facilitate diffusion of technology and technological know-how. The scale of financial commitment by the developed countries could be a certain percentage of their GDP, in addition to existing Official Development Assistance.

#### **Policy Recommendation 5: Greater involvement of the recipient country**

The recipient countries should be allowed greater say in the choice and scale of technology being transferred or funded. Conditionalities imposed during financing should be minimized. A proper institutional framework to monitor these has to be developed.

### ***Recommendations for National Action***

#### **Policy Recommendation 1: Clear identification of priority areas and inventorying of available cleaner technology in those areas**

As a rapidly developing country, demand for energy in India has been burgeoning. So far, we have been relying excessively on coal owing to its affordability and availability and oil despite its very high price. India needs to prepare an extensive list pinpointing clean technologies in which international assistance is required, especially those that help us reduce our reliance on coal or improve efficiency of coal based power. The key areas, where all the stages of technology cycle, beginning from research to commercialization, should be prioritized include:

1. Solar energy



2. Clean coal technologies
3. Water and wastewater technologies
4. Sustainable transport
5. Wave/tidal energy
6. Waste treatment
7. Agro-waste derived energy

**Policy Recommendation 2: Enhanced transparency in taking technological decisions**

Based on 'technology information system' developed by the secretariat, which aims to improve the flow of, access to and quality of information relating to the development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies, a similar national level initiative is recommended. This can operate as a part of or independent of the National Information System for Science and Technology.

**Policy Recommendation 3: Greater investment in capacity building**

Innovation and therefore technical progress is a product of the skills people possess. Greater investment in education and training is hence imperative for research, innovation, adoption and successful integration of cleaner technology. There must be an emphasis on disseminating information to the local level and improving capabilities and integration of local information with operational management.

Effective science-policy interface and stronger industry-academia partnership is essential to develop an enabling environment for development, diffusion and deployment of environmentally sound technologies.