



UN-ESCWA

UNITED NATIONS - Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia



## Overview of Climate Change Initiatives and Related Technology Development and Transfer Measures

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### Presentation outline



- I. UN coordination on climate change at the global level
- II. Regional coordination on climate change
- III. Technology transfer under the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- IV. UNFCCC COP-15 draft decision on “Enhanced action on technology development and transfer”

## I. UN Coordination at the Global Level

- The United Nations coordinates its work under the framework of the **Chief Executives Board (CEB)**.
  - CEB decisions are supported through the **High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP)** and its Working Group on Climate Change.
- Per the CEB Report “**Acting on Climate Change: The UN System Delivering As One**” (Nov 2008):
  - The CEB mandated Regional Commissions, including ESCWA, to serve as “**The Designated Convener for cross-cutting areas of UN activities supporting global, regional and national actions**”.
- The CEB presented a strategic framework detailing UN system activities on climate change at the UNFCCC COP-15 in Copenhagen (Dec 2009).

## UN Coordination at the Global Level

*UN coordination on Climate Change focuses on a number of major issues in response to the negotiation process and the broader mandates of the UN system.*

### Current work focuses on:

- ✓ Adaptation
- ✓ Mitigation and Finance
- ✓ Technology Transfer
- ✓ Capacity Building
- ✓ Reducing Emissions from Deforestation & Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD)

## II. Regional Coordination



### Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM)

- \* ESCWA leads RCM, which was established to coordinate programs, projects and initiatives among the UN system organizations in the ESCWA and Arab regions on various topics.
- \* While fundamentally a UN regional coordination mechanism, the LAS was invited to serve on the RCM.

The **RCM Thematic Working Group on Climate Change** is led by UNEP/ROWA; ESCWA, LAS, etc. are members. Its tasks include:

- ✓ Monitoring climate change impacts and vulnerability
- ✓ Supporting national planning for adaptation
- ✓ Enhancing knowledge sharing
- ✓ Streamlining financial and technical support
- ✓ Building capacity in adaptation
- ✓ Supporting efforts to leverage finance for energy efficiency and renewable energy

## LAS Ministerial Councils



### League of Arab States Ministerial Councils

- Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE)
- Council of Arab Water Ministers
- Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Electricity
- Others on youth, etc.

➤ **ESCWA, UNEP/ROWA and the LAS Technical Secretariat** comprise the Joint Secretariat that advises CAMRE on Sustainable Development, including climate change.

➤ **ESCWA is member of the Technical Committees** that advise the:

- Council of Arab Water Ministers
- Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Electricity

## ESCWA Support to LAS on CC



### CAMRE

- **The Arab Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change** in 2007 which expresses Arab commitment to join the international community in its move towards adaptation to and mitigation of Climate Change
- **The Arab Framework Action Plan on Climate Change for 2010-2020 (AFAPCC)**, prepared under the auspices of the LAS CAMRE Technical Secretariat, in partnership with ESCWA, UNEP/ROWA and Regional Arab Organizations (pending adoption)

### Arab Ministerial Water Council

- **Arab Water Security Strategy** - under finalization and includes need of Arab Governments to consider climate change impacts on water resources and adaptation measures.

### Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Electricity

ESCWA advising on preparation of the:

- **Arab Strategy on Renewable Energy**
- **Arab Strategy on Energy Efficiency**

Both of which are directly tied to climate change mitigation.

## ESCWA-Sponsored Initiatives



### 1. ACWUA: Arab Countries Water Utilities Association

- Management of Water Resources Working Group responsible for the:
  - Protection of Water Resources
  - Adaptation to Climate Change
  - Integrated Water Resources Management

### 2. AWARENET: Arab Integrated Water Resources Management Network

- Working Group on Climate Change

### 3. Regional Vulnerability Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources, and its associated socio-economic and environmental effects

### 4. Regional Support for Renewable Energy Policies and Applications

## Regional Vulnerability Assessment



Mandate to prepare Regional Vulnerability Assessment based on:

- **ESCWA resolution 281 (XXV) of ESCWA Ministerial Session (May 2008)**
  - *Requests the secretariat to prepare an assessment of the vulnerability to climate change of economic and social development in the region, with particular emphasis on fresh water resources;*
- **RCM Thematic Working Group on Climate Change (Nov 2008)**
  - *It was agreed that ESCWA, UNEP/ROWA, UNESCO and UNDP would collaborate on the preparation of a "Vulnerability Assessment on Water Resources of the Region".*
- **Regional collaboration reinforced at the UN-LAS Ninth Sectoral Meeting, which focused on Climate Change (June 2009).**

Meeting was chaired by ESCWA on behalf of the UN Secretary General.

  - *The meeting concluded with agreement that UN and LAS specialized organizations would collaborate on the preparation of a vulnerability assessment on the impact of climate change on water and land resources.*

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## Regional Vulnerability Assessment



- Regional Coordination and consensus to prepare joint vulnerability assessment confirmed at the ESCWA-LAS organized **EGM Towards Assessing the Vulnerability of Water Resources to Climate Change in the Arab Region** (Beirut, 26-28 October 2009)
- The EGM involved Government Delegates as well as representatives from:
  - \* **ESCWA**
  - \* **UNEP/ROWA**
  - \* **WMO**
  - \* **UNISDR**
  - \* **FAO**
  - \* **UNDP**
  - \* **LAS**
  - \* **ACSAD**
  - \* **AOAD**
  - \* **AASTMT**
  - \* **ISESCO**
  - \* **Regional & National Orgs**

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## Regional Vulnerability Assessment



The concept and structure of the project was agreed to during the meeting based on four components:

- (a) **Collection of baseline information**, including the development of an associated knowledge management system;
- (b) **Impact analysis and vulnerability assessment**, which includes model identification and downscaling to the regional level based on regional specificities;
- (c) **Awareness raising and information dissemination** to produce policy-relevant materials, such as a brief on vulnerability hotspots; and
- (d) **Capacity building and institutional strengthening** on a variety of topics, including climate change modeling and vulnerability assessment.

**Opportunities to collaborate on components & at national level**

## III. Technology Transfer in UNFCCC



- The United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) was one of the three conventions adopted at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit.
- It prioritizes work on technology transfer in a manner that is closely tied to making available needed financial resources.

- **Article 4 (Commitments) Paragraph 5 States:**

- ✓ "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 developing country Parties**, to enable them to implement the provisions of the Convention.

- ✓ In this process, **the developed country Parties shall support the development and enhancement of endogenous capacities and technologies of developing country Parties.**

- ✓ **Other Parties and organizations in a position to do so may also assist in facilitating the transfer of such technologies."**

## UNFCCC TT Framework



Framework adopted in 2001 established 5 areas of work on TT:

### 1) Technology needs and needs assessments

- Seeks to identify barriers to technology transfer and propose measures for reducing these barriers at the sector level; could result in portfolio of projects targeting the transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

### 2) Technology information

- Which works to define the means (hardware/software and networking) needed to facilitate information flow between stakeholders on the development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies

### 3) Enabling environments

- Focuses on governance and government actions to remove barriers to technology transfer through economic & regulatory policies & transparency.

### 4) Capacity building

- Country-driven initiatives based on National Sustainable Development Strategies, Priorities and Initiatives to improve scientific & technical skills

### 5) Mechanisms for technology transfer

- Focuses on fostering coordination among stakeholder groups across countries and regions & fostering partnership (public/public; private/public; private/private)

## UNFCCC TT Initiatives



### 1. Technology Transfer Information Clearing House

The objectives are to:

- Facilitate the flow of information between different stakeholders
- Enhance the development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

**TTClear website:** <http://unfccc.int/ttclear/jsp/security/Login.jsp>

### 2. Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT)

- Provides scientific and technical advice on the development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies and know-how.
- Bruce Wilson (Australia) was newly elected Chair of EGTT for 2010; Nagmeldin Goutbi Elhassan (Sudan) Vice-Chair.
- Fifth Regular Meeting Planned for May 2010.

## IV. COP-15 Draft Decision on TT



- A draft decision was issued during the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP-15) that was held in Copenhagen in December 2009 on “**Enhanced action on technology development and transfer**”
- Draft was the Outcome of the Work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention
- The draft decision includes recommendations on:
  - **Cooperative action on technology**
  - **Activities to be supported**
  - **Technology mechanism**
  - **Institutional arrangements**
  - **Finance linkages**
  - **Technology centers and network**
  - **Capacity building**
  - **[Intellectual Property Rights]**

## COP-15 Draft Decision on TT



### **Cooperative action on technology:**

- Promote the establishment and/or strengthening of **national technology innovation centers**
- Create the enabling environment to facilitate enhanced actions on technology transfer and mobilize private sector investments.
- Develop and strengthen relevant capacities to adapt appropriate and applicable environmentally sound technologies.
- **Promote collaborative actions through North-South, South-South and triangular technology partnerships including regional and international technology centers and networks**



## COP-15 Draft Decision on TT



### Activities to be supported:

- Development and enhancement of **indigenous capacities and technologies** of developing countries.
- Development of soft and hard technologies for implementation of adaptation and mitigation actions.
- Improved **climate change observation systems** and related **information management**
- Strengthening of **national systems of innovation and technology innovation centres**.
- Development and implementation of **national technology plans for mitigation and adaptation**.

## COP-15 Draft Decision on TT



### Technology Mechanism:

To establish a **Technology Executive Committee** to:

- Provide analysis on policy issues related to development and transfer of technology for mitigation and adaptation.
- Seek cooperation with relevant technology initiatives.
- **Support necessary actions to address the barriers to technology development and transfer identified by developing countries.**

## COP-15 Draft Decision on TT



### Technology Centers and Network:

To establish a **Climate Technology Centre** to:

- Provide advice and support to developing country Parties for identification of technology needs and implementation of environmentally sound technologies.
- Improve and provide access to publicly available information on emerging technologies for mitigation and adaptation.
- Provide training, information and workforce development programs to build/strengthen the regional and of developing countries.
- Facilitate deployment of existing technologies in developing countries
- Establish national and regional technology centers within existing institutions to support work of the Climate Technology Centre
- To establish a **Climate Technology Network** to support the Climate Technology Centre, including harnessing expertise of national/regional/international technology centers that can be affiliated to Network

## Concluding Remarks



### 1. Technology Transfer to support climate change adaptation and mitigation requires:

- Political commitment by developed & developing countries based on common, but differentiated responsibilities
- Identification of needs and priorities, based on sustainable development strategies and objectives
- Access to adequate financial resources

### 2. ESCWA can support Member States and private stakeholders access environmentally sound technologies

- Adaptation requires focus on water resources
- Mitigation requires focus on energy efficiency and alternatives
- SDPD studies and pilot projects on environmentally sound technologies (e.g., second-generation biofuels, renewable energy, drip irrigation, best agricultural practices)

### 3. ESCWA Technology Center could be linked to these global and regional initiatives to support country-based technology transfer by supporting needs assessment, facilitating information exchange and providing capacity building services.

## **Thank you.**

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