

1st June 2011

Subject: Decision C/16 on Technology Transfer and Cooperation

Dear Mr. Djoghlaif,

I refer to your notification of 5 April 2011 concerning the identification of existing processes and initiatives on technology transfer and cooperation, in conformity with Decision X/16, with a view to fill gaps and promote synergies with a prospective Biodiversity Technology Initiative.

I am pleased to provide you with a response within the extended deadline of 1 June 2011, as per your subsequent notification of 5 May 2011 (Ref.: SCBD/SEL/ML/GD/74331).

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) established the Global Mechanism “to promote actions leading to the mobilization and channelling of substantial financial resources, including for the transfer of technology, on a grant basis, and/or on concessional or other terms, to affected developing country Parties” (UNCCD, Art 21, para. 4).

The 2008-2018 Strategic Plan (10YSP) adopted by the UNCCD to enhance implementation of the Convention, further emphasizes the importance of increased technical and technological resources to implement the Convention (10YSP, Expected impact 4.1). To this effect, it stipulates that access to technology by affected country Parties shall be facilitated through adequate financing, effective economic and policy incentives and technical support, notably within the framework of South-South and North-South cooperation (10YSP, Outcome 5.5).

The Conference of the Parties has given the Global Mechanism a central responsibility in contributing to the abovementioned strategic and operational objectives of the 10YSP, and committed to “strengthen its capacity to mobilize existing as well as fresh sources of finance and to facilitate access to technology” (Decision 3/COP8, Annex, para. 17).

In line with the aforementioned guidance and legal basis, the Global Mechanism is facilitating the transfer of adequate technologies for the implementation of the UNCCD mainly through the following initiatives:

1. Economic Valuation of Land: launched in 2008 in support of sustainable land management (SLM) adoption, the emphasis of this initiative is on generating evidence-based arguments to demonstrate the contribution of responsibly managed ecosystems to sustainable development and poverty reduction.

Mr Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary
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Under this initiative, a large consortium of research and scientific institutions from the North and the South has developed an innovative and integrated valuation methodology that includes three main components: (i) the valuation of the natural capital in line with the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment approach, (ii) the assessment of impact from unsustainable use of natural resources, and (iii) the valuation of net benefits from the adoption of SLM-smart technologies and practices. Country-level studies stemming from this initiative produce recommendations for SLM adoption that are integrated into the Governments' land-use plans and multi-year development strategies and frameworks to combat land degradation.

2. Technology transfer in the context of South-South cooperation

The 10 Year Strategy of the UNCCD emphasised on the role of the south-south on technology transfer. The GM engaged, in this framework, two types of activities. The first activity was launched in Mauritania a pilot project at the very local level. The objective was to support north-south partnership agreements between local authorities on technology transfer on food security and natural resource management. In this context the GM/ South-South cooperation programme supported the elaboration and implementation of this project between a Mauritanian Local Authorities, A French Local Authority and an International NGO. In terms of financing it is important to underline that the GM obtained a financial support from the French decentralised cooperation programme for the local actors .

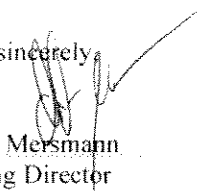
At subregional level the GM launched a dialogue among different stakeholders in the peri-saharian region in order to: agree on a common understanding on what "technology transfer" means in the context of the UNCCD; identify existing needs and opportunities on technology transfer within the region; define ways and means to financially support exchange of experience and technology transfer within the Maghreb/ Sahelian region and in the framework of an appropriate platform. These activities are mainstreamed into the Arab Maghreb Union's SRAP and will be part of the West African SRAP. Lessons learned from this experience will be shared through the subregional South-South cooperation and partnership platforms the GM is implementing and/or supporting in the different regions.

The Global Mechanism would welcome the opportunity to further publicise its technology transfer initiatives through your clearing-house mechanism and other relevant communication mechanisms of the CBD. We would be most willing to join our efforts with complementary initiatives of other partners, and stand ready to support the establishment of the Biodiversity Technology Initiative.

I believe that the Biodiversity Technology Initiative could provide an excellent framework for strengthening and increasing synergistic collaboration between UNCCD and CBD on an area of mutual interest for the two Conventions. In particular, by promoting the identification, replication and scaling-up of technologies that allow to simultaneously achieve the objectives of the CBD and UNCCD, this initiative would be instrumental to the realization of important co-benefits for the society, the economy and the environment. The BTI could thus play a crucial role in driving the private sector towards a sustained transition to a green economy.

Please accept, Dr Djoghlaf, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely


Christian Mersmann
Managing Director