

**GHANA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE  
DISCUSSION ON "TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING TECHNOLOGY USE  
AND DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGIES"**

COP9, Milan, Italy  
11 December, 2003

It is becoming increasingly apparent that if the global community is to make any meaningful progress towards the curtailment of the ever increasing levels of greenhouse gas emissions and thus reduce the cost for future adaptation to climate change, then the development, transfer and use of environmentally sound technologies in developing countries should be the way forward. This is important not only because of the increasing economic and population growth in these countries, but also the application and use of environmentally sound technologies form the cornerstone for sustainable development, providing the link between human actions and the natural resource base.

Keeping in mind that, environmentally sound technologies are not just individual technologies, but total systems, which include know-how, procedures, goods and services, and equipment as well as organizational and managerial procedures. In discussing development, transfer and use of technologies, human resource development and local capacity-building aspects of technology choices, including gender-relevant aspects, should also be addressed. Moreover, environmentally sound technologies should be compatible with nationally determined socio-economic, cultural, and environmental priorities.

The technology gap between developed and developing countries continues to widen, which implies that there is an urgent need for an enabling international economic environment supportive of international cooperation, particularly in the area of finance for technology development, transfer and use, if the momentum for global progress towards sustainable development is to be maintained and increased.

Developing countries are faced with numerous challenges which inevitably serve as barriers to the development, transfer and use of environmentally sound technologies in these countries. These barriers usually include:

- Lack of appropriate infrastructure and support systems
- Inflation and high interest rates
- Impact of external policies – IMF/World Bank
- Inadequate capacities to assess the environmental externalities
- Low technical capabilities
- Inadequate fiscal policies and support mechanisms
- Lack of consistent and coherent technology transfer and development schemes
- Inadequate technical standards and quality control measures
- Lack of clear cut intellectual property right laws
- Lack of access to information – including costs and performance standards
- Poverty leading inability to pay – affordability
- Lack of sustained good governance
- Social acceptance of some technologies

- Lack of confidence in new technology – sometimes as a result culture and attitudes and also lack of attractiveness to financiers due to commercial and technical viability
- Lack of prioritised technologies

It is gratifying to note that the COP at its seventh session (COP7) in 2001, adopted the framework for meaningful and effective actions to enhance the development and transfer of technologies under the Convention, including the establishment of the Expert group on Technology Transfer. It is however, important as a way forward, that Parties face realities and develop mechanisms that ensure sustained cooperation and partnership for technology development, transfer and use under the climate change process. The establishment of a technology partnership or agreement under the UNFCCC needs to be critically examined by all Parties. This partnership/agreement should

- Lead to improved relationships between developed and developing countries
- Allow Parties to move from the old paradigm of development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies as commitment (free from developed to developing countries) and the notion of leaving technology transfer completely to market forces; to more practical approaches that ensure and provide for mutual and reciprocal benefits to the technology transferor and the receptor, but also preserving the basic principles of “common but differentiated responsibility” and “grand fathering”
- Incorporate innovative financing schemes that has the potential to address issues of high investment risks, high transaction/investment costs, loan guarantees
- Allow for the development of and support for national systems of innovation
- Promote joint and cooperative research and development
- Allow for the creation of technology intermediaries
- Promote direct foreign investment
- Foster institutionalised technology license agreements, including patent licensing, know-how and technical assistance agreements, joint ventures, long term equipment purchase agreements and management contracts
- Allow developing countries to develop coherent technology transfer and development schemes, and
- Promote the development of endogenous technologies for both climate change mitigation and adaptation.