



UNCTAD TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT PROJECT  
ON ENERGY AND AGRICULTURE

**DSI-UNCTAD National Validation Workshop on  
Technology Assessment of Green Hydrogen  
Electrolyser Technologies**

**Concept Note (draft)**

25 to 27 June 2024  
Pretoria, South Africa

## Introduction

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has initiated a project to promote Technology Assessment (TA) in the energy and agricultural sectors in Africa. TA can become a powerful tool for making strategic choices about the procurement, development, introduction, and governance of new technologies. It entails critical and participatory evaluation of the social, economic and environmental benefits and risks of a particular technology. The UNCTAD project seeks to strengthen the capacities of science, technology and innovation policymakers and other stakeholders in sub-Saharan Africa, and to propose policies and mechanisms to support the learning, diffusion and adoption of technologies in the energy and agricultural sectors.

For South Africa/DSI, following a comprehensive review of national development plans and the technological landscape, it was decided that the focus of the TA is on green hydrogen electrolyser technologies. This technology holds the potential to contribute to South Africa's goals of attaining net-zero carbon status by the 2050 target. Moreover, through prior accumulated expertise in this area and the availability of adequate land and resources, South Africa is in a good position to establish industrial-scale energy plants.

In 2023 and 2024, various data collection initiatives including focus group discussions took place to ensure a participatory and inclusive approach in undertaking the TA. These engagements gathered valuable perspectives from various stakeholders such as government representatives, regulatory bodies, academia, the private sector, and civil society.

Following the focus group discussions, the collected data underwent thorough analysis. The insights derived from this analysis and the resulting policy recommendations have been incorporated into a pilot TA Report. Additionally, a draft Action Plan will be formulated to delineate the measures and activities that stakeholders are expected to undertake over different time periods.

A crucial step in finalising this endeavour is to validate the findings and recommendations of the TA Report and proposed Action Plan. Recognising the significance of stakeholder input in this validation process, the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), in collaboration with UNCTAD, is organizing

a joint physical validation workshop. This workshop is designed to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft TA Report and Action Plan and validate them before they are finalised.

## **Participation**

The workshop targets government officials, officials from regulating agencies and public utility companies, representatives of academic and research institutions, representative from the civil society, and representatives from the private sector. Stakeholders based outside of the capital city are particularly welcome.

## **Format**

The workshop will take place in-person and will consist of three main sessions:

1. Validation Session. Stakeholders will be provided with a platform to offer comments and suggestions on the proposed TA Report and Action Plan.
2. Revision Session. Following the validation session, the UNCTAD staff, along with a team of local and international consultants, will revise the TA Report and Action Plan.
3. Launch of TA Report and Action Plan. The revised TA Report and Action Plan will be launched.

The workshop is scheduled to take place in Pretoria, from 25 to 27 June 2024 with the following agenda:

- Tuesday, 25 June - Presentation and stakeholder feedback on the draft TA Report and draft Action Plan.
- Wednesday, 26 June - Internal revision of the draft TA Report and draft Action Plan.
- Thursday, 27 June – Presentation and endorsement of the revised TA Report and Action Plan.

## **Objectives**

The validation workshop is geared towards presenting the draft TA report and Action Plan to stakeholders and receiving stakeholder feedback and validation of the report, revising the draft based on stakeholder feedback, and presenting the revised, final TA report for endorsement.

## **Contacts**

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