Applying a Gender Lens to Science, Technology and Innovation
A concern for gender

- 1995 CSTD’s Gender Advisory Board described gender as ‘missing link’ in STI policy

- More recently, gender in STI is a topic of renewed interest; a priority theme of 2011 CSW (UN Commission on Status of Women)

- Sustainable development will not be possible without addressing gender in STI

- Moral and economic argument
‘Smart Economics’

- A matter of development effectiveness as well as an ethical issue

- Recognition of:
  - Women’s **productive** contributions
  - Women’s **central** role in the economy
  - Gender mainstreaming can make STI policies **more effective**
  - Appropriate STI policies can **enhance** women’s contribution to economic growth and development
The Gender Lens in STI

Three dimensions of the gender lens:

- Science for Women
- Women in Science
- Women in Innovation

Women should be considered and participate in every aspect of policy
STI policy through a Gender Lens

- Gender Mainstreaming throughout the whole policy making process
- Evidence shows this depends on:
  - Ensuring policy coherence
  - Evidence based policy making
  - Effective Monitoring & Evaluation
  - Gender impact assessments
STI Capacity development

- **Science for Women**: build up services, institutions and knowledge needed for STI to meet women’s needs
- **Women in Science**: promote engagement and leadership of women in STI education and careers for full participation in knowledge economy
- **Women in Innovation**: remove constraints on the productive capacity of women, as users and creators of knowledge and technology and as valuable economic actors

Seek engagement, participation and empowerment of women throughout
National recommendations

- Mainstream gender across STI policy and key sectors
- Ensure cooperation between departments
- Promote women’s participation in decision making
- Provide support for scaling up successful models
- Implement gender responsive budgets and audits
- Make gendered impact assessments routine
- Support education, training and leadership of women in STEM
- Ensure equal access to resources for men and women
- Develop gender capacity within government
International recommendations

- Identify and disseminate good practice policy case studies
- Work with national governments to encourage gender mainstreaming i.e. through aid programmes
- Encourage collaboration to integrate gender perspectives into STI for development
- Support training in gender analysis and gender-sensitive policy making within organisation
- Support the dissemination of knowledge at all levels
Next steps

- UNCTAD and the GAB are conducting ongoing research into ‘good practice’ for gender sensitive policy making
- A survey of CSTD members on STI policy making practices to identify, strengths, weaknesses and gaps
- Exploring avenues for further research and welcome partnerships