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COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR DEVELOPMENT

Sixth session

Geneva, 5-9 May 2003

Item 5 of the provisional agenda

BUDGET OF THE COMMISSION

Note by the secretariat

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1997/62, recommended that at future sessions of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development the report on budget and inter-sessional activities be considered under a separate agenda item. In accordance with ECOSOC decision 2001/308, which approved the provisional agenda of the sixth session of the Commission, the report on the budget is to be considered under agenda item 5.

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I. Budget of the Commission

1. Under the 2002-2003 programme budget of the United Nations, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) has an allotment of US\$ 285,300 to be used for the travel of members to attend the sixth session, as well as for the travel and subsistence allowance for the meetings of the panels on the main substantive theme chosen by the CSTD for the 2001-2003 inter-sessional period: "Technology development and capacity-building for competitiveness in a digital society". These panels were set up to prepare the inputs for the Commission's sixth session. Table 1 provides an account of the allotments and expenditures for CSTD activities under the regular budget in the 2002-2003 biennium and of the income and expenditures for CSTD inter-sessional activities covered by extrabudgetary resources.

2. In 2002-2003, from the regular budget for this biennium, the sum of US\$ 171,019 was spent to finance travel and subsistence allowances for the panel meetings held. The remaining sum of US\$ 114,281 was earmarked to pay for the travel of the Commission members to participate in the sixth session and possibly for other activities of the CSTD in the second half of 2003.

3. With regard to extrabudgetary resources, the available resources for CSTD work in the 2002- 2003 inter-sessional period amounted to US\$ 71,589. As shown in table 1, the sum of US\$ 7,600 was the balance as at 1 January 2002 from the trust fund set up in 1996 with contributions from the Government of the Netherlands (Dutch Fund) to cover various CSTD activities. In May 2002, an agreement was reached between the Government of the Netherlands and UNCTAD to extend the duration of this trust fund project until 31 July 2002 to enable UNCTAD to finalize planned activities recommended by the CSTD, namely printing of the report on coalition of resources. This report was printed in August 2002 (UNCTAD/ITE/TEB/13) with the use of US\$ 4,230 from this trust fund. The remaining balance was returned to the Dutch Government.

4. In March 2002, the Government of Austria authorized UNCTAD to use the remaining balance in the trust fund established in 1998 with the support of Austria (Austrian Trust Fund) to finance the work on the vision for the future of science and technology for development. The remaining balance in this trust fund as at 1 January 2002 was US\$ 5,194. Further to this agreement, UNCTAD hired a consultant to prepare a report on benchmarking indicators for Internet connectivity. The preparation of this report had been recommended by a CSTD panel meeting in May 2002.

5. In the first half of 2002, UNCTAD continued to use the Trust Fund for Special Activities in Science and Technology for Development established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 4 April 1985 to disseminate information on science and technology. The allotment received by UNCTAD from this trust fund for 2002 was US\$ 13,200. Out of this amount, UNCTAD used US\$ 11,300 to hire a consultant for the preparation of a report on the concepts and elements of a work programme to establish the Science and Technology Diplomacy Initiative.

Table 1
Summary of the overall CSTD budget
1 January 2002 – 28 February 2003
(in US\$)

I. REGULAR BUDGET

Item	Allotment	Expenditure	Balance
1. Panels on the main theme		171 019	
2. Travel of participants to the sixth session		-	
Regular budget total	285 300	171 019	114 281

II. EXTRABUDGETARY RESOURCES

Item	Income	Expenditure	Balance
A. Dutch Trust Fund	7 600		
Printing of a report		4 230	Balance returned to donor
B. Austrian Trust Fund	5 194		
Consultancy		5 194	
C. Trust Fund for Special Activities in Science and Technology for Development	13 200		Balance transferred to new UNCTAD trust fund
Consultancy		11 300	
D. UNCTAD Special Trust for Activities in the Area of Science and Technology for Development	45 595		32 365
Consultancy		11 300	
Travel of experts and other		1 930	
Extrabudgetary total	71 589	33 954	32 365

6. The Economic and Social Council, by its resolution 2001/32 and further to the discussion of budgetary issues at the fifth session of the CSTD, recommended that "a special trust fund for activities in the area of science and technology for development be established within UNCTAD, with a view to assisting in implementing various mandates received or to be received by the Conference in the area of science and technology for development". The same resolution recommended that the Trust Fund for Special Activities in Science and Technology for Development, established by the Secretary-General on 4 April 1985 to disseminate science and technology information, be closed and that remaining resources be transferred from New York to the newly created trust fund. Further to this resolution, UNCTAD established in May 2002 the Special Trust Fund for Activities in the Area of Science and Technology for Development. In October 2002, US\$ 45,168, representing the

remaining balance of the above Trust Fund for Special Activities in Science and Technology for Development, was transferred from New York to the new trust fund. From this trust fund, UNCTAD used in 2002 US\$ 11,300 to hire a consultant to prepare a background paper for the panel meeting on linking foreign direct investment, technology development for capacity building and strategic competitiveness held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in October 2002 and US\$ 1,930 was spent for the travel of the Chairman of the CSTD to attend the South-South High-Level Conference on Science and Technology organized by the Group of 77 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

7. In addition to the above resources, the Government of Sri Lanka provided in-kind support to the organization of the panel meeting of the CSTD held in Colombo from 15 to 17 October 2002 and the Government of Angola provided in-kind support to the organization of the CSTD panel meeting held in Luanda from 15 to 17 January 2003 as well as financial support, including payment for plane tickets for three resource persons, two CSTD members and one secretariat staff member.

II. Inter-sessional activities of the Commission

June 2001 - January 2003

8. In carrying out its inter-sessional work, the Commission held its first Bureau meeting and a preparatory meeting of the panels on technology development and capacity-building for competitiveness in Geneva from 13 to 14 November 2001. These meetings were held in conjunction with an Adhoc Expert Group Meeting on Industrial and Environmental Biotechnology: Implications for Trade and Development, organized by UNCTAD from 15 to 16 November 2001. The mission cost of CSTD members was covered from the CSTD regular budget for the 2000-2001 biennium that remained after the fifth session of the Commission (about US\$ 48,000).

9. Three panel meetings on various aspects of technology development and capacity-building for competitiveness were held in 2002-2003 with support from the CSTD 2002-2003 budget. These were:

- Panel on indicators of technology development, Geneva, Switzerland, 22- 24 May 2002;
- Panel on linking foreign direct investment, technology development for capacity building and strategic competitiveness, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 15- 17 October 2002;
- Panel on enhancing strategic competitiveness in ICTs, Luanda, Angola, 15-17 January 2003.

10. Additional information on inter-sessional activities of the Commission is contained in the documentation prepared for agenda items 3 and 6 of the sixth session of the Commission.