

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD), twenty-second session
Geneva, 13-17 May 2019**

**Presentation of the new STI Policy Review Framework and UNCTAD
network of innovation experts**

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Wednesday, 15 May 2019

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Speaking notes: New framework for STIP reviews

CSTD 15th May 2019

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Evolution of UNCTAD STIP reviews responding to countries' development needs:

- The framework of our STIP Review programme has evolved over time to respond to country needs and the more advanced approaches to STI policy. UNCTAD started its program on national STI policy reviews in 1998. It created an explicit framework for its STIP reviews in 2011, broadly based on the systems approach to innovation. Today we are releasing here at the CSTD a revised framework for STIP reviews - entitled "A Framework for Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Reviews: Harnessing innovation for sustainable development" it moves forward towards an approach that sees innovation as a process of transformative change.

Context for why we designed a new framework:

- Need to reflect the new development paradigm of Agenda 2030 in all pillars of our work programme.
- The **Nairobi Maafikiano** gave us a mandate to "continue and enhance" the STIP review programme, which in the context of the 2030 Agenda cannot be done without broadening the scope of work to embrace all dimensions of development. Furthermore, the **CSTD resolution** on STI for development of May 2018 encouraged UNCTAD to "broaden the framework for national science, technology and innovation policy reviews in order to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals".

Key questions we needed to answer with the revised framework:

- How can STIP reviews help countries use STI policy to achieve sustainable development and the SDGs?
- How can STIP Reviews help make STI policy more inclusive and more sustainable?
- How to strike the right balance between increasing productivity, promoting economic growth, stimulating diversification and structural economic transformation (the traditional focus of the STIP reviews) and the new areas of focus on inclusiveness and sustainability?
- How to find practical ways to broaden the range of social actors engaged in the process of STIP reviews beyond those that were considered in the previous framework?

These questions required new thinking.

Process of designing the new framework

- We recognized that the process of revising the STIP framework beyond our traditional scope of work required that UNCTAD open the discussion to external expertise and engage with thinkers and practitioners that could help us consider all the dimensions of sustainable development - economic progress, social inclusion and environmental sustainability.
- We benefited from close collaboration between the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) of the University of Sussex and UNCTAD staff in drafting the new framework. We organized a meeting with outside STI experts, policy-makers from countries that had participated in previous STIP review countries, colleagues from other international organizations, universities from developing countries and NGOs. Discussions at the UNCTAD multiyear intergovernmental expert meeting on investment, innovation and entrepreneurship also provided useful ideas.
- Mr Adrian Ely from SPRU is here to make some remarks. So is Mr Jean-Eric Aubert, who has worked in STI policy work in the past with us, with the World Bank and the OECD and also helped us in the revision of the STIP framework. Both will give us their perspectives on these issues during this session.

Key features of the new framework:

- The **Main purpose** of the new framework – remains similar in purpose to the old framework. The STIP reviews will aim at providing:
 - a diagnostic assessment of the STI system
 - the identification of strengths, weaknesses, gaps and challenges
 - the identification of practical actions to improve innovation capacity and performance
 - a basis for follow-up implementation efforts

However, in targeting these aims the new STIP reviews will consider the innovation system as aspiring to generate innovation that supports a process of economic growth while giving equal importance to putting countries on a path of sustainable and inclusive development.

- **New elements** in the revised framework:
 - First and foremost: Wider goals for innovation policy- adding social inclusiveness and environmental sustainability to more traditional economic progress, addressing societal challenges (which can include challenges from the three pillars of sustainable development)
 - Broader participation: Opening the STIP review process to additional actors - wider innovation stakeholders (beyond traditional partners such as the ministries of science, technology and innovation or industry), plus stakeholders on inclusiveness (with an emphasis on gender) and sustainability.

- Recognizing that innovation policy is not neutral in terms of the directionality of development (e.g. innovation policy choices can result in more or less inclusive and/or sustainable outcomes).
 - Integrating in the analysis new approaches to innovation (social innovation, frugal innovation, grassroots innovation).
 - Integrating a refined mix of qualitative and quantitative indicators.
 - Integrating pilot actions and experimentation to see what measures work in practice.
 - Strengthening inter-agency collaboration in undertaking reviews.
- **The new framework is presented in a document** to help interested countries understand the approach and the process followed by the STIP Programme. The document is structured in three main chapters:
 - Towards STI policy for sustainable development – provides the theoretical foundations, a new rationale of transformative change that underpins the STIP review process.
 - The STIP review framework – describes the process of undertaking a STIP review.
 - The STIP review report – presents the typical structure of the report that results from a STIP Review, the indicators to be used, the connection with STI policy processes, the capacity building that will be needed to support the implementation, the role of policy learning, experimentation and pilot actions, and the role of monitoring and evaluation.

Practical implementation of the new framework

- **Our goal is to offer options** regarding the exact format of the framework to be used regarding the integration of new elements into a national review, allowing more "traditional" or more "transformational" reviews, depending on client country needs, preferences and priorities, and the time and resources available for undertaking a review.
- **The need for funding** for STI policy reviews remains an issue. These reviews are implemented with extra-budgetary resources. Some countries (like Panama whose preliminary presentation took place today) can mobilize national resources for their STIP reviews, but this is not the case of many other countries. We are also developing a partnership with the UN Technology Bank for the LDCs to respond to requests from these particularly vulnerable member States. However, there is considerable country demand, and funding has remained a key challenge. We welcome donor funding to help mainstream STI policy in development plans and support client countries in using STI policy to promote sustainable development and the SDGs.