Resolution

2010/3
Science and technology for development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome, which emphasizes the role of science and technology, including information and communications technologies, as vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, and reaffirming the commitments contained therein, especially support for efforts of developing countries, individually and collectively, to harness new agricultural technologies in order to increase agricultural productivity through environmentally sustainable means,[1]

Recalling that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is the secretariat of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development,

Recalling the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development during the intersessional period 2008–2009 on its two substantive themes "Science, technology and engineering for innovation and capacity building in education and research" and "Development-oriented policies for a socio-economically inclusive information society, including policies relating to access, infrastructure and an enabling environment",

Welcoming the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its two current substantive themes "New and emerging technologies" and "Improvements and innovations in existing financing mechanisms" and its role as the United Nations torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation,

Recognizing the critical role of innovation in maintaining national competitiveness in the global economy,

Recognizing also the importance of science, technology and innovation policy reviews in assisting developing countries to improve their innovation systems,

Recalling the commitments made at the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, in particular the strategic objectives and actions contained in section K, Women and the environment, of chapter IV of the Beijing Platform for Action,[2]

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[1] See General Assembly resolution 60/1, para. 60.

[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Recalling also its call for mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system,[3]

Taking note of the outcomes of the intersessional panel meeting of the Commission, held in Geneva from 9 to 11 November 2009, and the summary report prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,[4]

Taking note also of the reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its thirteenth session,[5]

Extending its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for his role in helping to ensure completion of the aforementioned reports in a timely manner,

Noting that the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, is highly dependent on an increase in access to modern energy services and that the deployment of renewable energy technologies should be one of the key components of any strategy aimed at achieving this increase,

Recognizing that the deployment of renewable energy technologies requires the application of new and emerging technologies, including, among others, material science, nanotechnology, biotechnology and information and communications technologies,

Recognizing also that the sustainable deployment of emerging technologies can be facilitated by the transfer of technology, under mutually agreed conditions, an increase in domestic capabilities to develop, deploy and maintain technologies to meet local needs, the adoption of innovative financial mechanisms to power investment and the integration into national development agendas of strategies for the deployment of renewable energy technologies,

Recognizing further that any such strategy must be complemented by the transfer of skills and expertise to develop, adapt and modify renewable energy technologies, where necessary, to local conditions and capabilities, including the needs and capabilities of women, and be supported by financing, technology, science and engineering training centres and knowledge networks in order to maximize the use and promote the enhancement of such capabilities,

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[3] Economic and Social Council agreed conclusions 1997/2.
[4] E/CN.16/2010/CRP.1.
[5] E/CN.16/2010/3 and E/CN.16/2010/4.

Decides to make the following recommendations for consideration by Governments, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development:

(a) Governments are encouraged to take into account the findings of the Commission and undertake the following actions:

(i) Ensure that governmental priorities incorporate multi-stakeholder engagement in decision-making in regard to programme design, implementation, deployment, monitoring and evaluation, and take into consideration local populations and mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the deployment of new and emerging and renewable energy technologies;

(ii) Provide an enabling environment that encourages private and public sector initiatives in new and emerging technologies and the generation and dissemination of renewable energy technologies, including supporting universities and research centres linked to global learning networks and national diaspora, and funded through a range of sources such as Governments, donors, venture capitalists and/or public-private partnerships dedicated to renewable energy technologies;

(iii) Adopt economic, regulatory and governmental procurement policies to foster competition and private sector development and attract domestic and foreign direct investment;

(iv) Consider the application of appropriate policy instruments in the private sector, such as incentives, subsidy schemes, feed-in tariffs, tax credits, financial guarantees and reduction of import duties, to support technology deployment in market niches and encourage joint ventures and foreign direct investment in the manufacture and use of renewable energy technologies;

(v) Enhance local innovative capabilities in the area of new and emerging technologies and renewable energy technologies with improved efficiency, developed and adapted to local conditions through support for research, extension services, capacity-building and other related activities;

(vi) Encourage private enterprises to adopt and deploy renewable energy technologies through public-private partnerships;

(vii) Promote the establishment of science and technology parks, business incubators and innovation clusters to induce private sector participation in the development, growth and commercialization of new and emerging technologies, including renewable energy technologies;

(b) The international community is encouraged to enhance the provision of technical assistance in capacity-building and strategic planning to promote new and emerging technologies and renewable energy technologies;

(c) The Commission on Science and Technology for Development is:

(i) Encouraged to continue serving as a platform for sharing examples of good practice and promoting North-South and South-South partnerships, especially in regard to new and emerging technologies and the transfer and deployment of renewable energy technologies;

(ii) Encouraged to promote, in the context of the Internet-based science, technology and innovation collaborative network established in response to Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/8, collaborative networking and initiation and hosting of subregional networks as operational models for replication, with the cooperation of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development secretariat and the International Trade Centre;

(iii) Invited to make a contribution, in close collaboration with its Gender Advisory Board, to the consideration by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fifth session of the theme "Access to and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work";

(iv) Encouraged to collaborate with the World Intellectual Property Organization in the facilitation of access to the database of research for development and innovation at minimum cost for all developing countries;

(d) The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is encouraged:

(i) To increase significantly its efforts to conduct science, technology and innovation policy reviews in response to a high demand from member countries, in close collaboration with other relevant international organizations, particularly the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and with the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the regional commissions and other appropriate stakeholders, including the World Bank and other international and regional development banks, with a view to assisting developing countries in strengthening their science, technology and innovation systems;

(ii) To carry out, in collaboration with other relevant international organizations such as the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Renewable Energy Agency, a review of national experiences in developing local innovative capabilities related to new and emerging technologies

and renewable energy technologies, including educational programmes and long-term training activities;

(iii) To survey collaborative research and development mechanisms that have been effective in facilitating the development and deployment of new and emerging technologies and renewable energy technologies through the global science and innovation infrastructure, including universities, institutions, centres of excellence, business incubators, science and technology parks and other innovation modalities, with a view to assisting developing countries to build capabilities;

(iv) To carry out research into how developing countries could integrate the deployment of renewable energy technologies into their national development and science, technology and innovation strategies, especially those related to poverty reduction and meeting the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, taking into account a gender perspective.

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