

PM

STATEMENT BY OMAN AT THE

COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Thank you Mr. Chairmen for giving me the chance for this short intervention ... At the outset I would like to congratulate you and the vice chair for your competent leadership of this commission. I have listened with great interest to H.E. the minister of higher education, science and technology of the Dominican Republic presenting the outcomes of the STIP review of the Dominican Republic, which was the last country to be reviewed in the 2009-2012 series of STIP Reviews. The delegation of Oman highly appreciates the well presented report.

As many of you probably know that, my country Oman is currently going through the STIP review process which is the first of the 2013-2015 series.

Due to similarities of issues facing innovation systems worldwide, there are common outcomes and or recommendations found in previous STIP reviews including the one presented today and probably will show up in Oman's STIP review. Some of these issues or recommendations which repeat itself as common findings, is the integration among the various components of the national innovation system, strong national vision of focus for innovation, building national research capacity, funding issues and the important role of businesses in innovation.

My country Oman, under the wise leadership of his Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, established most of the elements of the national innovation systems. Among these components is the establishment of The Research Council in 2005, which is a national body dedicated to support research and innovation in the Sultanate. The Research Council developed a national research strategy aiming

to build research capacity, building research excellence, transferring technology and develop a sustainable environment for innovation. Several funding mechanisms were also established at the national level such as Rafad fund for supporting business ideas including those in the area of science and technology. In addition to Sultan Qaboos University, and many other government and private higher education institutions, the Sultanate announced the establishment of a new government university specializing on science and technology along with the ongoing efforts to improve the educational system in general.

As part of the 5 years reviews process of the national research strategy, The Research Council announced in 2012, the development of a national innovation strategy to improve the integration and to fill the gaps in the national innovation system. The development of the strategy was delegated to a high level leadership committee chaired by His Highness Syed Sheab bin Tariq Al Said, advisor of his Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said and the Chairmen of The Research Council.

As part of the initial steps for developing the national innovation strategy, UNCTAD is conducting, along with the Research Council, a STIP review which will be used as an input for the national innovation strategy. The process of the STIP review is already started and the first team of expert visited Oman last month.

At the end I would like to thank UNCTAD for supporting my country conducting STIP review through a dedicated and experienced team of experts lead by Mr. Angel Gonzalez Sanz. Thank you all and I wish you a successful event..