

# Theme I

## Science, Technology and Innovation for the Post-2015 Agenda

Report of the Secretary-General

17<sup>th</sup> Session of the CSTD



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# Overview

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- Background: Post-2015 Development Agenda
- The important role of STI for development
  - Linking STI capabilities to the fundamental challenges of development
- Taking stock: a decade of work on STI issues by the CSTD
- Looking ahead: STI and the post-2015 agenda
- Key findings and suggestions

# Background:

## Post-2015 development agenda

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- MDGs: a milestone in the development agenda
- UN system-wide developments towards post-2015 development agenda
  - High-level Panel report
  - UN system Task Team
  - Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals
  - National consultations

“As we take stock of progress, learn from the experience of the past dozen years, and design a post-2015 development agenda, it is becoming clear that STI and culture hold huge potential as tools and enablers to realize countries’ goals”

Report of the UN Secretary General  
2013 Annual Ministerial Review

# The critical role of STI in development

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Tackling three fundamental challenges of development:

- **Poverty**

- STI has huge potential in tackling multiple dimensions of poverty through a variety of channels.



- **Sustainability**

- Primary needs of large majority of people are currently met through unsustainable means.
- STI is crucial in ensuring sustainable development



- **Inequality**

- Equitable access to STI capabilities will in turn promote inclusive development.



# The critical role of STI in development

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Applying STI to inclusive and sustainable development involves three related approaches:

- a) Addressing basic needs through innovation capacity;
- b) Promoting entrepreneurship, starting at the grassroots level;
- c) Promoting inclusive growth by building STI capabilities and absorptive capacities.

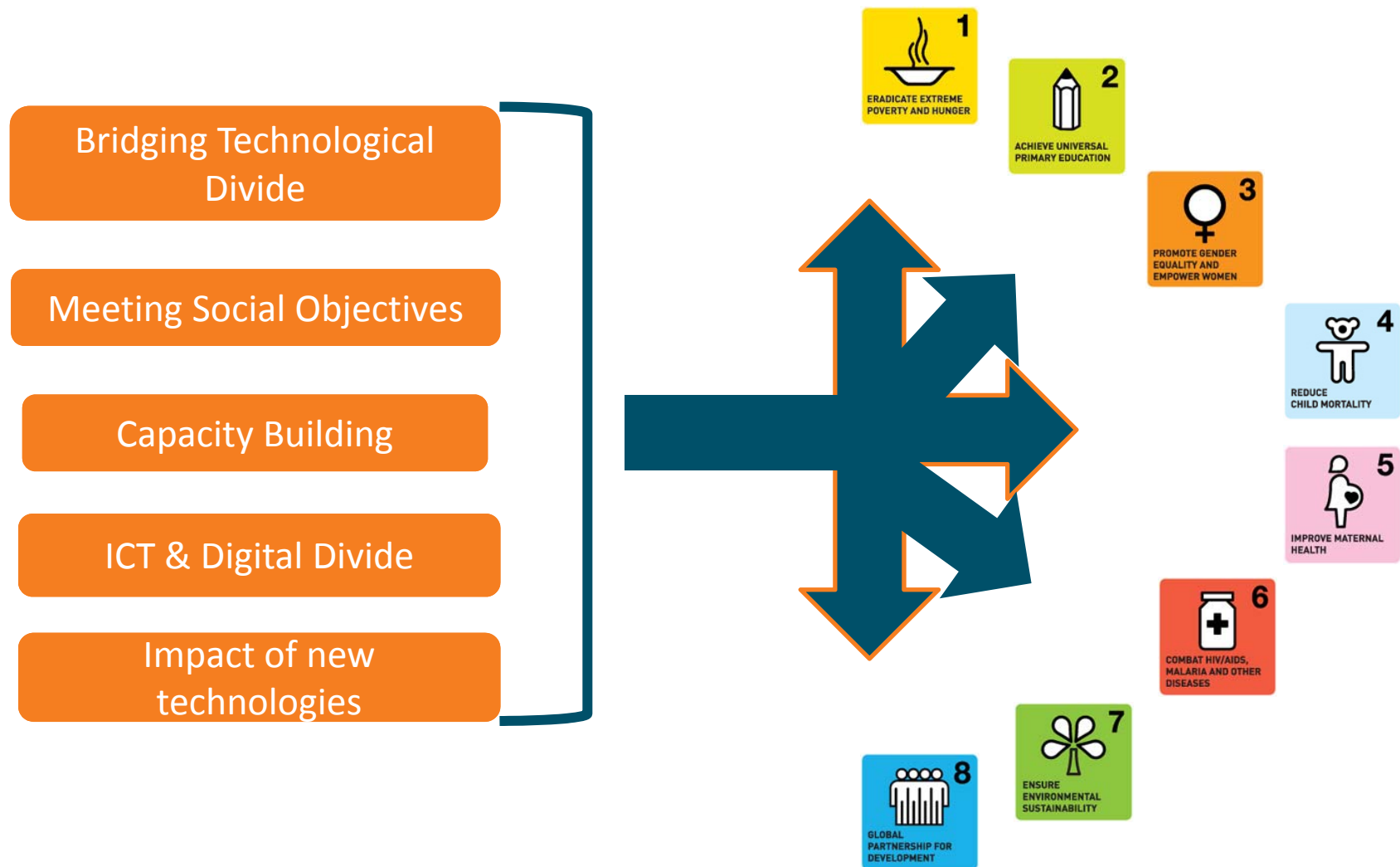
# Taking stock: a decade of work on STI issues by the CSTD and links with MDGs

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Priority themes of the CSTD can be grouped under five significant thematic areas :

- A. STI for the MDGs and bridging the technological divide
- B. STI to meet social objectives, such as sustainable urbanization, agriculture, and energy
- C. STI and capacity building, particularly through education and research
- D. ICTs and the digital divide
- E. The impact of new technologies on development

# Taking stock (2): CSTD priority themes linked to multiple MDGs



# Looking ahead: STI and the Post-2015 Agenda

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- STI for the MDGs and bridging the technological divide
- CSTD have not directly reviewed progress made under individual MDGs, but focused on how each of the MDGs can be realised through STI
- Past work of the CSTD is highly relevant to ongoing discussions of post-2015 development agenda
- Framing STI as a core issue for sustainable development involves policy action in four areas:
  - Human resource policies
  - Research policies
  - Technology and innovation policies
  - Regulatory policies



# Framing STI as a core issue for sustainable development

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## 1. Human Resource Policies

- Public outreach to popularize STEM education.
- Increased overseas training opportunities for students.
- Research grants for local needs-based innovation



## 2. Research policies

- Strengthen public sector institutions for integrating developmental concerns and local priorities into innovation agendas.
- Embed Post-2015 development agenda research into the strategic plans and operational directions of research institutions.



# Framing STI as a core issue for sustainable development

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## 3. Technology and innovation policies

- From 'narrow' to 'broad' definition of innovation.
- Extension services targeting small and community businesses.
- Innovation to reach the “bottom of the pyramid”.



## 4. Regulatory policies

- Promoting technologies with large employment generation potential.
- Sustainability values to be woven into aspects of everyday life.



# Key findings

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- The role of STI as a cross-cutting theme in the post-2015 development agenda needs to be strongly articulated
- Need new approaches that embed STI policy as an inherent compound of sustainable development in national development plans
- Other ministries, such as health and environment, must take the lead along with STI agencies, to build sustainability into national agendas in developing countries, and a range of regulatory bodies should join the effort
- STI leaders need to work together with sectoral leaders to build strategic capabilities and give maximum support to the development process.

# Suggestions for future discussions

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## For the CSTD

- Articulate the important role of STI in the post-development agenda.
- Act as a forum where practitioners and experts exchange best practices in using STI for inclusive and sustainable development and help to accumulate lessons learned and improve practice.
- How to increase communication and cooperation among countries on STI and sustainable development ?
- How best to contribute to post-2015 discussions on STI and the most effective pathways to design research and innovation policies to address core challenges of development ?

# Suggestions for future discussions

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## For member States

- Promote local innovation capabilities to meet basic needs, and bring together local and scientific knowledge for solving local problems
- How to effectively encourage local entrepreneurship, eliminating any roadblocks to its operation?
- Promote the linkages between STI and sustainable development.

# Thank you

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