2013 ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review

Presentation by Neil Pierre, UNDESA

Lima, Peru

9 January 2013

2013 ECOSOC AMR Theme

"Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals"

Several Concurrent Initiatives

* Commencement of efforts to elaborate Sustainable Development Goals
* Preparation of a post-2015 development framework
* High priority for accelerating the MDGs
* Implementing the Rio+20 Outcomes
* ECOSOC Strengthening process

Focus of Discussions

* To identify the key messages from the previous sessions of this meeting that could be transmitted to the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review in July

* To identify specific regional challenges and priorities for the AMR theme

AMR preparations

* National Voluntary Presentations (NVP) to assess progress in national development objectives
  [Bulgaria, France, Thailand, and Vietnam]

* AMR regional preparatory meetings:

Western Asia - Amman, Jordan (November, 2012)

Africa - Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania (March)

Asia/Pacific – Bangkok, Thailand (March)

Europe – Geneva (April)

Latin America and the Caribbean (date and venue to be determined)

AMR Preparations

* Preparation of SG Report on AMR Theme
* Preparation of SG Report on ECOSOC and the Post-2015 development framework
* Main messages will feed into these reports

Main Messages

* Economic growth and social development are positively impacted by investments in science and technology and particularly information technology. STI offer solutions and options for overcoming development challenges.

* S&T approaches can be used for averting climate change impacts. Consider preparing an inventory of green house gas emitting sources and link these to a S&T roadmap.

* Local and traditional knowledge is crucial to be included in the development of S&T policies, building on existing cultural values. Quality local content also crucial for Internet broadband.

* Modern infrastructure essential to realizing the benefits of science, technology and innovation. Financing is a key element in this regard. New business models are needed to capitalize on available opportunities.

* Greater urgency attached to the challenges created by a growing global middle class and the pursuit of unsustainable consumption and production patterns. Global population growth may be a less urgent concern.

Main Messages

* There is need to distinguish between high and low technology and their use and application to particular contexts.
* ICT and broadband access empower science, technology and innovation. Public-private partnerships should enable progress in both realms.
* Strong policy and regulatory frameworks are needed; development of a culture of innovation should be encouraged through education.
* National development strategies, including broadband and spectrum allocation policies, should be elaborated to incorporate these principles.
* Literacy plays a critical role in Internet use and penetration of broadband access, in addition to the issue of infrastructure.
* In many developing countries, the cost of mobile technology and broadband access is still high; broadband penetration is still relatively low. The use of options such as Universal Service Funds, are often effective in overcoming these limitations.

THANK YOU

GRACIAS