

Science, Technology and Innovation for the MDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Presentation by Neil Pierre, UN-
DESA

Washington DC, USA

2 December 2013



Content

- What's known about Post-2015
- STI and economic growth
- STI and Sustainable Development
- STI and the MDGs
- ECOSOC
- Main messages

SG Report

“Overcoming 21st century challenges such as extreme poverty, inequality and environmental degradation will likely draw on a range of innovations from science technology and culture in the public and private sectors”

(UN Secretary General’s report on the 2013 AMR theme)

What's known about Post-2015

- Single development framework
- Universal application – developed and developing countries
- Sustainable development and poverty at the center
- Build on MDGs; track progress through reporting and accountability mechanisms
- Current processes to converge in Sept 2014

STI and Economic Growth

- STI drives the dynamic transformation of economies, through productivity growth, which influences economic growth
- STI generates knowledge spill-over between countries, firms, industries, impacting growth
- They provide opportunities to “leapfrog” intermediate development stages

STI and the MDGs

- Higher incomes and employment reduce poverty and help people meet their basic needs, including food security, health and education
- STI help increase energy efficiency, reduce waste, mitigate climate change and promote sustainable development pathways
- Advances in education, science, technology, and economic growth often also improve the prospects for peace and security
- A growing middle class attuned to STI features, strengthens governance and accountability

STI and sustainable development

- STI is an important tool and enabler for the advancement of the three pillars of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental.
- Taking full advantage of STI will require enabling legal, policy, financing and institutional frameworks at the national and international levels.

STI and sustainable development (continued)

- It will require building capacities in the areas of knowledge, research and innovation, as well as the adaptation of appropriate developments in STI to different contexts
- National STI policies and systems will need to be designed within the context of national action plans for sustainable development

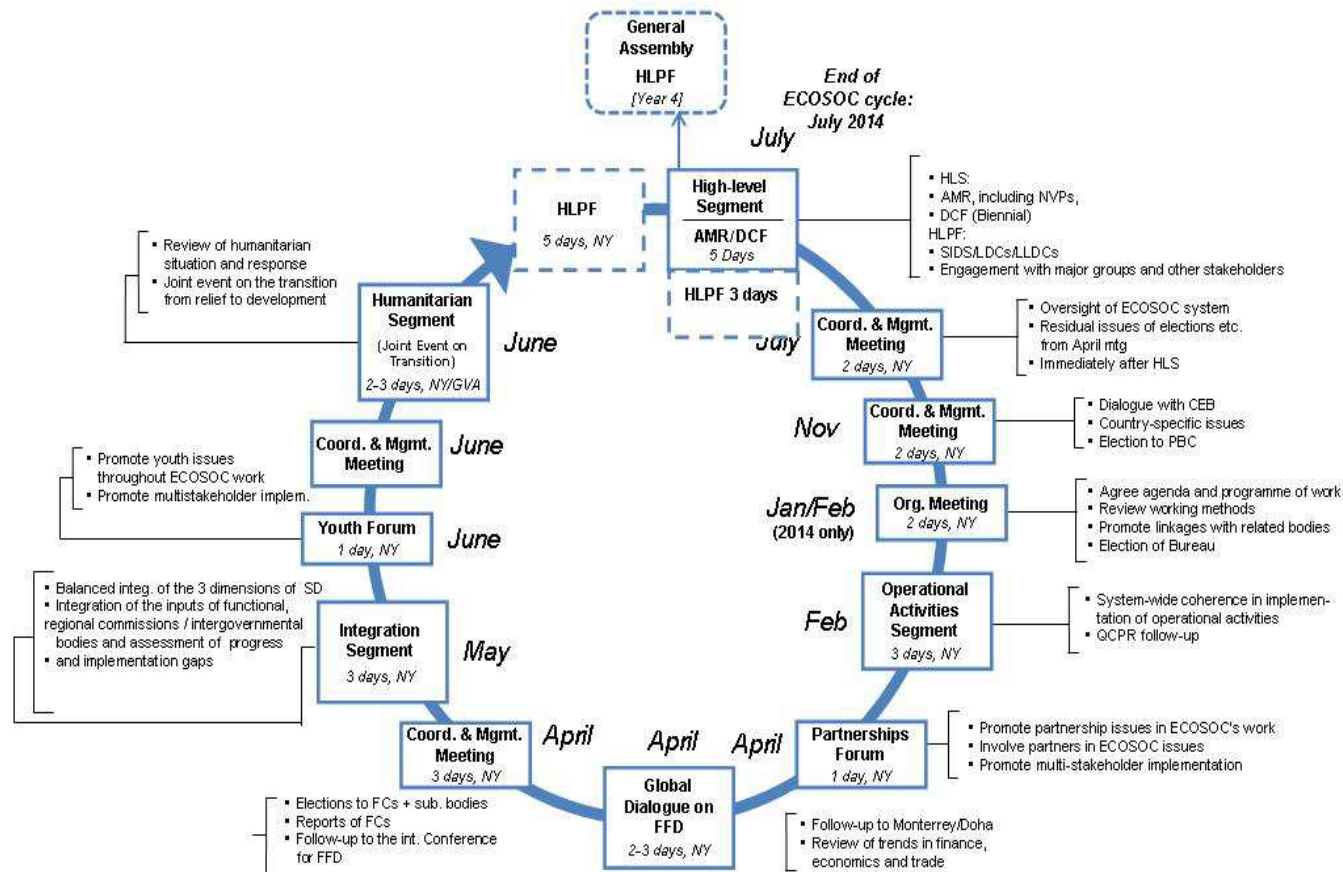
STI and sustainable development (continued)

- National STI strategies must be linked to education, macroeconomic and industrial policies
- Partnerships to strengthen the scientific and engineering capabilities of developing countries are critical
- These need to be complemented by global and regional cooperation to foster research, product development, technology access, transfer and adaptation

ECOSOC and STI

- The Council addressed STI and development in the 2013 high-level segment
- Member States reaffirmed that STI and culture are essential to MDG achievement and should be given due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 agenda
- GA Res 68/1, on the strengthening of ECOSOC, set the broad parameters for a results-oriented focus, improved ways of monitoring progress and accountability for commitments made at all levels, including in the area of STI

ECOSOC



Main Messages

- Use Culture as an enabler and driver of sustainable development (more human-centered, inclusive approach; strength of creative industries)
- Strengthen Intellectual Property regimes and their links to local knowledge and customs
- Strengthen and accelerate international cooperation for STI
- Promote Public-Private Partnerships to build capacity, enhance access and absorb technological change
- Enhance science-policy-society interface
- Support regional STI centers of excellence for developing countries