Draft resolution on Science, technology and innovation for development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as the United Nations torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation for development,

Recognizing also the critical role and contribution of science, technology and innovation in building and maintaining national competitiveness in the global economy, addressing global challenges and realizing sustainable development,

Recognizing further the seminal role that information and communications technologies play in promoting and empowering science, technology and innovation for development,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome[1] in which it was recognized that science and technology, including information and communications technologies, are vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, and reaffirming the commitments contained therein,

Recalling also that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development is the secretariat of the Commission,

Recognizing that the General Assembly, in its resolution 68/220 of 20 December 2013 on science, technology and innovation for development, encouraged the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to undertake science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with a view to assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition in identifying the measures that are needed to integrate science, technology and innovation policies into their national development strategies,

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[1] General Assembly resolution 60/1.

Recalling Economic and Social Council decision 2011/235 of 26 July 2011 providing for the extension, until 2015, of the mandate of the Gender Advisory Board of the Commission,

Recognizing the instrumental role of STI in the achievement of a number of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and to highlight the role of STI as a cross cutting theme of the post-2015 development agenda to continue to address global challenges.

Welcoming the work of the Commission on its two current priority themes, "Science, technology and innovation for the post-2015 development agenda" and "Information and communications technologies for inclusive social and economic development",

Noting the need for new approaches that embed STI policies and capacity-building as crucial components of national development plans, inter alia through collaboration between sectoral ministries, STI and ICT agencies and a range of regulatory bodies,

Recognizing the increased regional integration efforts across the world and associated regional dimension of STI issues,

Taking note of the significant achievements and continuing, potential contribution of ICTs to human welfare, economic prosperity and employment.

Noting that the success of using technology and innovation policies in countries is facilitated by, among others, creating policy environments that enable education and research institutions, businesses and industry to innovate, invest, and transform STI into employment and economic growth incorporating all inter-related elements, including knowledge transfer.

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

(a) Governments, individually and collectively, are encouraged to take into account the findings of the Commission and to

consider taking the following actions:

(i) To closely link STI and strategies of sustainable development by prominently featuring STI and ICT capacity-building in national developmental planning;

(ii) Promote local innovation capabilities for inclusive and sustainable economic development by bringing together local scientific, vocational and engineering knowledge, including through related collaboration with and between national programmes;

(iii) Undertake systemic research on new STI & ICT trends and their impact on development, particularly in the context of the post-2015 development agenda;

(iv) Promote ICTs through a capability-based approach that rests on the foundations of learning, innovation and competence building systems, rather than a needs-based approach, and by establishing a conducive environment that attracts and supports private investment, innovation, and entrepreneurship;

(v) Seek international cooperation opportunities in ICTs,

particularly in terms of identifying good practices such as on e-education, especially massive-open-online courses, e-government, e-science, e-health, management of electronic waste and disaster resilience through existing and new cooperation platforms;

(vi)   Address the ongoing and persistent gender gap in STI fields as a whole and STEM education specifically, by encouraging mentoring and supporting other efforts to retain women and girls;

(vii) To support developing countries policies and activities on science and technology through North-South and South-South cooperation by encouraging financial assistance, technical assistance, capacity building, technical training programmes or courses.

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

(i)   To continue its role as a torch-bearer for science, technology and innovation, to provide high-level advice to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly on relevant science, technology, engineering and

innovation issues;

(ii) To help articulate the important role of STI, engineering and ICTs in the post-2015 development agenda by acting as a forum for horizon scanning and strategic planning, providing foresight about critical STI trends in areas such as food security, water and other natural resource management, urbanization, advanced manufacturing and related education and vocational needs, and calling attention to emerging and disruptive technologies that can potentially affect the achievement of that agenda;

(iii) To raise awareness among policymakers about the process of innovation and to identify particular opportunities for developing countries to benefit from such innovation, with special attention being placed on new trends in innovation that can offer novel possibilities for developing countries;

(iv) To discuss and explore innovative financing models as a means to facilitate new sources of investment capital for science, technology, engineering and innovation-based

solutions, in particular smaller scale, off-grid renewable energy technologies, to address pressing challenges and needs for sustainable development, in collaboration with other organizations where appropriate;

(v) To provide a forum for sharing best practices, successful local innovation models, case studies and experience on the use of science, technology and engineering for innovation, in symbiotic relationship with information and communications technologies, for inclusive and sustainable development;

(vi) To play an active role in creating awareness on the potential contribution of STI to the post-2015 development agenda through substantive inputs to relevant processes and bodies of the United Nations, as well as share findings and good practices on STI among member States and beyond;

(vii) To provide a forum for dialogue for the sharing of good practices and experiences to identify and recommend ways and appropriate measures to promote innovation, research and development, new knowledge creation and technology transfer, as well as information and

communications technologies for capacity-building in science, technology and engineering education and research and entrepreneurship for the benefit of developing countries, and in this context explore ways to expand cooperation among all countries, with particular attention to address pollution problems for the sake of environmental protection and sharing available resources;

(viii) To highlight the importance of the work of the Commission related to the implementation of and follow-up to the areas of science, technology and innovation and information and communications technologies related to the Millennium Development Goals and in the post-2015 development agenda, with the Chair of the Commission to report to appropriate ECOSOC reviews and meetings, including those related to the Millennium Development Goals review process and post-2015 development agenda;

(ix) To discuss with a view to establishing a systematic approach for strategy development related to science, technology and engineering for innovation.

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

(i)   To proactively seek funding for the expansion of science, technology and innovation policy reviews, with a greater emphasis on the critical role of ICTs in empowering STI and engineering capacity-building and exploitation, and the implementation of these STIP review recommendations, as appropriate, in close cooperation with United Nations-related agencies and international organizations;

(ii)   To plan for periodic updates on progress made in countries for which science, technology and innovation policy reviews have been performed and to invite those countries to report to the Commission on progress made, lessons learned and challenges encountered in implementation of recommendations.

Adopted by the CSTD 17th annual session on May 16, 2014 at 6:00 pm in Geneva.

(Unedited Version)