

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION POLICY REVIEWS

### FACTORIZING IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION



#### GLOBAL CONTEXT



Building national capacities in science, technology and innovation at the firm, farm, industry and national levels is essential for local industries in developing countries to compete in today's increasingly globally integrated and knowledge-based economy. The capacity to adopt and use technologies, and to innovate, is critical to diversifying the production of goods and services into new areas with higher value added, in order to raise productivity, generate well-paid jobs, raise living standards, reduce poverty, improve social welfare and address environmental challenges. It has become increasingly clear that the attainment of all the social, economic and environmental objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals will be difficult, if not impossible, without the effective application of technology and the development of strong national innovation capacity.

UNCTAD is the United Nations focal point for the integrated treatment of trade and development and interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development. UNCTAD developed the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Reviews in 1998 to assist developing countries in assessing science, technology and innovation systems and building innovation capacity at the firm, farm, industry and national levels. The starting point for the Reviews is that it is essential to harness science, technology and innovation for sustainable development. Achieving this requires mainstreaming science, technology and innovation policy into national development strategies and plans and promoting coherence among key development policy areas related to technology and innovation. The Reviews seek to achieve both of these goals in order to support a country's broader national sustainable development agenda.



#### HOW CAN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION BE FACTORED IN?

The Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Reviews are undertaken at the request of Governments. The Reviews include an assessment of the governance of science, technology and innovation; science, technology and innovation policies, rules and regulations; infrastructure; and firm, industry and national-level innovation capabilities. They usually include a mapping of innovation systems, along with in-depth studies of specific sectors or issues related to science, technology and innovation that are particularly important for development in the country. They include policy recommendations for fostering technology upgrading, strengthening innovation capacity and enhancing the systems or ecosystems that support innovation. They generally incorporate some scope for follow-up implementation, often including a capacity-building programme. UNCTAD is revising its framework for undertaking the Reviews in order to better align them with the policy agenda of sustainable development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.



#### PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

**Scope:** All regions

**Start date:** : 1998–2005 (first series); 2008 (current series)

**Reviews per year:** 1–2

**Reviews to date:** 11 (current series)

**Upcoming Reviews:** Ethiopia, Sri Lanka and Uganda

**Website:** [unctad.org/STIPreviews](http://unctad.org/STIPreviews)



**Sustainable Development Goals addressed:**

**Directly:** 9

**Indirectly:** 8, 12 and 17



## RESULTS AND IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- Following the Review in Peru in 2010, the national budget dedicated to science, technology and innovation increased by 20 times in one year.
- The Review in Oman in 2014 led to the establishment of two consultative bodies in the country. One such body at a strategic level consists of five ministers and several senior advisers. The other, at an operational level, includes the executive directors of over 20 stakeholder institutions focused on science, technology and innovation. It also led to the design of the 2017 national innovation strategy of Oman.
- The Review in Thailand was completed in 2015. The diagnosis and recommendations of the report have fed into public policy design processes, including proposals on science, technology and innovation policy reform being discussed as part of the national reform process.



### DONORS/ FUNDING SOURCE

**Current:** United Nations  
Development Account

**Past:** Germany and United Nations  
Development Programme

Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Reviews completed by end-November 2017

