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**Trade and Development Board**  
**Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget**  
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**Progress report on the implementation of recommendations  
from the evaluation of UNCTAD's programme on science  
and technology for development**

**Note by the UNCTAD secretariat**

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## Introduction

1. This report presents the actions taken by the UNCTAD secretariat to carry out the workplan submitted to the Working Party in response to the recommendations of the external evaluation of UNCTAD's programme on science and technology for development contained in TD/B/WP/234. The workplan was endorsed by the Working Party at its sixty-sixth session on 2–4 December 2013. At the same session, the Working Party requested the secretariat to report on progress made in the implementation of the workplan at the next session of the Working Party on technical cooperation.
2. For ease of reference, the information is presented in the same table format adopted for the workplan that was submitted to the Working Party for consideration.

## Actions taken on specific recommendations

3. Recommendation 1, paragraph 60:

The management of UNCTAD, DTL [Division on Technology and Logistics] and the Science, Technology and ICT [Information and Communications Technology] Branch should continue their strategic reflection on the role of the Branch, in particular on “science” for development and vis-à-vis other United Nations organizations. Although “science” is mentioned explicitly in the Accra Accord and in the name of the Branch, “technology and innovation” have been dominating its work (and “science” does not appear in the name of the Division). In view of UNCTAD XIII, there should be a further reflection on how to better address “science” within the work of UNCTAD, e.g. through increased cooperation with other organizations such as UNESCO [United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization], or on what other options are available. One of them could be an interdivisional task force on STD [science and technology for development], led by DTL, and incorporating relevant parts of UNCTAD. One of its tasks could be to liaise with other organizations on STD. The outcome of the UNCTAD reflection should be discussed with member States and taken into account in UNCTAD XIII resolutions.

<i>Activities as presented in the workplan submitted by the Division on Technology and Logistics</i>	<i>Assumptions/limitations</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Strategic reflection on the role of the Branch		The Interdivisional Task Force on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) was convened in April 2014. Proposals were circulated and discussed among UNCTAD divisions, and a consensus report was produced that is included as an annex to this progress report. As stated in the annex, the Task Force proposes the following:
Establishment of an interdivisional task force on science, technology and innovation. Its mandate should include the formal consideration of the adequate treatment of science for development in the activities of UNCTAD beyond the substantive servicing of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD).		...emphasis in the work of UNCTAD should be placed on the contribution of technology and innovation to the development of productive capacities and the improvement of competitiveness of the economies of developing countries. The concept of “science for development” is much

<i>Activities as presented in the workplan submitted by the Division on Technology and Logistics</i>	<i>Assumptions/ limitations</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Meetings of the task force and preparation of a note or white paper		broader and necessarily includes the use of scientific knowledge to address many development challenges in areas outside the mandate of UNCTAD. In this regard, the only reference to science made in the Doha Mandate is in connection with technology and innovation and calls for work aiming at improving competitiveness and export diversification, which is in line with the priority given to activities that are directly relevant to the economic performance of developing countries.

4. Recommendation 2, paragraph 61:

UNCTAD should clarify its internal division of tasks and responsibilities with regard to transfer of technology: whether a particular division and/or branch is/are responsible for the full implementation of Accra Accord paragraphs 158 and 159, or, if the responsibilities for the two paragraphs are divided, how this division is organized. Likewise, UNCTAD should clarify how this work is undertaken with respect to its three pillars of work. One of the options for the internal division of tasks would be to define the responsibilities by these areas. That would require more interdivisional cooperation than is currently the case.

<i>Activities as presented in the workplan submitted by the Division on Technology and Logistics</i>	<i>Assumptions/ limitations</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Discussion between divisions concerned and preparation of a note on this matter		<p>This matter was also considered by the Interdivisional Task Force. In its report, the Task Force gives an account of how responsibilities for the implementation of mandates in this area concern the various divisions in different ways, details the existing understandings among divisions in this regard and proposes that:</p> <p>The current arrangements should therefore be maintained, with collaboration between divisions as appropriate. Existing mechanisms of communication and cooperation on STI issues should be maintained, including exchange of information at directors' meetings and exchange of information, feedback and collaboration on expert meetings, publications and technical cooperation activities in specific countries on the issue of STI.</p>

5. Recommendation 3, paragraph 62:

UNCTAD should improve its planning, monitoring and reporting practices, so that planning and reporting would not focus too much on immediate outputs and activities, but would also comprise systematic planning, monitoring and reporting of outcomes. In the future, this would enable proper evaluation of effectiveness and of long-term impacts.

<i>Activities as presented in the workplan submitted by the Division on Technology and Logistics</i>	<i>Assumptions/ limitations</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Reporting by means of the Integrated Monitoring and Documentation Information System (IMDIS)	As regards IMDIS reporting, the information is reported in a pre-set format that cannot be used with additional types of information.	IMDIS reporting ongoing
Evaluations to be carried out at the end of a project	Funding for this activity should be part of project financing (administrative or financial constraints may be a concern).	Carried out as an integral part of all projects, for example the current Development Account project for science, technology and innovation policy (STIP) reviews in Asian countries.
Activities introduced as a complement to the already existing United Nations reporting system:		
(a) Biannual workplan (in place)		Ongoing. In 2010, DTL set up a biannual workplan. Progress is assessed every six months, and plans are adjusted as appropriate.
(b) As a follow-up to the biannual workplan, development of an online reporting tool to measure the implementation rate for monitoring purposes. This allows the Branch to identify progress and areas where reorientation of work or other types of intervention may be required.		Ongoing. The online reporting tool is fully operational and is being used to monitor the biannual workplan and its regular review.
(c) Collection of information on the impact of DTL activities (from surveys, feedbacks, policy decisions in beneficiary countries, statements by high-level officials)		Efforts are deployed for the systematic collection of information about the impact of the activities of DTL.

<i>Activities as presented in the workplan submitted by the Division on Technology and Logistics</i>	<i>Assumptions/limitations</i>	<i>Progress</i>
(d) Centralization of the information collected (for example, feedback, impact and review of reports) in a database created for this purpose (also applicable to other branches of the Division)		In the Science, Technology and ICT Branch, a central compilation of written feedback, news, statements and other documentation about the impact of the work of DTL is available. (A similar system has been put in place in the other branches of the Division).
(e) Performance and impact assessment based on the above information		The implementation of these actions has allowed, for instance, focusing the 2013 activity report of the Division on the impact of the activities of the programme on science and technology for development. The report was presented to the 2014 Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission and the Trade and Development Commission, where it elicited positive feedback from member States.

6. Recommendation 4, paragraph 63:

Coordination and cooperation mechanisms in STI should be strengthened, internally within UNCTAD and with other organizations. If the Branch on its own cannot establish formal STI coordination mechanisms, comparable with UNGIS [United Nations Group on the Information Society] or the Partnership on Measuring ICT for Development, it should strive to create more informal yet well-structured networks, with a wide range of members and regular electronic communications. Cooperation with the United Nations Regional Commissions should be extended to STI. At the country level, UNCTAD should systematically consult UNDP [United Nations Development Programme], UNESCO, UNIDO [United Nations Industrial Development Organization] and WB [World Bank] resident offices, in particular before any decision is taken on new STD in-country technical cooperation activities.

<i>Activities as presented in the workplan submitted by the Division on Technology and Logistics</i>	<i>Assumptions/limitations</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Creation of a policy network on STI for development	Technical cooperation rules and regulations	Implementation began in April 2014. It should build on the network of contacts and collaboration developed in the implementation of the STIP reviews as well as the multi-year expert meetings held between 2008 and 2012, including contacts with UNESCO, UNIDO, UNDP, the United Nations University –

<i>Activities as presented in the workplan submitted by the Division on Technology and Logistics</i>	<i>Assumptions/ limitations</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Strengthening of the UNCTAD database of STI experts, in particular based on the above		<p>Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology, academic networks such as Globelics and its regional affiliates, and interested national partners.</p> <p>Ongoing. The Division's electronic database of STI experts and institutional contacts has been strengthened, in particular through the development of new contacts established during the activities mentioned above, such as multi-year expert meetings, ad hoc expert meetings and the implementation of technical cooperation projects.</p>
Organization of meetings and consultations with other international organizations such as UNDP, UNESCO, UNIDO and regional commissions		<p>Ongoing. A meeting with UNIDO and the International Trade Centre (ITC) was held in October 2013, leading to the participation of UNCTAD in the ITC project on the preparation of the export promotion strategy of Myanmar. An ad hoc meeting with 12 experts from various international organizations, academic institutions and networks and national STI agencies was held in March 2014 in the context of the above-mentioned capacity-building and networking project. Discussions are also being held with UNESCO.</p>
Involvement of other organizations in STIP reviews, wherever possible		<p>The Regional Commissions are regularly invited to participate in national STIP reviews. For example, three STIP reviews in Latin America were produced in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Further, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia were invited to join the STIP reviews of Thailand and Oman, respectively. In the case of the latter, the World Intellectual Property Organization was also consulted and the International Labour Organization made an input on labour issues. Other agencies are approached according to the specific substantive needs of each STIP review. Discussions have been held with the Secretariat of the</p>

<i>Activities as presented in the workplan submitted by the Division on Technology and Logistics</i>	<i>Assumptions/ limitations</i>	<i>Progress</i>
		Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa for possible collaboration in this area. Discussions have also been held with regional development banks such as the African Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, for example, with regard to enlisting their support for follow-up work.
Development of proposals for joint activities		Ongoing. The above-mentioned meeting with UNIDO and ITC led to a joint activity with ITC and the agreement that the three agencies would continue consulting each other to prepare technical cooperation proposals as opportunities arose. Discussions have also been held with the Inter-American Development Bank for the development of joint activities related to STI policy in Central America and with the Secretariat of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.
Involvement of regional organizations in flagship report launches and seminars		Ongoing, for both the <i>Technology and Innovation Report</i> and the <i>Information Economy Report</i> , for instance through cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

7. Recommendation 5, paragraph 64:

Due to the complexities of the current intergovernmental bodies on STD, and in view of the negotiations leading to UNCTAD XIII, UNCTAD should first agree internally on its preferred options for an intergovernmental body capable of satisfying its needs on STI and ICT. To be pragmatic, a new commission should not be considered as one of the options. There are several alternatives to it: a permanent item on the TDB [Trade and Development Board] agenda, a multi-year expert meeting dedicated to STI and ICT, increasing and highlighting of elements on the CSTD agenda that pertain to UNCTAD's direct areas of work, etc. One of the preferred options should be agreed with member States and confirmed in UNCTAD XIII resolutions.

<i>Activities as presented in the workplan submitted by the Division on Technology and Logistics</i>	<i>Assumptions/ limitations</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Preparation of a note by the secretariat for consideration by member States on options for an intergovernmental	Approval of the recommendation by member States	The matter was considered by the Interdivisional Task Force on STI, which agreed that in this regard the situation had evolved favourably

<i>Activities as presented in the workplan submitted by the Division on Technology and Logistics</i>	<i>Assumptions/limitations</i>	<i>Progress</i>
body capable of satisfying its needs relating to STI and ICT		since the external evaluation. For example, the terms of reference for the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development provide for a dedicated session on technology and innovation. The session took place in March 2014 in a very constructive atmosphere. Similarly, the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission discussed specific agenda items, such as the financing of innovation (2013) and inclusive innovation (2014). At this time, the task force did not find it necessary to recommend any changes in this matter (see annex).

8. Recommendation 6, paragraph 65:

In research and analysis, the Branch should reflect on how to make its recurrent publications more attractive to policymakers. Inclusion of more ratings and indicators and less in-depth analysis should be considered. More high-profile presentations of the publications might be one solution, with road shows and a website with better visibility. The Branch website would benefit from an overhaul, to upgrade it to a level commensurate with an organization working on innovation and ICTs. Moreover, the Branch should take a more proactive stance in its interaction with Geneva-based member State representatives, e.g. sending them regular briefs and updates, and organizing side events, such as information sessions, lunch debates and workshops, in the margins of bigger events.

<i>Activities as presented in the workplan submitted by the Division on Technology and Logistics</i>	<i>Assumptions/limitations</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Dissemination activities conducted as part of press launches High-profile presentations of report recommendations in regional and country-level workshops	Some dissemination activities such as road shows constrained by availability of finance	Specific efforts have been made to improve the dissemination of these reports. For instance, the <i>Technology and Innovation Report 2012: Innovation, Technology and South-South Collaboration</i> was launched in Geneva, Bangkok, New Delhi, Addis Ababa, Nairobi, Johannesburg, Dar es Salaam and San Jose. Workshops were held to disseminate the findings in regional meetings. The <i>Information Economy Report 2012: The Software Industry and Developing Countries</i> was also launched at press conferences in 12 countries and



Activities as presented in the workplan submitted by the Division on Technology and Logistics	Assumptions/ limitations	Progress
Targeted policy seminars organized in coordination with national and regional policy agencies to promote field-based discussions on findings and recommendations of the report series		presented at special research seminars in another eight locations. The <i>Information Economy Report 2013: The Cloud Economy and Developing Countries</i> was launched in December at press conferences in Amman, Beirut, Mexico City, Dhaka and Skopje. It was also the subject of a session during the fourth Commonwealth Cybersecurity Forum in London, of an online presentation to students and faculty of the Belarus State Economic University, and a presentation with Tongji University in Shanghai. Further, the publication was discussed at a regional workshop held in Tunis for a study group of the International Telecommunication Union.
Presentations of flagship reports to UNCTAD member States (for instance, during sessions of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission)		Flagship reports have been presented to UNCTAD member States at meetings of various bodies (Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission, TDB). Updates and briefs to be provided regularly to Geneva-based member States were also envisaged in the workplan. For example, an event to present policy lessons from STIP reviews was organized in connection with the Substantive Session of the Economic and Social Council held in Geneva in July 2013. A Paragraph 166 course was organized for Geneva delegates on the <i>Information Economy Report 2012</i> in April 2014.
Updates and briefs for Geneva-based member States to be provided on a regular basis also envisaged		Ongoing, see above
Expected improvements of the new Branch website to show recurrent publications in prominent, easily navigable manner		Ongoing, see above
		The website of the Branch has been enhanced, and recurrent publications are accessible in a prominent and easily navigable manner.

9. Recommendation 7, paragraph 66:

Within technical cooperation, UNCTAD should make an additional effort to revitalize the NOCE [Network of Centres of Excellence] project and extend its network. The extended network should be used for multiple purposes, including the promotion of North–South and South–South Cooperation in STI. Alternatively, or in addition, the Branch should use the Virtual Institute and the TrainForTrade programme to promote North–South and South–South Cooperation on STD through capacity-building and dissemination.

<i>Activities as presented in the workplan submitted by the Division on Technology and Logistics</i>	<i>Assumptions/ limitations</i>	<i>Progress</i>
<p>Inclusion of networking component in a project for capacity-building on STI to be launched in 2013 with funding from the Development Account. The network will support knowledge sharing and dissemination and collaboration in STI policy issues.</p>	<p>Funding for project approved end 2013</p>	<p>Implementation started in March 2014.</p>
<p>Launching of the network under the above-mentioned project (will build on the model established by NOCE, whereby leading institutions in developing countries cooperate to create capacity in STI, but will also be expanded to include a North–South cooperation dimension and a much more defined focus on STI policymaking capacity)</p>		<p>The Development Account project mentioned in the workplan includes as a key activity the articulation of a network of academic institutions and other centres of excellence in the area of STI policy. The participants in the network are to cooperate to support and to facilitate the sharing of experiences and mutual learning about STI policy in developing countries. The network should be operational by the end of the project time frame (2016).</p>
<p>Paragraph 166 courses to continue, including a module on STI issues</p>		<p>Ongoing. All courses organized under the Paragraph 166 programme include a module on STI. The latest sessions were held in Colombia, Mauritius and Singapore in 2013, and Serbia in 2014. The content of each of these courses has been customized for each region. Sessions were designed around the challenges and recent experience in STI in each region, with country examples from the region. Comparisons were made between a specific region and other developing regions, and a local expert from each host country delivered a presentation on the experience of the country with respect to STI. Finally, a case study tailored to the region was prepared in each case (STI and industrial</p>

<i>Activities as presented in the workplan submitted by the Division on Technology and Logistics</i>	<i>Assumptions/limitations</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Capacity-building and dissemination activities undertaken with the Virtual Institute and the TrainForTrade Programme		competitiveness in Latin America and the Caribbean, investing in STI for industry versus agriculture in Africa, and the role of STI in developing an electronics industry in Asia).  Ongoing. For example, the <i>Information Economy Report 2013</i> was the subject of a Virtual Institute online presentation (see above). An e-learning TrainForTrade course on e-commerce for practitioners, including face-to-face sessions for French and English speakers, was organized for members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in 2014. A TrainForTrade course was held in 2013 for ECOWAS countries on the legal aspects of e-commerce, followed in 2014 by a workshop on the harmonization of cyberlegislation.

10. Recommendation 8, paragraph 67:

With regard to STIP reviews, the evaluators believe that improved coordination and cooperation mechanisms, with clear UNCTAD approach and methodology and closer staff involvement, including in the provision of policy advice, would facilitate the availability of external funding in the future. These conditions being met, UNCTAD should reinforce its fundraising for new STIP reviews. Development partners should consider supporting them as part of their contribution to the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD.

<i>Activities as presented in the workplan submitted by the Division on Technology and Logistics</i>	<i>Assumptions/limitations</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Capacity-building activities have already been implemented in Peru and El Salvador as part of the follow-up of recent STIP reviews of those countries. Donor funding is being sought for further follow-up work in cooperation with beneficiary countries, interested donors and multilateral financial institutions. Funding, including partial national funding, is also being sought for other STIP reviews to be launched in 2013 outside the	Availability of donor and/or national funding for capacity-building linked to the implementation of the recommendations of national STIP reviews	The methodological framework for STIP reviews now includes the consideration of follow-up activities from the inception of the STIP review. The framework is implemented in the STIP reviews started under the Development Account project launched in 2013. It may be refined and adapted on the basis of the lessons learned at the conclusion of these projects. Discussions are being held with potential partners to support the implementation of activities related to the follow up of STIP reviews, for example in Lesotho and Oman.

<i>Activities as presented in the workplan submitted by the Division on Technology and Logistics</i>	<i>Assumptions/ limitations</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Development Account project.		

## 11. Recommendation 9, paragraph 68:

In ICT for development, the Science, Technology and ICT Branch should continue focusing on its niche technical cooperation area of measuring ICT for business and legal aspects of e-commerce. In this regard, once the first ICT policy review will have been published, the UNCTAD constituency should ponder carefully the added value of the Branch undertaking broader ICT policy reviews, especially considering the current work being done by other international organizations with greater experience and resources to employ on the subject.

<i>Activities as presented in the workplan submitted by the Division on Technology and Logistics</i>	<i>Assumptions/ limitations</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Development of new and revised indicators, training courses and advisory services (as contained in a three-year technical cooperation project (2013–2015) funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency)	Pending availability of extrabudgetary funding	Ongoing. In the past year, work has included methodological work, training of national statistical offices and the development of a practical guide for empowering women entrepreneurs through ICTs.
Training, advisory services and reviews of harmonization efforts (financial support for technical cooperation concerning legal aspects of e-commerce has been provided for several years by the Governments of Finland and the Republic of Korea)	Demand-driven	Ongoing. Various capacity-building activities were undertaken in Latin America and in countries belonging to ECOWAS, the East African Community, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations; new publications were launched.
Preparation of ICT policy reviews focusing on the information economy as one of its demand-driven technical assistance activities	Pending availability of extrabudgetary funding	Request received from Egypt and Ethiopia; project document drafted
Preparation of a short publication on the UNCTAD framework for conducting ICT policy reviews		Framework ICT policy reviews published in April 2014

## 12. Recommendation 10, paragraph 69:

UNCTAD should ensure that the work of the Science and Technology Section is well balanced between its mandate as the CSTD technical secretariat and other STD activities such as the recently created UNCTAD

Current Studies series on Science, Technology and Innovation in which the section has taken the lead. With more resources of its own and more inputs from other sections and divisions, the Science and Technology Section could play a role in STD issues that go beyond the CSTD.

<i>Activities as presented in the workplan submitted by the Division on Technology and Logistics</i>	<i>Assumptions/limitations</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Strengthening of synergies between the Science and Technology Section and the rest of the UNCTAD secretariat (brainstorming, discussion of papers, submission of inputs by other members of the Branch, contributions from the other sections or divisions)	Adequate funding, human and technical resources in light of budget constraints and potential new mandates for the CSTD in preparation for the 2014–2015 ten-year reviews of the World Summit on the Information Society and the Millennium Development Goals	Ongoing. Since February 2013, the Science and Technology Section (mostly in charge of the CSTD) has been engaged in the production of the <i>Technology and Innovation Report</i> and also provided inputs to the <i>Information Economy Report 2013</i> . The Section furthermore contributed to the work of UNCTAD on STI and the post-2015 development agenda.  In addition, the Policy Review Section contributes to the annual session of the CSTD on a regular basis, for example by inviting experts and contributing to the CSTD meeting, notably with regard to discussions on STIP reviews. Meanwhile the ICT Analysis Section has contributed to the Current Studies series and contributes to the CSTD with regard to the follow-up review of the World Summit on the Information Society.
Four publications planned in the 2013–2014 biennium under the Current Studies series		2013: Monographs on Internet broadband for an inclusive digital society, STI and gender. 2014: Monographs on STI and sustainable cities (forthcoming) and STI and the post-2015 development agenda (forthcoming)
Preparation of a project on strengthening of capacities of policymakers and municipal leaders in developing countries on applying STI to improve sustainability in cities for the ninth tranche of the Development Account		A concept note for the project was prepared in October 2012. However the project was not considered a priority for funding by the Development Account.
Revitalizing of the Science and Technology for Development (STDev) website to serve as an effective cross-divisional and inter-organizational platform for the discussion of STDev	Revitalization of the STDev website contingent on status of development of new UNCTAD website	The relevant information is now accessible through the UNCTAD website, which provides all the content about CSTD-related issues, including the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation.

<i>Activities as presented in the workplan submitted by the Division on Technology and Logistics</i>	<i>Assumptions/limitations</i>	<i>Progress</i>
topics and relevant events		
Leverage of CSTD Gender Advisory Board in providing expertise on STD activities of the Section outside CSTD	Ability of the Advisory Board to lend expertise outside CSTD depends on availability of Advisory Board members	The Advisory Board provides guidance on publications of the section on STI and gender (for instance in the case of the UNCTAD publication, <i>Applying a Gender Lens to Science, Technology and Innovation</i> ). A representative of the Board takes part in CSTD plenary sessions and intersessional panels.
Promotion of Advisory Board research on case studies on mainstreaming a gender perspective in STI policies and programmes		Monograph on STI and gender prepared under the Current Studies series.

13. Recommendation 11, paragraph 70:

The conceptual framework of UNCTAD's STIP reviews should be reviewed in the context of the preparation of the STIP review implementation guidelines (paragraph 23). This exercise should help UNCTAD define the role its staff in the implementation of STIP reviews. The guidelines should describe the necessary closer engagement of UNCTAD staff at the country level (paragraph 55). If the role of staff in the implementation of STIP reviews were to become more policy oriented, UNCTAD should reflect on how to strengthen the human resources of the Branch.

<i>Activities as presented in the workplan submitted by the Division on Technology and Logistics</i>	<i>Assumptions/limitations</i>	<i>Progress</i>
Efforts to be undertaken to leverage more on technical expertise from other organizations by inviting experts from other agencies to participate in the teams conducting national STIP reviews	Depends on budgetary decisions by member States	The policy advice provided in the context of STIP reviews is delivered by regular staff members of the Division. As noted above, as well, experts from other agencies are invited periodically to participate in STIP reviews. In addition, a methodological framework for the implementation of STIP reviews has been prepared and published. The role of all the stakeholders in the process, including the UNCTAD secretariat staff, is defined in the framework.
Reflection on the strengthening of human resources of the Branch is part of the broader reflection on UNCTAD work on STI (see recommendation 1, para. 60)		

## 14. Recommendation 12, paragraph 71:

Furthermore, in addition to describing what is distinctive in UNCTAD's STIP review approach and methodology, the guidelines should address issues such as scope of adaptation, local commitment and participation, implementation of recommendations and follow-up. Consideration should be given to the inclusion of a financial provision in the STIP review budget for not only follow-up but also for the implementation of some specific recommendations. Measures to test beneficiary country commitment should include its willingness to make a financial contribution, in cash or in case of LDCs [least developed countries] in kind, and its capability to swiftly set up a high-level multi-stakeholder steering group. The guidelines should be completed before the Branch engages in new STIP review processes. Lessons learned from the most recent STIP reviews in Latin America should be fed into the process.

<i>Activities as presented in the workplan submitted by the Division on Technology and Logistics</i>	<i>Assumptions/ limitations</i>	<i>Progress</i>
2011 framework for implementation of STIP reviews considers the issues referred to in paragraph 71		Ongoing
Participation of countries in the implementation of recommendations		Ongoing. Beneficiary countries are participating in the implementation of some recommendations (workshops, preparation of national STI plans). For example, a strong national contribution is being provided in the STIP reviews of Oman and Thailand.
Development of capacity-building projects to address weaknesses identified commonly through the STIP review (to be financed for instance through the Development Account)	Availability of extra-budgetary funding	Ongoing. For instance, two draft projects were prepared to support the implementation of the recommendations of the STIP review of Lesotho, and assistance was provided in discussions with potential donors. Under the STIP review framework, follow-up work is considered an integral phase of the STIP reviews. In the view of the UNCTAD secretariat, the timing of the funding of the various phases of the STIP review process should remain flexible, since the time horizons involved in national projects may vary substantially from country to country.
Inclusion of capacity-building activities in the funding for forthcoming STIP reviews		

## Annex

### **Report of the Interdivisional Task Force on Science, Technology and Innovation**

**9 May 2014**

1. In its response to the recommendations of the independent evaluation of the UNCTAD programme on STI, the secretariat suggested that a task force could conduct an interdivisional discussion on the approach that the Organization should take to a number of problems, notably the role of science in the work of UNCTAD, the allocation among Divisions of various aspects of the work on STI and the organization of intergovernmental work related to these matters. The Interdivisional Task Force on Science, Technology and Innovation was convened in April 2014 and considered an initial input submitted by DTL. Divisions made a number of observations and suggestions that are reflected in this report. No significant discrepancies emerged in the discussion; therefore, this document summarizes a broad consensus view expressed by the Divisions in the task force.

#### **1. The role of science in UNCTAD**

2. Because of the predominantly economic nature of the mandate and expertise of UNCTAD, the Organization's comparative advantage in the area of STI concerns work on the interrelationship between technology, trade, investment and economic development. A broad consideration of science as an intellectual or even a social endeavour is largely outside the mandate of UNCTAD, while it is clearly covered by that of UNESCO. Given the limited resources available, the Task Force suggests that emphasis in the work of UNCTAD should be placed on the contribution of technology and innovation to the development of productive capacities and the improvement of competitiveness of the economies of developing countries. The concept of "science for development" is much broader and necessarily includes the use of scientific knowledge to address many development challenges in areas outside the mandate of UNCTAD. In this regard, the only reference to science made in the Doha Mandate is in connection with technology and innovation and calls for work aiming at improving competitiveness and export diversification, which is in line with the priority given to activities that are directly relevant to the economic performance of developing countries.

3. Nonetheless, countries do require scientific and engineering capabilities to be able to take advantage of technologies and harness STI for development. Thus UNCTAD must, for example, provide as part of its country STIP reviews some coverage of scientific human resources and possibly science education, which form an important part of the human resources in science, technology, engineering and mathematics needed to access, adapt and master technologies. National policies related to science, which determine the accumulation of scientific capabilities and building of scientific infrastructure, are therefore relevant. The expertise required on science issues by UNCTAD is thus limited in nature and relates more to science policy and the scientific infrastructure and capabilities needed for countries to use science and technology as tools for development. The scope of science coverage should remain closely linked to technology and innovation, including the issue of the adequacy of science, technology, engineering and mathematics resources and scientific infrastructure and capabilities in a country or developing regions. The degree of expertise needed should be able to be developed inside UNCTAD within existing budgetary resources. Where the need arises for a particularly in-depth knowledge of science or for specific expertise required from the international scientific community, including inter alia, universities,



public and private research institutes and think tanks, UNCTAD will seek the collaboration of organizations that include science as their central mandate (for example, UNESCO, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change).

## 2. Divisional responsibilities for issues relating to science, technology and innovation

4. There is little work done on science in UNCTAD, as noted above. The work that is done on science (or more precisely some aspects of science policies) would most likely fit under the mandate of DTL, in the context of the contribution of science to the national systems of innovation of developing countries. Similarly, work on technology and innovation most directly concerns DTL, which handles STI issues in a broad sense. However, the issues of technology and innovation cut across different UNCTAD divisions. By the very nature of UNCTAD's integrated treatment of development, elements of work on technology and innovation are present in the Division on Investment and Enterprise (DIAE), the Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes (ALDC), the Division on International Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities (DITC) and the Division on Globalization and Development Strategies (DGDS). The responsibility for implementing Accra paragraphs 158 and 159 should be carried out by the Organization as a whole, although DTL is well placed to help coordinate and enhance the work on STI among divisions.

5. Work on technology falls within the DTL work programme and is central to using STI as a tool for promoting competitive industries, diversification of economic activity and sustainable development. Transfer of technology issues are integral elements of the treatment of technology as a part of STI policies for development. The same applies to innovation, which is also an essential element in using STI policies for development through competitiveness and diversification. As a result, DTL addresses STI issues, including the intrinsically related issues of transfer of technology and intellectual property rights.

6. It is nevertheless not possible to treat other aspects of development – foreign investment, trade, development strategies, South–South cooperation or the development challenges of Africa, LDCs and small island developing States – without covering in some manner the issues of technology and innovation. These UNCTAD mandates are addressed by other UNCTAD divisions – DIAE, ALDC, DITC and DGDS respectively. The work of DIAE on foreign direct investment (FDI) and transnational corporations, by its very nature, includes a discussion of technology and innovation issues in the context of FDI and local enterprise development. Its unit on intellectual property also addresses technology transfer and intellectual property rights, including within the pharmaceutical industry and health sector. Likewise, the work of ALDC on the development of Africa, LDCs and small island developing States cannot disregard the need for technology and innovation to play a part in their development. Some questions related to technology and innovation may also be relevant to aspects of DITC work on trade, for instance in relation with trade and environmental problems or possibly competition policy. Similarly, the work of DGDS on development strategies and South–South cooperation may include technology and innovation as a part of broader development strategies.

7. The evaluators' recommendations emphasize the question of transfer of technology and how it is shared among UNCTAD divisions. In this regard, the only unit except DTL working with transfer of technology as a major focus of attention is the DIAE unit on intellectual property. Its existence reflects the close association of technology, including transfer of technology and intellectual property rights, with the work of UNCTAD on FDI and transnational corporations. The work conducted in this context is of a specialized nature, involves significant legal expertise and adopts both an international and a national

perspective. On the other hand, the consideration of intellectual property questions in the context of the work of DTL remains a generic one, fundamentally consigned to its role as an integral element of a country's innovation system. Both divisions frequently consult each other and cooperate on specific activities related to intellectual property matters.

8. The current division of technology work, including technology transfer and intellectual property rights among the various divisions of UNCTAD has to date proved satisfactory. With regard to the three pillars of UNCTAD, in the area of research and analysis, contributions are made by different divisions, each division focusing on its areas of expertise, which are clearly determined. A similar approach is undertaken for technical assistance projects. With regard to consensus building, inputs are given by the divisions to meetings, including expert and ad hoc meetings, and a fluid exchange of views is taking place between the divisions as well as among the staff members concerned.

9. The current arrangements should therefore be maintained, with collaboration between divisions as appropriate. Existing mechanisms of communication and cooperation on STI issues should be maintained, including exchange of information at directors' meetings and exchange of information, feedback and collaboration on expert meetings, publications and technical cooperation activities in specific countries on the issue of STI.

### **3. Intergovernmental treatment of issues relating to science, technology and innovation**

10. The situation in this regard has evolved favourably since the external evaluation. The intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD now provides more opportunities for the treatment of STI issues. For example, the terms of reference of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Investment, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Productive Capacity-building and Sustainable Development provide for a dedicated session on this matter. The session took place in March 2014 and dealt with a broad range of STI policy issues in a very constructive atmosphere. Similarly, specific agenda items on STI were discussed by the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission in 2013 and 2014. Under these circumstances the Task Force did not find it advisable to recommend any changes in this matter.

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