

Advance Unedited Version

Commission on Science and Technology for Development
13th session
Geneva, 17-21 May 2010

**Draft Resolution on "Science and Technology for
Development"**

20 May 2010
17.32pm

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council

1. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Science and technology for development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcome document of the 2005 World Summit, which emphasizes the role of science and technology, including information and communication technologies, as vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, and *reaffirming* the commitments contained therein, especially support of efforts of developing countries, individually and collectively, to harness new agricultural technologies in order to increase agricultural productivity through environmentally sustainable means¹,

Recalling that UNCTAD is the Secretariat of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development,

Recalling the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development resulting from its 2008-2009 inter-sessional period on "Science, technology and engineering for innovation and capacity-building in education and research," and "Development-oriented policies for a socio-economically inclusive information society, including policies relating to access, infrastructure and an enabling environment",

Welcoming the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its two, current substantive themes "New and emerging technologies" and "Improvements and innovations in existing financing mechanisms" and its role as UN "torch bearer" for science, technology and innovation,

Recognizing the critical role of innovation in maintaining national competitiveness in the global economy,

Recognizing also the importance of science, technology and innovation policy (STIP) reviews in assisting developing countries to improve their innovation systems,

Recalling the commitments made at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995, in particular the

¹ A/60/1, para. 60

strategic objectives and actions under “K: Women and the Environment” of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Conference,

Recalling further its call to mainstream a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system²,

Taking note of the report of the Commission Inter-sessional Panel Meeting held in Geneva in November 2009 and the report prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat contained in document E/CN.16/2010/CRP.1,

Taking note of the reports³ of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development,

Extending its appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for his role in helping to complete the aforementioned reports in a timely manner,

Taking note that the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is highly dependent on an increase in access to modern energy services, and the deployment of renewable energy technologies (RETs) should be one of the key components of any strategy that aims at achieving this increase in access,

Recognizing the deployment of RETs require the application of new and emerging technologies including, among others, material sciences, nanotechnology, biotechnology, and information and communication technologies,

Recognizing that the sustainable deployment of emerging technologies can be facilitated by technology transfer, under mutually agreed conditions, increasing domestic capabilities to develop, deploy and maintain technologies to meet local needs, adopting innovative financial mechanisms to power investment and integrating RET deployment strategies into national development agendas,

Recognizing further that any such strategy must be complemented by the transfer of skills and expertise to develop, adapt and modify RET technologies, where necessary, to local conditions and capabilities, including the needs and capabilities of women, and supported by financing, technology, science and engineering training centres and knowledge networks to maximize the use, and promote the enhancement of such capabilities,

Decides to make the following recommendations for consideration by national Governments, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, and UNCTAD:

(a) *Governments are encouraged to take into account the findings of the Commission and undertake the following actions:*

² ECOSOC agreed conclusions 1997/2

³ E/CN.16/2010/3, E/CN.16/2010/4

Ensure that the priorities of government incorporate multi-stakeholder engagement in decision-making for program design, implementation, deployment, monitoring and evaluation, and consider local populations and mainstreaming of a gender perspective for new and emerging technologies and RETs;

Provide an enabling environment that encourages private and public sector initiatives in new and emerging technologies and in the generation and dissemination of RETs, including supporting universities and research centres linked to global learning networks and national diaspora, and funded through a range of sources such as governments, donors, venture capitalists and/or public-private partnerships dedicated to RETs;

Adopt economic, regulatory and government procurement policies to foster competition and private sector development and to attract domestic and foreign direct investment;

Consider the use of appropriate policy instruments for application in the private sector such as incentives, subsidy schemes, feed-in tariffs, tax credits, financial guarantees and the reduction of import duties to support technology deployment in market niches and encourage joint ventures and foreign direct investment in the manufacture and use of RETs;

Enhance local innovative capabilities in the area of new and emerging technologies and RETs with improved efficiency, developed and adapted to local conditions through support for research, extension services, capacity-building, and other related activities ;

Encourage private enterprises to adopt and deploy RETs through public-private partnerships;

Promote the establishment of science and technology parks, business incubators and innovation clusters to induce private sector participation in development, growth and commercialization of new and emerging technologies, including RETs.

(b) The international community is encouraged to:

Enhance the provision of technical assistance in capacity-building and strategic planning to promote new and emerging technologies and RETs.

(c) *The Commission on Science and Technology for Development is:*

Encouraged to continue serving as a platform for sharing examples of good practices and promoting North–South and South–South partnerships, especially in new and emerging technologies, RET transfer and deployment;

Encouraged to promote, in the context of the Internet-based, science, technology and innovation collaborative network established in response to resolution 2009/8, collaborative networking, initiation and hosting sub-regional networks as operational models for replication, with the cooperation of the UNCTAD and the International Trade Centre;

Invited to make a contribution, in close collaboration with its Gender Advisory Board, to the 55th session of the ECOSOC functional Commission on the Status of Women on “Access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women’s equal access to full employment and decent work”;

Encouraged to collaborate with WIPO to facilitate access to the database of research for development and innovation (aRD_i) at minimum cost for all developing countries.

(d) UNCTAD is encouraged to:

Increase significantly its efforts to conduct STIP reviews, in response to a high demand from member countries, in close collaboration with other relevant international organizations, particularly with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, regional commissions and other appropriate stakeholders, including the World Bank and other international and regional development banks, with a view to assist developing countries in strengthening their STI systems;

Carry out, in collaboration with other relevant international organizations such as UNIDO, UNESCO and International Renewable Energy Agency, a review of national experiences in developing local innovative capabilities related to new and emerging technologies and RETs, including educational programmes and long-term training activities;

Survey collaborative R&D mechanisms that have been effective in facilitating the development and deployment of new and emerging technologies and RETs through the global science and innovation infrastructure, including universities, institutions, centres of excellence, business incubators, science and technology parks and other innovation modalities, with a view to assisting developing countries to build capabilities;

Carry out research into how developing countries could integrate the deployment of RETs into their national development and science, technology and innovation strategies, especially those related to poverty reduction and meeting the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the [MDGs](#), taking into account a gender perspective.

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