

**Informal Summary
2013 Economic and Social Council
High-Level Segment**

**General Debate
Wednesday, 3 July 2013, 3pm-7pm**

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) continued its General Debate on the theme of the Annual Ministerial Review: science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and promoting sustainable development.

H.E. Mr. Sarath Amunugama, Senior Minister of International Monetary Cooperation and Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning of **Sri Lanka**, said the country has focused on people-oriented socioeconomic development, especially rural health. In spite of its battle against terrorism, the effects of the tsunami and the financial crisis, Sri Lanka integrated the MDGs into its national development agenda and had met its MDG target for poverty reduction.

A zero poverty goal had been set for 2015, and positive trends in reduction of infant and maternal mortality, increasing nutrition, access to schooling, access to safe drinking water and sanitation, as well as access to housing were set to continue. Sri Lanka's immunization system and its efforts in tackling malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS were meeting success. Education targets also were being met. Sri Lanka was using emerging technologies to help meet these targets and there was a greater focus on science and vocational training. The country has shifted from a traditional education system towards a system of innovation and employability by introducing infrastructure for making Sri Lanka a regional knowledge hub. It also identified the importance of Small and Medium Enterprise (SME), as a development mode of bridging regional growth disparities.

He noted that developmental and technological needs vary from country to country. A systems-oriented approach was more suitable than 'one size fits all'. Developing countries need a clear understanding of conducive and sustainable practices that can be replicated domestically to address the challenges they face in the fields of science, technology and innovation. Sri Lanka was ready to help the region by sharing its valuable experience in achieving MDGs and establishing peace and stability.

H.E. Mr. Stanley Simataa, Deputy Minister of Information and Communication Technology of Namibia said **Namibia** endorsed the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. He said information and communication technology was a tool for transformation and sustainable development, particularly for those in rural areas. However, although these possibilities existed, the challenges for many of poor citizens meant that the promise of science and technology had not been realized. The immediate concern is access to clean drinking water, food, health, and education far more than access to ICT.

Namibia, a moderately expanding economy with high levels of wealth inequalities, was balancing how to secure access to the most basic needs while also ensuring no one lags behind on the dividends of science, technology and innovation.

The government continued to invest heavily in education. In regard to universal primary education, Namibia had achieved a participation rate of above 90 percent. As for STI, the country had a good technology infrastructure, though was lacking broadband connectivity. Recently, a mobile payment system (MobiPay) had revolutionized the use of mobile phones. He said Namibia also developed a science, technology and innovation policy framework, focusing on STEM human capital formation.

Financing innovation was of critical importance. A strong national science and innovation system, coupled with affordable broadband, would allow emerging economies like Namibia to engage in the global economy.

H.E. Mr. Marius Fransman, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa, said **South Africa** endorsed the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. He said the role and mandate of ECOSOC was increasingly important for developing countries, and especially for Africa, in particular for mainstreaming science technology, innovation and culture in the post-2015 development agenda.

Poverty reduction can be achieved through a development model that included technological 'leapfrogging,' where opportunities that were not previously available can be shared. South Africa was committed to South-South cooperation for developing countries to support one another in sharing best practices on science, technology and innovation policies. However, this should not be a substitute for North-South cooperation. South Africa also strongly supported principles protecting intellectual property rights and technology transfer between nations.

Intellectual property rights frequently exclude poor people from accessing the end products of investments in science, technology, innovation and culture. He asked the Council to give consideration to promoting an environment where intellectual property rights do not create a barrier to equitable distribution of the benefits of innovation and technology transfers.

A National Development Plan 2030, with poverty and inequality elimination as its cornerstones, had been adopted. Strategic scientific research was a key plank of this plan. Culture-based projects also have played a positive role in Africa in achieving the MDGs. He called on all development partners to assist in building capacity for sustainable development through partnership programmes.

H.E. Mr. Cho Tae-Yul, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the **Republic of Korea**, recognized the relevance of the SG's report (E/2013/54), which takes stock of lessons learned and sets out recommendations to address the challenges of sustainable development. He agreed that challenges such as climate change and the economic, food and energy crises made it necessary to capitalize on the opportunities provided by science, technology and innovation to 'leapfrog' to intermediate stages of development. He also supported the role of STI and culture to be reflected in the post-2015 agenda and the sustainable development goals.

It was necessary to create a strong connection between the scientific community and policymakers and to promote global partnerships to ensure that the benefits of science, technology and innovation are widely shared. Multinational companies should also play a role. The Busan partnership launched in 2012 was a good model, as an inclusive partnership to generate coherence between the UN system and its existing partners. The G20 can also

play an important role, as its member countries have worked since the 2010 Seoul Summit to create an enabling environment for sustainable and inclusive growth in developing countries.

Cultural tourism was a growing sector in developing countries. But these countries often lack the entrepreneurs and financial resources to link their cultural assets to economic gains. They need capacity building support to gain access to domestic and international markets and for reproducing national culture.

The Korean Government is committed to helping countries enhance the capacity of their cultural industries by sharing knowledge in preserving and reproducing traditional culture. It recently embraced the 'creative economy' as a paradigm for growth and to create an ecosystem that gives people freedom and autonomy for innovative ideas. It planned to share experience on industrial development with developing countries and increase its contribution to the global community's efforts on sustainable development.

Mr. Emil Yalnazov, Director-General for Global Affairs and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of **Bulgaria**, endorsed the statement made on behalf of the European Union. He said he supported the adoption of the ECOSOC Ministerial Declaration. It was proof that international cooperation in science, technology, innovation and culture should be front and centre of the post-2015 development agenda. He also supported the [Global Innovation Index Report](#), as an indicative tool for governments and all stakeholders.

In Bulgaria, investment in scientific research followed European Union guidelines and a national strategic innovation plan was being developed. Internet broadband and e-government technologies were being strengthened to improve transparency. Protection of intellectual property rights had a key role in promoting science, technology and innovation.

Meanwhile, the protection of cultural heritage also was important to Bulgaria, not only in its own right but as a stimulator of economic growth. Despite budget cuts and austerity measures, culture can be an important economic factor to overcome poverty, boost employment and foster inclusive sustainable growth through cultural and eco-tourism, traditional crafts and creative industries at community level. UNESCO's work on cross-border projects involving regions and sub-regions, as well as the activities of the Regional Center for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in South Eastern Europe based in Sofia, were relevant. A strengthened and more focused ECOSOC and a functional and action-oriented High Level Political Forum would serve best the priorities of the emerging post-2015 development framework.

Mr. Takehiro Kagawa, Director-General of Global Issues, International Cooperation Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of **Japan**, said ECOSOC had a unique role to play this year for its input on the next international development framework, and in relation to effective implementation. The international community has already embarked on discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals. Japan endorsed and supported the subject of the thematic session. It has a broad range of knowledge on technology and was open to sharing this with partners, as well as fostering an environment where green technology could develop.

Japan also believed that universal health coverage should be included in the Goals post-2015. Last May Japan established its "Strategy on Global Health Diplomacy" to make global health a diplomatic priority. It is committed to promoting universal health care as part of the effort

to realize human security. By focusing on people and emphasizing their protection and empowerment, including the most vulnerable, people would be allowed to achieve their potential.

The third United Nations Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction will be held in Japan in March 2015. Disasters often had a greater impact on older persons and women. It is a barrier to sustainable development and without proper preparation or an appropriate and timely response, it can wipe out years of development efforts in an instant. He asked for support from Member States and the UN system for the success of this conference.

H.E. Mr. Alexandre Fasel, Permanent Representative of **Switzerland** to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, said it was timely that science, technology and innovation was addressed by the Council, as it had been in developed countries for years. Switzerland was committed to placing science and technology at the heart of the post-2015 development agenda to help solve the world's problems such as climate change, hunger and poverty.

Integrated approaches are key. There is the need to mobilize intellectual, creative and cultural resources, worldwide, through partnerships and alliances. There is a need also for cooperation across academic disciplines, sectors and borders in order to create new knowledge to adapt technologies and find integrated solutions to development challenges.

Switzerland, with its high-technology industries and respect for cultural diversity, could help with interdisciplinary approaches and designing content-specific solutions to development problems, as well as promoting the right institutional framework for innovation around the world.

To enhance STI capacities for sustainable development, he recommended reducing the disparities between countries and regions. Policies in the field of education, science and technology are key elements, as well as a favorable institutional environment for science, research and innovation to flourish.

H.E. Ms. Elizabeth Cousens, Representative of the **United States** to the Economic and Social Council highlighted a few dimensions of the AMR theme. She said investment in primary education, health and nutrition are essential for the foundation of learning. Education was a top priority for future development in order to create environments where students were passionate about science and could receive training. Online education initiatives had tremendous potential to facilitate learning, boost growth and create jobs.

Connectivity was essential as it provides greater access to infrastructure, finance, social services, market and political decision-making. It is vital to expand broadband access in developing countries, especially for women who are disproportionately affected by the digital divide. A predictable intellectual property system also was necessary and had many benefits. She recommended governments establish institutional frameworks that enhance connectivity. The United States was seeking to foster a cycle of connectivity and innovation. Collaboration with researchers in developing countries was being increased, investment was also being put into venture capital models and private partnerships with universities consortium were established.

The United States was making a large investment in climate change policy, strengthening work to cut emissions and developing clean energy technologies. The role of the Council was commended for its determination to raise the science and policy debate and to insist on evidence-based solutions.

Mr. Mohammed Al Karib, Director General of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of **Sudan**, said it was important to promote access of STI and culture to countries in an equitable manner especially to the Least Developed Countries and countries in post-conflict situations so that they may address their current challenges.

He said it was necessary to foster North-South cooperation to remedy the digital divide and to help developing countries obtain the appropriate technologies needed for capacity building. The Government approved of a proposal to establish a technology bank allowing LDCs to get necessary technologies and integrate into the global economy. The role of information and communications technology (ICT) was not only good in its own right, but as a means of social cohesion; for this reason Sudan had set up a Technology Ministry. Sudan welcomed all partnerships to foster science and innovation.

Finally, Sudan believed traditional knowledge is the main source of science and culture. National, regional and international policies should promote traditional knowledge especially in the field of agriculture, industry and environment. The Council also had to improve its leadership if it hoped to take a leading role in the post-2015 development agenda.

H.E. Mr. Jim McLay, Permanent Representative of **New Zealand** to the United Nations in New York, said New Zealand recognizes that it must continue to develop better linkages with international markets, and be a stronger player in research and development. The government recently increased funding for science and innovation to help businesses grow, to deliver more and higher-paying jobs, and to improve living standards.

Much remained to be done in achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. There needs to be a renewed development agenda which not only builds on the MDGs, but also takes a comprehensive approach, integrating all three dimensions of sustainable development - social, economic, and environmental. Economic development could grow from public-private partnerships and from encouraging university-industry linkages to translate knowledge into viable enterprises.

New Zealand has a close interest in international efforts focused on agricultural development and in improving food security. The main challenge was to ensure that agricultural production systems are climate resilient. By using innovation and technology along side local knowledge, it is possible to increase both productivity and production in an environmentally sustainable manner. New Zealand has been working through the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases and has provided a programme for sharing knowledge on greenhouse gases to countries in the developing world. Other countries are encouraged to join the Alliance.

An open and transparent trading system also was important to post-2015 development. The further liberalization of agricultural trade under the WTO Doha Round remained a priority. New Zealand also will provide investment for tourism activities in less developed countries in its region. Over the next five years, it will plan to invest in developing tourism

sectors in Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu, and the Cook Islands, to increase tourism-related income, improve returns to businesses, and generate more local employment.

H.E. Mr. Alexey Borodavkin, Permanent Representative of the **Russian Federation** to the United Nations Office at Geneva, said strengthening of scientific and technological cooperation and cross-cultural dialogue should be reflected as one of the priorities in the post-2015 development agenda. Its successful implementation will depend on improving effective cooperation at the international level, use of public-private partnership, and active engagement of small and medium enterprises, civil society, youth and women. Socio-economic threats such as urbanization, poverty reduction and the digital divide could be solved with sustainable models of production and consumption.

He recommended focusing on the activities of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development. Russia offered to hold the next World Summit on the Information Society in 2015 in Sochi to discuss ideas on bridging the digital divide and the role of states in Internet governance and ICT management. While the Internet was vital for information dispersal it was also a threat to security through cyber attacks. Recent bilateral agreements at the June G-8 summit between United States President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin in this area were welcomed.

He emphasized three main components in promoting sustainable and qualitative economic growth in Russia: increasing labor efficiency, infrastructure development and innovations. A concrete measurable goal was established - to add 25 million highly skilled jobs to the Russian labor market within the next few years. New growth in the economy will be in sectors that will eradicate damages done to the environment and enhancing energy efficiency.

The need to continue developing and strengthening the institutions that ensure intellectual property rights is noted with a soon-to-be established Moscow office of the WIPO. Innovation is also part of Russia's effort to develop inter-state socioeconomic cooperation.

Ms. Roxanna de los Santos de Piantini, Deputy Permanent Representative of the **Dominican Republic** to the United Nations Office at Geneva, endorsed the statement made on the behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the statement made on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). The Dominican Republic has a national policy and system for science, technology and innovation to move toward a knowledge-based economy. This was to help tackle challenges such as climate change and food and energy security it faced as a small island state. These goals had been incorporated into law and agreed on by consensus. The efforts sought to create a coherent economy that is innovative and sustainable, and which would competitively engage in the global economy.

With the support of the United Nations Community, North-South Cooperation, South-South Cooperation, and regional mechanisms, the Dominican Republic recently signed an agreement in Medellin for the Inter-American System for Education Innovation, which will create alliances in the region and transform the educational system through better conditions for critical thinking, creativity and innovation in primary schools.

ECOSOC's Commission on Science and Technology for Development is an ideal mechanism to build the capacity to innovate and drive sustainable development. The Dominican Republic has a considerable cultural industry and it is noted that this is the first time this relevant topic had been on the agenda of ECOSOC.

H.E. Mr. Triyono Wibowo, Permanent Representative of **Indonesia** to the United Nations Office at Geneva, endorsed the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the statement made on behalf of the Group of 15. He said that as outlined in Rio+20, integrating science, technology and innovation into development models was central for achieving the Millennium Development Goals in general and for sustainable development.

Aware of the significant impacts of STI on development and the inevitable linkages between STI and other development fields, STI has been integrated into the national development plan with a focus on security, energy, information and communications technology, transportation management and technology, defense and security technology, health and medicine, and advance materials. Expanding investments in STI is another part of the national efforts. The Government maintains its support by giving necessary incentives in furthering research and development and increasing the availability of human resources.

Indonesia reiterates the need to encourage and empower, particularly those living in rural and urban areas, to build technology innovations that are close to their specific needs. Indonesia had worked hard to mainstream innovation and technology into its development agenda, particularly with regard to information and communication tools. Taking into account different country capacities in STI, Indonesia calls for more international cooperation in capacity building, transfer of and equitable access to knowledge and technology to developing countries. Science, technology and innovation should form the basis of the post-2015 development framework.

ECOSOC should use its expertise, knowledge and resources for improved programme and policy development on STI and culture as part of the post-2015 development framework.

H.E. Mr. Mikhail Khvostov, Permanent Representative of **Belarus** to the United Nations Office at Geneva, said ECOSOC should be the leader in implementing the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference. He said he looked forward to the result of discussions on this in the next General Assembly session and to the adoption of the draft resolution to establish a multilateral mechanism to monitor the implementation of outcomes from Rio+20.

International financial institutions, including the IMF and World Bank Group should bear responsibility for the world economic crisis. Belarus saw a necessity in to reform the international financial institutions, which should take into account the structure of new economies and of individual countries in their dealings; and welcome the efforts made by the BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China) countries in this context. A new partnership strategy between Belarus and the World Bank Group for 2014-2017 was welcome, though the introduction of issues into the World Trade Organization accession process and efforts to apply pressure on issues, which were not of an economic nature, undermined trust between countries.

The reports of the Secretary-General were welcomed and the recommendations were noted. Emphasis on youth in scientific research and practice was needed. This would create employment and allow the country to move more rapidly toward sustainable development. Belarus supported the work done on the World Summit for the Information Society and that of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the Commission of Science and Technology for Development.

H.E. Mr. Eviatar Manor, Permanent Representative of **Israel** to the United Nations Office at Geneva said Israel had evolved from a fledgling agricultural society to a technological powerhouse. Without science, technology and innovation there will be no prosperity, stability or security. Consequently, science was inexorably linked to development as it helped provide fundamental elements such as medicine, safe food and clean water for sustainable progress.

Israel noted that entrepreneurship should not be neglected, as it is an important part of ecosystems. Policies adopted had to take into account the entire lifecycle of scientific progress from research to development and diffusion to consumption. Israeli scientists were making progress in sectors of use to the developing world, in particular agricultural science. Recently, an Israeli company developed a solar-powered water purification system. The low-cost, low-maintenance system converts dirty or salty water into drinkable water without the need for advanced infrastructure or external energy sources. Another breakthrough is a mobile-phone imaging system for diagnosing and monitoring malaria. Mr. Manor observed that this would be a welcome technology in Africa.

Israel believes that for development cooperation to work, it is not enough to assist developing countries to acquire new technologies. There must be a focus on capacity building, education and transfer of skills, in order to guarantee sustainable growth. The participation of women also was vital; in particular the role women play in agriculture. Women are the backbone of farming in most of the world and they need to be on the front line of the technological changes that are needed for greater agricultural productivity. Israel believed skills transfer, education and capacity building were key elements of future science/development policy.

H.E. Ms. Victoria Marina Velásquez de Avilés, Permanent Representative of **El Salvador** to the United Nations Office at Geneva, said the focus on liberalizing markets did not support the sharing of technologies, addressing inequality, and sharing the benefits of development. It denied some countries the ability to successfully compete in the globalized economy and to add value to their products alongside decent work and opportunities.

One of the challenges remains achieving access to universal quality education, as well as allowing young people to know their rights and responsibilities. Education required greater commitment than any other development activity. Education is not a specific action at a specific time and should be an ongoing commitment. She supported the choice of the theme, as it was timely. Science, technology, and innovation were essential tools for addressing the main challenges of El Salvador in the twenty-first century, such as poverty and environmental degradation.

El Salvador needs technology to strengthen its economy, promote dynamic transformation, reduce fossil fuel energy consumption, and improve food security. In regard to political will, a new Vice-Ministry of Science and Technology was recently formed under the Ministry of Education. The national agenda for ICT development included professionals being trained overseas in engineering and natural sciences to bring back knowledge. She highlighted the need for a new development model based on persons, in particular young people.

H.E. Mr. Luis Gallegos Chiriboga, Permanent Representative of **Ecuador** to the United Nations Office in Geneva endorsed the statement on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. He said the structural causes of poverty around the world required a new production model that

addresses distribution and consumption. Likewise, Ecuador is changing its model, transforming from primary production to a knowledge-based economy.

The Ambassador called for redoubling efforts to prevent technology from widening the gap between the rich and the poor. While it was a force for good, technology needs controls so that it is not used for violence or warfare. The digital divide also needs to be addressed. He agreed that the limits of the planet should be respected and that Member States have an obligation for environmental conservation.

As for the post-2015 agenda, the goals serve as excellent benchmarks, but what is lacking is the political will to implement them. There must be a return to multilateral cooperation. Ecuador agreed that science, with respect to such important areas as medicine, and culture, and vital concerns as heritage and traditional knowledge, should take a privileged place.

He also saw culture as an integral part of sustainable development and should be part of the post-2015 development agenda. Ecuador is committed to supporting the development of cultural industries.

Ms. Zakia El-Midaoui, Director of Multilateral Cooperation and International Economic Affairs of **Morocco** said technology was developing rapidly and this was deepening the gap between developed and developing countries, as well as the living conditions between rural and urban areas within countries. It is imperative to develop scientific research, to mobilize resources and make better use of trained and skilled workers.

The theme of innovative young entrepreneurs was welcomed and Morocco was one of the first countries developing the community of knowledge and information and supporting innovation in advanced technologies to further the competitiveness of its industries. Morocco is gradually transforming into a technology-producing country.

Since 2009, Morocco adopted two ambitious strategies to support innovation and place it in a suitable position among the technology-producing countries. It is working on creating an economy based on innovation and knowledge, and strengthening its ability to secure investments. In an attempt to support youth, an innovation fund had been created to finance start-ups for young innovative entrepreneurs. It was also hoped to exchange expertise among the Arab States and to develop a joint-action plan on South-South cooperation.

H.E. Ms. Päivi Kairamo, Permanent Representative of **Finland** to the United Nations Office at Geneva, said Finland aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union. She also said that science, technology and innovation could sometimes be perceived as something for experts, but it is important for all society. They are powerful tools for promoting sustainable development and poverty eradication.

To fully harness this, interdisciplinary approaches, including a continuous dialogue between society, scientists and policymakers was vital, and Finland considered itself a leader in this field. In December 2011, Finland established a ‘climate panel’ to enhance science-policy interface and to promote public discussion on climate and energy policy.

Women’s participation was an often overlooked element of the integration of science, technology and innovation, public policy and development models. Women’s access to grants

and research funds is an area where improvement is needed. Improved education was also a basic pillar of science, technology and innovation and to the MDGs.

Finland supports the Secretary-General's report on the importance and transparency of data. In Finland, the Government Programme on Open Data promotes sustainable economic growth, employment and competitiveness by making public information widely available.

H.E. Mr. Adnan Alwosta, Permanent Representative of **Libya** to the United Nations Office at Geneva endorsed the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. He said the Secretary-General's analysis of science, technology and innovation in promoting the Millennium Development Goals was timely and welcomed efforts being made to accelerate achievement as their end point loomed.

Science and technology are catalysts for economic and human development and the implementation of progress and well-being. STI makes it all the more important to receive foreign direct investment to foster knowledge in areas such as administration and strengthening technology. Human capacities also should be developed in all areas of the economy. In terms of technology transfer, cooperation was still insufficient. This needs to be strengthened by overcoming national interests. Pathways to allow society to take advantage of human and natural resources also were needed.

The assessment of culture is important as culture plays a role in fostering development. People needed to be able to express opinions according to their own traditions and customs. A civilized culture that believes and supports various ideas and expressions can also support development. Libya supports safeguarding eco-systems and a green economy. There is a great need to strengthening Libya's institutions as it transitions from post-conflict. The reform of its education sector also is vital.

Mr. Wu Haitao, Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of **China** to the United Nations Office at Geneva, said China endorsed the recommendations in the Report of the Secretary-General. The global financial sector still faced many risks. The financial and economic outlook for the moment did not inspire much confidence.

China recommended that science, technology, innovation and key cultural elements be woven into the fabric of the post-2015 development agenda. It underlined the right of each country to follow its own development path, and respect for sovereignty that underpins all international cooperation.

Technology transfer had to be sped up with the developed countries removing barriers, as well as promoting STI. Structures should be built into international organizations to promote and develop science, technology, innovation and culture. China will provide support to developing countries by fully participating in South-South partnerships to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

H.E. Ms. Carla María Rodríguez Mancía, Permanent Representative of **Guatemala** to the United Nations Office at Geneva endorsed the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the statement made on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). Along with Colombia, Guatemala proposed establishing sustainable development goals based on the outcomes of the Millennium Development Goals, as discussed at RIO + 20.

Guatemala is a middle-income country, which despite challenges, is moving forward on the need to adapt traditional knowledge into new technologies in hopes of achieving sustainable development and creating a more equitable society. Guatemala has a strong record in culture and innovation that enjoys its origins in the Mayan culture. The national competitiveness agenda, the software commission and other bodies also were working to close the gaps in access to information and communication technologies.

This would not be possible without public-private partnerships, along with the cooperation of academia and ordinary citizens. Collaboration had allowed geo-referenced maps to scale crime according to information received from citizens, media and the police. Applications were also being developed to allow better access to health services and emergency response services. The process of strengthening ECOSOC would make it better suited to support sustainable development in a globalized world.

Ms. Sabina Maghanga, Director, Macro Planning Directorate, Ministry of Devolution and Planning, **Kenya**, endorsed the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the statement made on behalf of the G-15. She said science, technology and innovation had been identified as vital drivers across key sectors of Kenya's economy.

The government had initiated measures including institutional and legal reforms aimed at promoting and mainstreaming science, technology and innovation into all its development policies, and had established various research initiatives. Indigenous inventions and technologies will play an important role in their economy. Technology has transformed their agricultural sector by replacing traditional practices, including improvements made in banana farming.

Capacity building and assisting young people and women through education reform also had taken place. Building STI capabilities included allocating resources to give young people and women increased access to education. Kenya is giving priority to mathematics, science and technological education in the primary, secondary and tertiary levels. However, research funding remained at less than one per cent of gross domestic product, in common with many developing nations. She said if the STI and culture collective agenda is to be enhanced, more partnerships at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels are needed and an effective enforcement mechanism to monitor, evaluate and report on STI policies also needed.

H.E. Ms. Zorica Marić-Djordjević, Special Representative to the United Nations Human Rights Council and Permanent Representative of **Montenegro** to the World Trade Organization endorsed the statement given on behalf of the European Union. Montenegro fully supports the participation of women in science and technology. It is important that new technological forms of collaboration as well as methods of sustainable development include women and girls. The value of science, technology and innovation depended upon how it was integrated into national policy and it was recognized that each element played a key role in economic integration.

Strengthening cooperation was important and integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development into future goals was a crucial enabler of success. The government supported strengthening cooperation among international actors and also in utilizing the expertise of the UN system.

Montenegro agreed that the role of ECOSOC in relation to follow up on international summits and reacting to emergency situations needed to be strengthened, while recognizing the increased need of ECOSOC and the UN system to quickly respond to global emergencies and humanitarian crises.

H.E. Ms. Angelica C. Navarro Llanos, Permanent Representative of **Bolivia** to the United Nations Office at Geneva said that Bolivia had broken with the dominant development model and had managed to reduce poverty on an alternative development model of 'living well' based on the original indigenous cultures. This change is characterized by a break from neo-liberalism and recovering sovereignty over their national resources. This new economic model has served to reduce poverty and increase rural development.

The government called for giving value back to traditional knowledge and cultural expressions. This has helped in developing projects so that Bolivia can tackle malnutrition through better access food. Bolivia was active in various scientific projects but called on the developed world to free up barriers on intellectual property and improve technology transfer. Indeed, these standards contradicted the right to development and limited options for public policy. For example, the ownership of certain technologies by a handful of multinational companies was actually harmful to the planet.

Bolivia is opposed to privatizing innovation and knowledge. Open and collaborative research models were available and these were better for the common good. Bolivia was active in promoting its ideas in this area within international organizations and in promoting scientific research in medicine and food. Bolivia rejects the concept of a green economy. This concept is a new model and tool to privatize society. The Government thinks this is counterproductive to sustainable development and eradication of poverty. There are different models available to each country based on their national priorities to achieve sustainable development and every country has the right to choose its best plan.

H.E. Ms. Wafaa Bassim, Permanent Representative of **Egypt** to the United Nations Office at Geneva said Egypt supported the statements made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and on behalf of the Group of 15. Egypt attached great importance to science, technology and innovation, given how these are used to combat poverty and achieve sustainable development and the MDGs. Egypt has witnessed in the past few years changes and transformations in its society. Science and technology were creating an important foundation for jobs, income and development. Technology was now a pre-requisite to provide security in water, food, health, environment and a number of other areas worldwide.

Egypt supported the report of the Secretary-General and the role of science, technology and innovation in the post-2015 agenda. However, there was a knowledge gap between high-income countries and middle and low-income countries. The report stated that despite the increase of international bodies in science and research, the gap still persists between countries at various levels of development. On the whole, high-income countries had better indicators in all areas of development than low-income countries and 70 per cent of all research happened in developed economies.

Egypt highlighted the need for capacity building and technological assistance with no pre-conditions. ECOSOC should strengthen scientific capacities and ensure there is a well-balanced intellectual property system globally in order to live up to the needs of developing countries.

Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri, Deputy Permanent Representative of **India** to the United Nations Office in New York said that science, technology and innovation are critical enablers of development and held the key to the sustainability conundrum plaguing the world.

India said it is imperative for the intellectual property rights regime to balance rewards for innovation with the common good and be development oriented. Access to technology also is central to addressing the critical challenge of energy poverty. The link between energy poverty, income poverty, malnutrition and low health indicators is documented and this empirical overlap is evident in the global achievement map on MDGs. As the Millennium Development Goals deadline approached it was important to think about technology transfer, collaboration and dissemination in an equitable manner under the guidance of the United Nations system.

Today collaboration in technology can have a global impact in a short amount of time. Currently there are 5 billion mobile phone users worldwide and over 2 billion Internet users. The success of ICT and mobile technologies has been possible because of collaboration. Mobile technology developed and applied in the North has spread to the South due to advances in mass production techniques and uniquely innovative business practices in many developing countries.

The parallel focus in the discussion on the contribution that culture made to sustainable development also was welcomed. India agreed with the SG Report that a culturally sensitive approach is needed for the success of development initiatives. An example of how a culture-based approach for building sustainability is India's belief that its culture of frugal living can counter unsustainable practices of overproduction and overconsumption. With its human resource and scientific capacity, India is a willing to partner for redoubling efforts to accelerate achievement of the MDGs and eradicate poverty.

Mr. Shafqat Ali Khan, Deputy Permanent Representative of **Pakistan** to the United Nations Office at Geneva endorsed the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. He noted that the World Bank Group observed that a country's technological achievements correlated to its income level. Barriers to technology transfer therefore remain a concern for a majority of developing countries and patent rights should be more consistent across countries.

Three measures required follow-up from Pakistan's point of view: enhancing modern technological penetration, reducing the cost of renewable technology for energy, and establishing a data revolution for sustainable development.

Pakistan has made significant stride in the use and diffusion of information technology, such as the wide use of cell phones. Delivering mobile services in local languages had created a boom in sales. He also noted the cost of renewable energy infrastructure was exorbitant in comparison to the purchasing power of the developing world. Pakistan supports the Secretary-General's recent initiative on sustainable energy for all.

Ms. Marianne Odette Bibalou, Deputy Permanent Representative of **Gabon** to the United Nations in New York endorsed the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. She said STI are vital tools for development in their country. Gabon had hastened the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by concentrating on three pillars of development: the pillars known as Green Gabon, Industrial Gabon and Services Gabon, to

turn Gabon into an emerging country by 2025. Science, technology and innovation ran through all these sectors and Gabon welcomed the focus in the Council on these issues. Science teaching also has improved in Gabon.

Conservation of forests and protection of the environment are important issues. Protecting cultural heritage also is important and Gabon welcomed the work of UNESCO nationally with respect to national parks. The post-2015 development agenda would need new thinking in all the areas of STI and culture.

Ms. Maria Luisa Escorel de Moraes, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of **Brazil** to the United Nations Office at Geneva, said Brazil endorsed the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the statement on behalf of the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States (CELAC), and saw eradicating poverty and hunger as the overarching goal of this exercise.

Science, technology and innovation were crucial drivers of structural development. However, excessive intellectual property rights requirements could be prohibitive to using technologies to improve the quality of life. A balanced approach was needed between the need for a culture of innovation and national policy space within a friendly environment. This should be addressed at the multilateral level and could be considered in the post-2015 agenda.

Developed countries that had not reached the ODA (official development assistance) target of offering the appropriate percentage of the GDP to developing countries should redouble their efforts to do so. Education played a fundamental role in promoting science, technology and innovation. Brazil has two initiatives that address the role of education in the STI field and stood ready to engage in South-South cooperation with its partner countries.

Representatives of non-governmental organizations who took the floor discussed how science, technology, innovation and culture could be integrated into policymaking and the post-2015 development agenda in a range of areas.

Mr. John Burley, Chargé d'Affaires of the **International Development Law Organization** to the United Nations Office at Geneva, welcomed the chance to bring strengthening of the rule of law with respect to science, technology and innovation, and sustainable development, into the debate. Science, technology and innovation are powerful enablers of development, but often the benefits of progress are not shared fairly and do not necessarily reach those most in need. While there are a variety of reasons for this, a key factor is the lack of enabling legal frameworks at the national and international levels.

Developing countries usually do not possess laws that adequately protect their interests in technology- related areas such as water management and sanitation, energy generation and distribution, seed and plant varieties. Weaknesses in the rule of law impeded sustainable development and technological progress.

An inadequate legal system combined with an insufficient capacity leaves many developing countries only marginally benefiting from advances in STI that could help them confront development challenges. Developing capacity and improving the rule of law must be given higher priority by the international community.

Challenges of environmental degradation, rapid urbanization, conflict, fragility, income inequalities and social exclusion will only be properly met if sustainable development goals are framed by the rule of law and a culture of justice attuned to cultural values, norms and perspectives. It is important that these issues were not left off the table as the debate moved forward.

Mr. Mohamed Seghir Babes, President, **International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS)**, said the Association negotiated with the United Nations University to establish an institute for postgraduate studies and applied research, focusing on the Millennium Development Goals. The challenge to the international community was how to transition to new international targets. He welcomed ideas on how his organization and similar organizations could be given their rightful place to participate in ECOSOC deliberations.

Legion de la Buena Voluntad said that the key to achieving an equitable society was improving educational technology. Their recommendations are based on the best practices of their organization and the topics that were discussed last year at Rio+20. The recommendations are grouped into two pillars: stimulating social and environmental technologies produced by civil society, and; fostering new cultural and scientific paradigms for sustainable development.

The NGO said global society can benefit from socio-environmental technologies, and these technologies should receive more investment from Governments. They recommended the need to engage in more in-depth discussions on scientific practice and its values.

Global Foundation for Democracy and Development said that it was important for new technologies to be integrated into education; an improvement in science education had been seen in the Dominican Republic.

International Council for Scientific Unions said that pursuing a business-as-usual development path would not work, as it would undermine the post-2015 development agenda. Instead, policy makers should embrace a unified framework based on Sustainable Development Goals. New knowledge from research and clean technology are vital parts of the solution to the development and sustainability challenges. Scientific communities worldwide were committed to working with stakeholders and developing sustainable development models that had science, technology and innovation as integral parts.