Draft annotated outline for the Report of the Secretary-General for the 2013 Annual Ministerial Review of UN ECOSOC

I. Introduction

II. The nexus between science, technology and innovation (STI), and culture, the MDGs and sustainable development

WMO: Weather and climate conditions have always influenced and impacted human behaviour, socio-economic activities and the natural environment. As the observing, monitoring and forecasting their evolution has become a very sophisticated and elaborated scientific and technical discipline, with rich interfaces with a growing number of other research and operations areas, the weather, climate and water thematic object is a major element of the above-referred nexus. Moreover, the benefit of investing in the observation, monitoring and forecast of the weather and climate provide an ever growing return in an increasing number of domains which are exemplary to illustrate to the integrated nature of the pillar of sustainable development. This is typically the case of Disaster Risk Reduction, as about 90% of natural disasters are related to weather and/or water extremes and as any disaster risk management strategy or policy has to account and integrate the social dimension, including traditional knowledge, the economic one and the environmental one to be optimal.

A. Science base, technology, innovation and capacity building for sustainable development

a. Science-policy-society interface

WMO: Climate change is one of the major challenges of humanity in the coming decades. The definition of adaptation to and mitigation of climate change requires that the science-policy-society interface exists at all level and works adequately, e.g. is well informed on the possibilities and opportunities offered by science and technology and the use of innovative instruments, but also can lead to actionable measures by well educated and trained people.
The development of the Global Framework for Climate Services, is a UN system-wide contribution in this respect.

b. STI education

WMO: One of the main obstacles to national and local definition and implementation of adequate policies supporting the transition to a sustained development is the lack of appropriate human resources in many countries, especially the developing world. It is crucial that the youth is given the appetite and training to embrace the challenges on the current and future times.

c. Research, monitoring and observations

WMO: We only know what we measure. The world is changing more and more quickly and many respects and directions, the climate issue being only of them,

but also an integrated consequence of the others, like demography, land use, urbanization and energy consumption to name but a few.
It is thus imperative that investments research, monitoring and observation are maintained and even increased has a key success factor in the transition toward a more sustainable development.

d. Science diplomacy

WMO: Meteorology has been for over 140 years an exemplary domain of international cooperation, where data, information and knowledge is openly shared worldwide. Other domains might benefit from a similar paradigm.

e. Culture of science

f. Access, usage and application of technology information

WMO: In the domain of weather, climate and water, IT is supporting and benefiting to a wide spectrum of activities and applications, from creation and sharing od data and information to the end-user delivery of tailored products and services. In the domain of DRR, early warnings, which contribute to save a growing number of lives and properties in a changing climate producing more frequent intense atmospheric and oceanic conditions, heavily rely on IT to provide end-to-end applications.

g. STI policies

B. Culture and the role of the creative sector in supporting sustainable development

C. The changing geography and models of innovation
   a. New players in STI (BRICs, etc.)
   b. Internationalization of R&D and innovation
   c. New models of innovation (open innovation, networked innovation)
   d. Sectoral distinctions (ICTs, green technologies, pharma and medical technologies)

III. Shaping the course of development: the role of STI

A. Filling the MDGs Gap
   a. Mainstreaming STI to support achievement of the MDGs

B. Integrating STI and sustainable development
   a. Integrating STI to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
   b. Focus on new and/or priority challenges (clean energy, water technologies, technology for food security, non-communicable diseases)

C. Improving the application of STI for the post-2015 development agenda

D. Strengthening multi-stakeholder collaboration and building partnerships
   a. Private sector

b. Public-private partnerships (especially those supporting transfer of technology and know-how as well as adaption and dissemination of tech)

IV. Shaping the course of development: the potential of culture

A. Filling the MDGs Gap
   a. Mainstreaming culture to support the achievement of the MDGs

B. Integrating culture and sustainable development
   a. Integrating culture to support the Sustainable Development Goals
   b. Public-private partnerships (especially those supporting transfer of technology and know-how as well as adaption and dissemination of tech)

C. Incorporating culture into the post-2015 development agenda

D. Strengthening multi-stakeholder collaboration and building partnerships
   a. Private sector
   b. Public-private partnerships

V. An enabling environment for transformative change in society towards sustainable development through STI and culture

A. National level
   a. Improved coordination among multiple actors providing technical advice and assistance

B. Regional Level
   a. Regional technology markets
   b. South-South cooperation, especially on technology transfer

C. International level
   a. Improving measurement of STI, including through WIPO Global Innovation Index

VI. Toward coherent policy and action frameworks: the role of the ECOSOC System

VII. Recommendations