World Bank Group note for 2013 ECOSOC AMR Report input

The World Bank has a number of initiatives in the areas of education, sustainable development and knowledge which intersect the areas of science, technology, innovation (STI) and culture, the theme of the 2013 ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review (AMR).

Firstly, there are a number of education initiatives in which the World Bank is working that address issues of science, technology and innovation with a view to reduce poverty and foster shared prosperity. This includes the case of the African Centers of Excellence (ACE), a project which aims to promote regional specialization among participating universities within areas that address particular common regional development challenges and strengthen the capacity of those institutions to deliver high quality education to a regional student body, as well as applied research. In the first phase, this project is being implemented in Central and Western Africa, but the intention is to expand it to include other regions in the continent. ACE's initiative could be utilized as a good case in point in relationship to the section on "Nexus between science, technology, innovation and culture and the MDGs and SD" since it responds to demands for strengthening science and technology for social development while recognizing the realities of limited financial and human resources in a regional context.

Another initiative which also addresses the section on "enabling environment for transformative change through STI & culture" is the one related to institutional transformation being fostered in some countries. A good example is the Performance Incentive Program (MECESUP) being established in Chile with support from the World Bank. During a period of 10 years, this project has enabled a variety of higher education institutions to better adjust their science and technology activities in connection with the real needs for regional development. Institutions such as Universidad de la Frontera, in the Mapuche indigenous region of Chile, have dramatically transformed their research agenda towards the needs of the surrounding community, while respecting the unique cultural diversity of the region.

Moreover, approaches for green innovation and industrial policies also address transformative change through STI & culture. The 2012 World Bank Inclusive Green Growth report highlights the need to invest in frontier innovation through research and development while encouraging ongoing adaptation and dissemination of existing technologies. Green frontier innovation is growing fairly rapidly to commercialize new ways of solving environmental problems through technological improvements and can include examples such as the *Aakash Ganga* where in Rajasthan, India, rainwater harvesting systems have been modernized to collect safe drinking water and have spurred innovations including automation of traditional surveying systems with satellite imaging and creation of a numbering plan for reservoirs.

More information on frontier innovation, technology dissemination and the adoption of greener, more efficient technologies can be located in Chapter 3 of the 2012 *Inclusive Green Growth* report: (www.worldbank.org/inclusivegreengrowth) and Chapter 7 of the 2010 *World Development Report on Development and Climate Change:* (http://wdronline.worldbank.org/worldbank/a/c.html/world_development_report_2010/abstract/WB.978-0-8213-7987-5.abstract).

Finally, the World Bank Institute (WBI), in collaboration with the Bank's Sustainable Development Network (SDN), has produced an Open Development Technology Alliance (ODTA) which aims to enhance accountability and improve the delivery and quality of public services through technology-enabled citizen engagement—for e.g. using mobile phones, interactive-mapping and social media. The platform aims to give voice to citizens, and improve accountability feedback loops around public services by

synthesizing knowledge products, brokering expert connections and facilitating the co-creation and spread of ICT tools. The platform is organized around three core areas: knowledge, people and tools. This represents a key way to leverage technology "to listen at scale" and be more responsive to end-users (citizens in this case). More information about the platform, community and tools including papers, case studies and how-to-notes can be found at the ODTA site: www.http://odta.net.

The World Bank Human Development Network (HDN), SDN and WBI teams would be happy to interact further with the Report Team and share additional information. For more information, please contact:

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