ECOSOC Resolution 2005/52

Science and technology for development

The Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its theme "Science and technology promotion, advice and application for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration",

Taking note of initiatives that call for substantial support for institutes of higher education and centres of excellence in developing countries, particularly in Africa, such as that of the Commission for Africa,[1]

Expressing its appreciation for the support provided to the Commission by donors including the generous financial contributions of the Governments of Italy and Pakistan to the network of centres of excellence to be established, as well as the financial support provided by Austria to expand the Internet connectivity benchmarking tool and the financial and technical support provided by the Centre for Information Technology of the state of Geneva to assist the least developed countries for building capacity in information and communication technologies,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 58/200 of 23 December 2003, in which the relevant bodies of the United Nations system engaged in biotechnology were urged to work cooperatively so as to ensure that countries received sound scientific information and practical advice to enable them to take advantage of those technologies, as appropriate, to promote economic growth and development,

1. *Takes note* of the findings contained in the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its eighth session[2] and of the following recommendations of the Commission at its eighth session, and invites Governments to review these recommendations and to consider implementing them as they deem appropriate:

(a) Ensure that science, technology and innovation strategies are incorporated in international and national development strategies, especially those addressing the Millennium Development Goals and that science and technology education and research and technology are a major part of these strategies and are funded adequately;

(b) Support venture capital and encourage the establishment of business incubators and science and technology parks and, at the same time, strengthen linkages between public research and private industry and tap into regional and international research and development networks;

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[1] See commissionforafrica.org.

[2] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 11* (E/2005/31), chap. I.A, draft resolution, annex.

(c) Create innovative compensation and reward structures to promote research and innovation directed towards solving development problems aligned with national objectives in such areas as agriculture, health, the environment, the mitigation of natural disasters and the protection of traditional knowledge;

(d) Strengthen science and technology educational systems, including through strong gender policies ensuring equal access to technological and scientific studies, appropriate funding, the introduction of entrepreneurial skills and attention to relevant intellectual property rights issues, and provide science and technology graduates with incentives and resources for starting innovative enterprises, with a view to improving gainful employment;

(e) Ensure that adequate funding is allocated for the infrastructure for science and technology development, taking into account national needs for technological upgrading and development and providing a favourable working environment for scientists and researchers to attract and keep them in their home countries;

(f) Involve representatives from industry, academia and public sectors in carrying out a comprehensive technology foresight exercise with the purpose of identifying technologies that are likely to help address pressing socio-economic issues, and establish priorities accordingly in science and technology policy and governmental programmes on research and education;

(g) Encourage the design and implementation of science and technology systems targeted at the poor and at adapting conventional science and technologies, such as those of the green revolution, as well as emerging technologies, such as information and communication technologies and biotechnology;

(h) Promote international cooperation and establish linkages aimed at sharing experiences and forging partnerships for the provision of financial assistance and expertise with a view to maximizing coverage of the socio-economic benefits of the progress achieved by modern science and technology;

2. *Decides* to make the following recommendations to the Commission, by which the Commission, within its existing mandate and within existing resources or through extrabudgetary resources, is:

(a) Encouraged to facilitate the establishment of a network of centres of excellence in developing countries with a view to allowing scientists and engineers to interact with each other and make use of state-of-the-art teaching and research facilities offered by these centres;

(b) Requested to collect and compile case studies of successful experiences and best practices in science, technology and innovation that showcase their positive impact on the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,[3] with a view to evaluating and benchmarking national science and technology policies;

[3] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

(c) Requested to further develop its Internet connectivity benchmarking tool, using extrabudgetary sources;

(d) Encouraged to continue providing its expertise and analytical skills for science, technology and innovation policy reviews aimed at providing information-based policy recommendations to assist developing countries with their specific needs and circumstances;

New substantive theme and other activities

Recognizing that science and technology are essential in the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and that many developing countries will need to enhance their capacity to harness the benefits of technology,

Welcoming the proposal to establish an informal working group for Africa as part of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to address science and technology issues for Africa,

Endorses the decision of the Commission to select as its substantive theme for the intersessional period 2005-2006 “Bridging the technology gap between and within nations” and that specific emphasis should be placed on multi-stakeholder partnerships not only for bridging the technology gap but also to prevent it from growing wider; in this regard, the Commission will identify and address concrete aspects of this theme in cooperation with experts at its forthcoming panel meeting.

40th plenary meeting
27 July 2005