CSTD input on STI to MDGs for 2013 ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review

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Science, Technology and Innovation in the MDGs

Millennium Development Goals – 8 Goals, 15 Targets

To be achieved by 2015, targets using 1990 as baseline

UN Millennium Project – 10 Task Forces

Develop concrete action plan for implementation

Task Force 10 on Science Technology & Innovation

CSTD Input from 8/9 session-Chairman was a member of TF

S, T & I found to have a role in reaching many of the goals

Health (better medicines), poverty (innovations, employment, incomes), education (new technologies), environment

C.Juma and Y-C.Lee, 2005, "Innovation: Applying Knowledge in Development"– Comprehensive study on S,T & I for MDGs

Can Science, Technology and Innovation help?

Shown that between 1950-2000, S, T & I. helped to :

  (i)   Raise life expectancy from 50 to 64 years;

  (ii)   Reduce infant mortality from 13% to 6%;

  (iii) Improved access to safe water from 35% to 65%;

  (iv) Raise literacy rate up from less than 50% to 70%;

  (v)   Improved living standards for billions of people.

W. C. Clark, "Energy and Sustainability Science", Intnl Conf. on S & T for Sustainability, Tokyo, December 2003

UN Millennium Project - Composite document

Jeffrey Sachs, 2005, Investing in Development, Millennium Project

Listed ten key recommendations

Recommendations 2 and 9 related to S, T and I

MDG Progress to 2011, 4 years before target

UN MDG Progress Report 2011-a more gloomy picture

Despite real progress, has not reached the most vulnerable.

(i)   Poorest children - slowest progress in improved nutrition;

(ii) Opportunities for full/productive employment slim for women;

(iii) Being poor, female or living in a conflict zone increases the probability that a child will be out of school;

(iv) Advances in sanitation often bypass poor and rural areas;

(v)   Improving lives of growing number of urban poor a challenge;

(vi) Progress uneven in improving access to safe drinking water.

http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/11_MDG%20Report_EN.pdf

Has S,T & I helped to achieve MDGs ?

Not to a significant level

CSTD recommended target of 1% of GDP on R&D

- Few developing countries able to invest 1% on R & D
- Most give low priority to investment on S,T and I
  - Not surprising – no immediate returns

Human capacity in S,T&I low in developing countries

- Needed even to absorb, let alone develop technology
- Higher education not in MDGs –only primary education

Improved S&T infrastructure – global partnership ?

Achievements in ICT

- Principally in mobile telephony, driven by private sector
- Internet penetration 21% in developing, 3% in LDCs (2010)

Improved Goals/Targets post 2015

Uniform targets problematic

- Maternal deaths SriLanka 60/100k to 15 less than the West
- Sub-Saharan Africa 870 to 218 – heavy investment needed

Themes sometimes arbitrary

- Gender ratio why only in education – jobs, income ?

More focused S, T & I interventions

- Improve capacity to absorb technology
- Enhance employment in manufacturing industry