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Review of methods of work of the Commission

Methods of work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

1. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2006/46, on “Follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development”, welcomed the multi-stakeholder participation in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and its follow-up as “a constructive way of dealing with present and future challenges in building the information society”.
2. In this connection, the Council decided that “while using the multi-stakeholder approach effectively, the intergovernmental nature of the Commission should be preserved”.
3. The Council further made provisions¹ for the modalities of participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society entities, not in consultative status with the Council, but which received accreditation to WSIS, in the tenth and eleventh sessions of the Commission, as well as provisions for the modalities of participation of business sector entities including the private sector, in particular those that received accreditation to the Summit, in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD).
4. In 2007, upon recommendation from the tenth session of the Commission, the Economic and Social Council adopted two decisions: (a) “Participation of business sector entities, including the private sector, in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development” (2007/216); and (b) “Participation of non-governmental organizations and civil society entities in the tenth and eleventh sessions of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development” (2007/215).
5. In 2008, upon recommendation from the eleventh session of the CSTD, the Economic and Social Council adopted two decisions: (a) “Participation of non-

¹ Paragraph 16, E/2006/46.

governmental organizations and civil society entities in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its twelfth and thirteenth sessions” (2008/217); and (b) “Participation of academic entities in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development” (2008/218).

6. In 2010, upon recommendation from the thirteenth session of the CSTD, the Economic and Social Council adopted three decisions: (a) “Participation of non-governmental organizations and civil society entities in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (2010/226); (b) “Participation of academic entities in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development” (2010/227); and (c) “Participation of business sector entities, including the private sector, in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development” (2010/228).

7. These three decisions extended the current arrangements for the participation of non-State actors in the work of the Commission until 2011. These include academic entities, business sector entities, including the private sector, as well as NGOs and civil society entities that were not in consultative status with the Council but that had received accreditation to the WSIS.

8. The Commission decided at its thirteenth session, held 17–21 May 2010, that it would review the benefits of participation of these stakeholders in the work of the Commission and recommend to the Council appropriate steps during the fourteenth session of the CSTD.
