



Economic and Social Council

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Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Fifteenth session

Geneva, 21–25 May 2012

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Provisional annotated agenda and organization of work

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters
2. Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes at the regional and international levels
3. Priority themes:
 - (a) Innovation, research, technology transfer for mutual advantage, entrepreneurship and collaborative development in the information society
 - (b) Open access, virtual science libraries, geospatial analysis and other complementary information and communications technology and science, technology, engineering and mathematics assets to address development issues, with particular attention to education
4. Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews
5. Election of the Chair and other officers for the sixteenth session of the Commission
6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the sixteenth session of the Commission
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifteenth session

Annotations

Item 1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

1. Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the Commission, at the beginning of each session, shall adopt the agenda of the session on the basis of the provisional agenda. The provisional agenda and documentation for the fifteenth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development were approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2011/240 of 26 July 2011.

2. In accordance with the established practice, the Commission, at its fourteenth session on 27 May 2011, elected by acclamation the Bureau of the fifteenth session, as follows:

Chair: Mr. Fortunato de la Peña (Philippines)
Vice-Chairs: Ms. Sherry Ayithey (Ghana)
Mr. Miguel Palomino de la Gala (Peru)
Mr. Andrew Reynolds (United States of America)

3. At the first meeting of its fifteenth session, on 21 May 2012, the Commission will be called upon to elect Mr. Peter Major (Hungary) who has been nominated by the group of Eastern European States for the post of the Vice-Chair. As at previous sessions of the Commission, one of the Vice-Chairs will be designated to also serve as Rapporteur.

4. The proposed organization of work of the Commission at its fifteenth session (see annex I) has been prepared pursuant to relevant decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to facilitate the consideration of agenda items within the time-frame available and in accordance with the conference services allocated to the Commission. The timetable should be considered tentative and indicative; if the Commission completes its consideration of an item ahead of schedule, it may wish to proceed immediately to the next item.

5. The Commission is scheduled to meet from Monday to Friday, 21 to 25 May 2012. The morning meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the afternoon meetings from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

6. The current membership of the Commission is contained in annex II for information.

Documentation

E/CN.16/2012/1 Provisional annotated agenda and organization of work

Item 2. Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes at the regional and international levels

7. The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on behalf of the United Nations, took place in two phases: in 2003 in Geneva, and 2005 in Tunis. In the Geneva Declaration of Principles, the first phase of the WSIS¹ adopted a common vision and commitment to building a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society. The second phase of the Summit, at Tunis, endorsed the

¹ The outcome documents are available at: <http://www.itu.int/wsisis/>.

outcomes of the first phase and adopted a Commitment and an Agenda for the Information Society, which addressed, inter alia, the themes of financial mechanisms and Internet governance.

8. The Economic and Social Council was requested by the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society to oversee the United Nations system-wide follow-up of the outcomes of the Geneva and Tunis Phases of the Summit. To this end, the Council was requested to review the mandate of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), including its strengthening, taking into account the multi-stakeholder approach.²

9. In its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006, entitled “Follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development”, the Economic and Social Council decided that the CSTD shall effectively assist the Council as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the outcomes of the WSIS and advise the Council thereon, including through recommendations to the Council aimed at furthering the implementation of the Summit outcomes.

10. In its resolution 2007/8 of 25 July 2007 on “Flow of information for the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society”, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to annually inform the Commission on the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS, including all e-applications. In this connection, the Council requested the United Nations organizations acting as action line facilitators, United Nations regional commissions, main theme facilitators, the Global Alliance for Information and Communications Technologies and Development, and other entities, as appropriate, to submit to the secretariat of the Commission their respective reports as inputs towards the elaboration of the annual report of the Secretary-General to the Commission.

11. The Report of the Secretary-General³ on Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes at the regional and international levels aims to provide an overview of the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of WSIS at the regional and international levels, highlighting examples of good and effective practices, with a view to sharing best and effective practices and lessons learned. It draws on the findings and recommendations of the Commission’s panel discussion held in Manila, Philippines, in December 2011, on inputs by the United Nations entities and specialized agencies and on other relevant literature. The Commission will review and assess progress made on the implementation of WSIS outcomes at regional and international levels, as requested by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2006/46.

12. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/2, the Chair of the CSTD established in 2010 a Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum (IGF). The Working Group held two meetings in 2011. The wealth of information and the complexity and political sensitivity of the subject as well as a divergence of views among members of the Working Group on a number of concrete proposals did not, within the short time frame that it had, allow the Working Group to finalize a set of recommendations, as appropriate, on improving the Forum.

13. In its resolution 2011/16 adopted on 26 July 2011, the Council agreed to extend the mandate of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum until the fifteenth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, and invites it to complete its task on the basis of the

² Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, para. 105.

³ A/67/66-E/2012/49.

work already accomplished. It urged that the Working Group be reconvened at the earliest possible time to enable timely submission of its recommendations to the Commission at its fifteenth session, which shall constitute an input from the Commission to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council.

14. Mr. Fortunato de la Peña, Chair of the CSTD, designated Mr. Peter Major (Hungary) as the Chair, and Mr. Vijaya Kumar (Sri Lanka) as the Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum. The Working Group held three sessions in Geneva as follows: 31 October–2 November 2011, 11–13 January and 20–22 February 2012. Outcome of these meetings will be summarized in a Report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum, to be before the fifteenth session of the Commission.

15. In its resolution 66/184 on “Information and communications technologies for development”, the General Assembly invited the Chair of the CSTD to convene a “one-day open, inclusive and interactive meeting, involving all Member States and other stakeholders, particularly those from developing countries, including the private sector, civil society and international organizations, with a view to identifying a shared understanding about enhanced cooperation on public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, in accordance with paragraphs 34 and 35 of the Tunis Agenda”. Pursuant to this request, a meeting will be organized on Friday, 18 May 2012, in Geneva. The outcome of the discussion will be presented to the fifteenth session of the Commission the following week.

Documentation

A/67/66–E/2012/49	Report of the Secretary-General on Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes at the regional and international levels
A/67/65–E/2012/48	Report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum
E/CN.16/2012/CRP.1	Report on the intersessional panel meeting

Item 3. Priority themes:

(a) Innovation, research, technology transfer for mutual advantage, entrepreneurship and collaborative development in the information society

(b) Open access, virtual science libraries, geospatial analysis and other complementary information and communications technology and science, technology, engineering and mathematics assets to address development issues, with particular attention to education

16. In paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of its resolution 2006/46, the Economic and Social Council has requested that the Commission follow a multi-year work programme underpinned by a strong development orientation, and provided a number of themes. The Commission decided to focus in each biennium on a specific theme related to the building of the information society, with a view to narrowing the digital divide, and to examine, within its original mandate, the implications of science and technology for development.

17. The themes addressed by the Commission within the framework of its multi-year work programme are:

- (a) Innovation, research, technology transfer for mutual advantage, entrepreneurship and collaborative development in the information society; and
- (b) Open access, virtual science libraries, geospatial analysis and other complementary information and communications technology and science, technology, engineering and mathematics assets to address development issues, with particular attention to education.

18. In order to contribute to a further understanding of these themes, and to assist the Commission in its deliberations at its fifteenth session, a panel meeting was convened in Manila, Philippines, from 13 to 15 December 2011. The report from the panel discussion will be before the Commission.⁴

Documentation

E/CN.16/2012/2	Report of the Secretary-General on Innovation, research, technology transfer for mutual advantage, entrepreneurship and collaborative development in the information society
E/CN.16/2012/3	Report of the Secretary-General on Open access, virtual science libraries, geospatial analysis and other complementary information and communications technology and science, technology, engineering and mathematics assets to address development issues, with particular attention to education
E/CN.16/2012/CRP.1	Report on the intersessional panel meeting

Item 4. Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews

19. In its resolution 2009/8, entitled “Science and technology for development”, the Economic and Social Council extended its appreciation to UNCTAD for undertaking science, technology and innovation policy reviews, and encouraged UNCTAD to continue providing its expertise and analytical skills for science, technology and innovation policy (STIP) reviews

20. In its resolution 2011/17, the Economic and Social Council encouraged the Commission to facilitate new STIP reviews, in close collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Bank and other relevant international development banks and institutions, and consider new modalities to monitor progress for their implementation. In particular, the Council encouraged the Commission to identify opportunities and best practices and synergies in and between e-science, e-engineering and e-education programmes worldwide in the course of performing STIP reviews. Further, it requested the Commission to complete and disseminate the new science, technology and innovation policy methodology guidelines and share outcomes and best practices resulting from their implementation.

21. The Commission will hear presentations on science, technology and innovation policy reviews.

⁴ E/CN.16/2012/CRP1.

Item 5. Election of the Chair and other officers for the sixteenth session of the Commission

22. Following the established practice, the Commission will elect the Chair and the four Vice-Chairs for the sixteenth session at the end of the fifteenth session. One of the Vice-Chairs will also serve as the Rapporteur.

Item 6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the sixteenth session of the Commission

23. In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its sixteenth session, together with an indication of the documentation to be submitted for its consideration.

Item 7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifteenth session

24. In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions, the Commission shall submit to the Economic and Social Council a report on the work of its fifteenth session.

Annex I

Proposed organization of work

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Agenda item/discussion topic</i>	<i>Programme</i>
<i>Monday, 21 May</i>		
10 a.m.	Ceremonial opening 1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters 2. Introduction of the report of the Secretary-General on Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes at the regional and international levels Ministerial round table on “Review of progress made in the implementation of WSIS outcomes”	<i>Opening statements</i> <i>Adoption of the agenda and organization of work</i> <i>Introduction and general discussion</i>
3 p.m.	Ministerial round table on “Harnessing science and technology to address development challenges”	<i>Introductory and general discussion</i>
<i>Tuesday, 22 May</i>		
10 a.m.	2. Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes at the regional and international levels <i>Report of the Working Group on the improvements to the Internet Governance Forum</i>	<i>Introduction and general discussion</i>
3 p.m.	2. Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes at the regional and international levels <i>Briefing by the Chair of CSTD on enhanced cooperation</i>	<i>Introduction and general discussion</i>

Wednesday, 23 May

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| 10 a.m. | 3. Priority themes:
(a) Innovation, research, technology transfer for mutual advantage, entrepreneurship and collaborative development in the information society | <i>Introduction and general discussion</i> |
| 3 p.m. | (b) Open access, virtual science libraries, geospatial analysis and other complementary information and communications technology and science, technology, engineering and mathematics assets to address development issues, with particular attention to education | <i>Introduction and general discussion</i> |

Thursday, 24 May

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| 10 a.m. | 4. Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovation policy reviews | <i>Introduction followed by an interactive dialogue, followed by informal consultations on draft proposals</i> |
| 3 p.m. | | <i>Informal consultations on draft proposals - continued</i> |

Friday, 25 May

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| 10 a.m.
and
3 p.m. | 5. Election of the Chair and other officers for the sixteenth session of the Commission | <i>Informal consultations on draft proposals (as required)</i>
<i>Election of officers</i> |
| | 6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the sixteenth session of the Commission | <i>Action on draft proposals</i>
<i>Adoption of the draft provisional agenda</i> |
| | 7. Adoption of the report of the Commission at its fifteenth session | <i>Adoption of the report</i> |

Closure of the session

Annex II**Membership of the Commission on Science and Technology
for Development at its fifteenth session****(43 members; four-year term)**

<i>Membership in 2011</i>	<i>Term expires on 31 December</i>
1. Austria	2012
2. Bulgaria	2014
3. Brazil	2012
4. Chile	2012
5. China	2014
6. Costa Rica	2012
7. Cuba	2014
8. Democratic Republic of the Congo	2012
9. Dominican Republic	2014
10. El Salvador	2014
11. Equatorial Guinea	2012
12. Finland	2012
13. France	2014
14. Ghana	2012
15. Hungary	2014
16. India	2014
17. Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2014
18. Israel	2012
19. Jamaica	2012
20. Jordan	2012
21. Latvia	2014
22. Lesotho	2014
23. Mali	2012
24. Malta	2014
25. Mauritius	2014
26. Oman	2012
27. Pakistan	2012
28. Peru	2014
29. Philippines	2014
30. Portugal	2012
31. Russian Federation	2012
32. Rwanda	2014
33. Saudi Arabia	2014
34. Slovakia	2012
35. South Africa	2012
36. Sri Lanka	2012
37. Sweden	2014
38. Switzerland	2012
39. Togo	2014
40. Tunisia	2014
41. Turkey	2014
42. United Republic of Tanzania	2014
43. United States of America	2014