



American Model United Nations

Committee for Development Policy

**Report to the Committee for Development
Policy on Science, technology and innovation for
sustainable development**

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1 Executive Summary

2 1.1 Executive Summary

3 The Committee on Development Policy Expert Group (CDPEG) is pleased to present to the Economic
4 and Social Council (ECOSOC) its final report on the topic of Science, Technology, Innovation for Sustainable
5 Development. The report incorporates a combination of deliberations from three working groups, as well as a
6 resolution recommended by the expert group for consideration by ECOSOC.

7 For the purpose of deliberations the discussions began in formal debate and consultative session and three
8 main sub-topics were subsequently suggested. These three informal sub-topics include: create a set of STI-specific
9 standards for policy-making; assist developing countries in finding meaningful use of technology; and develop strate-
10 gies and ideas to support the sharing of crucial STI information between Member States.

11 In discussions the working groups sought to collaborate and communicate to allow further sharing of ideas.
12 Out of these collaborations, the groups passed Resolution II/1, for consideration by ECOSOC, calling for action
13 on the restructuring of intellectual property rights (IPR) with concern to sustainable development. The resolution
14 came out the informal working group on subtopic two addressing how to best assist developing countries in finding
15 meaningful uses of technology. It seeks to specifically address sustainability in both the economic and environmental
16 sense. Secondly, there was discussion among experts of a second resolution draft addressing education in developing
17 countries. It has been included for review, but was not passed by the CDPEG.

18 Subsequently, the second chapter of the report includes the summary of the deliberations of all three subtopic
19 working groups and covers the deliberations and proceeding of the CDPEG more broadly as well. The three sections
20 of deliberations are viewed by the CDPEG as interconnected, thus these subsections of deliberations were created
21 for efficiency rather than as restrictive categories.

22 2 Matters calling for action

23 2.1 CDP II/1

24 *Alarmed* by the effect that man-made climate change has had on the planet,

25 *Confident* that the Earth can not endure non-sustainable industrialization like that of the first wave of
26 industrialization occurring in the 19th and 20th centuries,

27 *Noting* that the use of fossil fuels has had a negative impact on mean global temperatures,

28 *Bearing in mind* that immediate action is required in order to meet the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement,

29 *Emphasizing* that sustainable development and action against climate change requires coordinated action by
30 all Members States,

31 *Understanding* that intellectual property rights (IPRs), especially in certain industries, can take a significant
32 amount of capital to create and that incentivizing the continued creation of IPRs is key to the progress of all countries
33 of the world,

34 *Further noting* that in order to spur the creation of IPRs temporary monopoly periods held by IPR creators
35 are necessary,

36 *Observing* that creators of monopolies can abuse their IPRs and gouge consumers,

37 *Confident* that the diffusion and sharing of intellectual property rights spurs further technological develop-
38 ment and innovation,

39 *Acknowledging* the sovereignty of all member states in determining their IPR laws,

40 1. *Recommends* that Member States speed up the rate at which IPRs are released to the public domain;

41 2. *Further recommends* that Member States with IPRs pertaining to action against climate change share
42 these IPRs as soon as possible without hindering their creation, as climate change is a major issue facing science,
43 technology, and innovation in sustainable development;

44 3. *Suggests* that Member States evaluate the length of monopoly rights for IPRs and take an industry by
45 industry approach in accordance with private corporations will owning those rights;

46 4. *Recommends* that States take action against abuses of intellectual property rights that impose excessive
47 costs upon consumers;

48 5. *Suggests* further improvement upon existing global relationships to encourage the sharing of adequate and
49 appropriate resources to serve as stepping stones for populations in need to better assess their innovative capacities;

50 6. *Further suggests* enhancement of those initiatives in the direction of a people to people relation;

51 7. *Encourages* all Member States to support the investment of local populations in innovating in ways to
52 manage waste and recycling at the local, regional and national level;

53 8. *Encourages* the increased use of and further development of multinational research centers, and university
54 partnerships to share technical training with the aim of tackling sustainable development goals.

55 3 Consideration of the status

56 3.1 Deliberations

57 I. Creating a set of STI-specific standards for policy-making

58 In the creation of STI-specific policy, the Working Group stressed the importance of considering a multi-
59 aspect approach. This included the facilitation of scientific and technological capabilities, the construction of a
60 framework for inter-institutional collaborations, improvement in infrastructure for the furtherment of Science Tech-
61 nology and Innovation (STI), promotion of a wider culture surrounding STI, and the trade and export of STI for
62 greater competition.

63 A strong emphasis was directed towards the needs of developing countries in the extraction and production of
64 raw materials. In such considerations, it is important that policy measures promote the refinement of raw materials in
65 the countries in which they are extracted as to reduce the exploitative nature of many economic and trade structures
66 in STI. Ghana specifically mentioned the importance of this policy in terms of oil and other raw materials in Least
67 Developed Countries (LDC's) and developing countries.

68 It is the recommendation of this expert group that governments should seek to structure their policies in
69 pursuit of more open access to internet as to promote the sharing of information and further education. Another
70 important consideration addressed by the working group included the formation of policy in the service and promotion
71 of human rights and basic needs. Needs were specifically brought up in terms of access to water, clean air, shelter,
72 and security. The body of experts also recommends that Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) refer to the World
73 Health Organization (WHO) in the creation of policy that seeks to promote international health standards.

74 In regards to accessibility, the body of experts acknowledged the notable strides that have been made
75 specifically in rural areas to provide internet through "hot-spots". There was also general agreement that the concerns
76 of indigenous groups should be included in the promotion of Information Communication Technology (ICT). These
77 considerations are especially relevant when preserving elements of cultural heritage, specifically language. Consulting
78 with United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in addressing these concerns in
79 policy-making is of the utmost importance to the experts.

80 Additionally, the Working Group expressed the importance of varying regional concerns especially in terms of
81 climate-relevant technology. Some examples of this may include, water preservation in deserts, monitoring technology
82 for rising sea levels in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and the use of solar, hydro, and wind power in
83 consideration of geographically specific characteristics.

84 Relating, but not limited to the SDG's 7, 11, 12, and 15, this expert group discussed promoting sustainable
85 energy solutions and policies that support the combat of climate change within the field of STI's. This is not
86 only an issue for developing countries with a high reliance on fossil fuels and natural resources for trade but also for
87 industrialized and developed countries. Currently forty-percent of the worlds greenhouse gases are emitted by cement
88 and energy production in China. In addition to encouraging sharing of information, this expert group believes that
89 policy shifts toward alternative energy solutions for sustainable development would be highly beneficial. Delegates
90 may look toward the case study of Costa Rica, which is currently leading the world in sustainability. Ninety-four
91 percent of energy production in Costa Rica is alternative with the goal of being 100% sustainable by 2025. An
92 expert witness testified to this body that the conservation strategy for sustainable development includes a national
93 development plan, which is re-evaluated every 4 years. This plan includes rewarding the population of Costa Rica
94 for planting trees and protecting the natural environment, subsidizing the agricultural platform, and the national
95 creation of "green-driven" bodies. This body would encourage that the United Nation delegates look to Costa Rica's
96 policies in crafting sustainable solutions for future policy making in turning to sustainable energy and protection
97 of our environment. As reiterated in previous deliberations and draft resolutions, climate change is an ongoing
98 problem which this body believes must be addressed as we look at policies toward expanding science, technology,
99 and innovation to further development worldwide.

100 The expert body suggested the importance of a partnership model between the various economic sectors
101 recognizing state sovereignty in this aspect of policy decisions. Furthermore, the importance of differing regulatory
102 approaches was addressed, specifically between small and medium enterprises (SME's) and larger or multinational
103 enterprises. The working group suggested that ECOSOC encourage an approach to policy which allows for the

104 development of SMEs and emphasizes their role in the creation of technological centers of development. Such efforts
105 were specifically noted in the creation of "Silicon Savannah".

106 Finally, the expert body would like to stress the importance of agricultural and food security concerns in STI
107 policy standards. The experts specifically sought to highlight the importance of policy promoting information sharing
108 in regards to best practices in agricultural development, holding in balance economic and sustainability concerns as
109 important priorities. Experts from the UK and Germany suggested the further exploration of hydroponic agricultural
110 methods as a possible avenue for progress.

111 II. Assisting developing countries in finding meaningful and sustainable use of technology

112 A top priority is deciding ways to make STI (science and technology innovation) development more inclusive
113 and accessible to all United Nations Member States by strengthening dialogue among stakeholders, promoting the
114 sharing of ideas, and suggesting initiatives and partnerships to help achieve sustainable development through STI. In
115 the informal subcommittee three, the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were discussed
116 and how they directly affect technological advancements in developed and lesser developed countries.

117 Sustainable Development Goal 4 discusses the implementation of quality education. Specifically to this
118 topic, how prioritization of international science and technology education at the primary and intermediate levels
119 help focus the upcoming generations on innovation focusing on their nation's top needs in sustainable development.
120 Tax reductions may serve as an opportunity for incentives in research.

121 Sustainable Development Goal 5 focuses on the implementation of research as a key element in providing
122 assistance to LCDs promotion of the empowerment of women through technology. This initiative provides access
123 to information and communication as a way to minimize gender gap. Lack of women's technological preparation
124 isolates them to only consider employment opportunities in the domestic sector. A case study in Guatemala's training
125 of indigenous women in beekeeping technologies assisted the growth of entrepreneurship projects and encouraged
126 community development.

127 Sustainable Development Goal 13 is concerned with international climate change action. Another case study
128 for successful achievement of SDGs, is Viet Nam's 5 year plans SEDs and SEDPs. Viet Nam, like many other
129 nations, is currently becoming more integrated into the global economy as it moves from a lesser developed country
130 to a middle income nation, but because of this transition is left to be more at risk to climate change and global
131 economic fluctuations. To help combat this Viet Nam has strongly committed themselves (through SEDs and SEDPs)
132 to encouraging sustainable growth within the fields of science and technology.

133 Water accessibility, sustainable agriculture and sustainable cities and communities, (SDGs 2, 6 and 11),
134 examines the sustainable agriculture, agri-business and agro-industry development and their linkages with other
135 sectors in LDCs. Promoting labour productivity in agriculture ensures that food security, better nutrition and
136 increased rural income are becoming more stable. Facilitating technology transfer to LDCs, under mutually agreed
137 terms and conditions in line with national and international laws and commitments is another key element in the
138 development of infrastructure. However, for LDCs, we can use agriculture as a labor market and slowly transition
139 into an industrial phase. Aiding farmers in improving the quality of soil and NGO (non governmental organization)
140 or governmental interaction directly with farmers will help safely rotate crops. Buffer zones is another step in the
141 advancement of agriculture innovation. Buffer zones surrounding agricultural areas with tall roots to prevent water
142 pollution.

143 III. Developing strategies and ideas to support the crucial sharing of STI information between Member States

144 The experts from the Committee for Development Committee working on the topic of Intellectual Property
145 Rights and knowledge sharing suggested several ideas for sharing critical STI information between Member States.
146 An expert from China suggested sharing patents with an International Patent Bank (IPB) to grant international
147 access to patents after a period of time allotted for private ownership, with the intention to incentivize development.
148 Innovators would share their patents with this third party Organization that would, once the patent time expires,
149 have the ability to share the patents with corporations in any public/private organizations that are willing to utilize
150 this technology for a reduced cost or long term payments. The IPB will be able to share patents with corporations
151 related to sustainable STI development. In return, the IPB will receive a small fee or long-term payment from the
152 organization accepting the patent access. In this manner, critical STI information may exist in the private corporate
153 benefit sector as an incentive to foster research and development. Eventually, it will be shared with the international
154 community as a whole to prevent monopolization and the decentralization of critical knowledge sharing. Member
155 States must greatly enhance the rate of which they release patents pertaining to sustainable development and fighting

156 climate change.

157 The experts discussed how developing countries need increased access to these existing technologies. Intel-
158 lectual property rights are currently dominated by the private sector and developed nations. While the private sector
159 has interest in promoting access to existing technologies, the problem lies in creating products and services aimed
160 at markets with little or no ability to pay. We must promote access to new technologies for all and rethink how to
161 best disperse existing technologies. This exchange of products, processes, or knowledge transfers must be prioritized
162 in order to attain sustainability and continual growth for developing and developed countries.

163 The experts from China, Ethiopia, Ghana, Sudan and Russian Federation highlighted the critical need for
164 supporting research and development to increase the release of patents pertaining to sustainable development. The
165 experts discussed how developing countries need increased access to these existing technologies. Intellectual property
166 rights are currently dominated by the private sector and developed nations. While the private sector has interest
167 in promoting access to existing technologies, the problem lies in creating products and services aimed at markets
168 with little or no ability to pay. We must promote access to new technologies for all and rethink how to best disperse
169 existing technologies. This exchange of products, processes, or knowledge transfers must be prioritized in order to
170 attain sustainability and continual growth for developing and developed countries.

171 Suggestions for inclusive innovation policy include a balanced framework for intellectual property rights
172 across a well-functioning science, technology, and innovation ecosystem. This framework needs to include political
173 stability, an educated workforce, sound research and education infrastructure, links between public and private
174 innovation actors, and enterprises committed to research and development. This ecosystem must include national,
175 regional, and international partners including the United Nations and its agencies, funds, and programmes in order
176 to ensure that innovation is integrated into the national development priorities in Least Developed Countries. The
177 United Nations must promote dissemination of technological information and find a balance between accessibility and
178 reward for this innovation. Specifically, internet connectivity and the related spread of communication technologies
179 particularly with the application of technology-supported learning which can increase the effectiveness, outreach, and
180 awareness-raising of education should be a top priority in least developed countries and nations in which access to
181 technologies directly inhibits further growth.

182 The experts from Sudan and China emphasized the importance of focusing on relationships between Member
183 States and other organizations. Additionally, these experts see a need to focus not only on typical progressive
184 technology, but also to look closely at more traditional forms of technology that have been underutilized. Experts from
185 Sudan global incorporation of what has been considered traditional forms of technology alongside progressive/modern
186 models of technological innovation can better accommodate the various capacities of States. The experts highlighted
187 the existing global agreements between China and Africa on which they would like to see further progress. The
188 human and innovation capacity existing in developing states need resources that can help lock in the progress. Those
189 resources could be due to infrastructure initiatives, investment, funds and further assistance from international
190 partners.

191 Experts stated that it was necessary for the global community to incorporate what has been considered "tradi-
192 tional" forms of technology alongside progressive/modern models of technological innovation to better accommodate
193 the various capacities of States. They noted that the issue for States was not the lack of innovative capabilities,
194 but a shortage of resources has limited many States from investing and expanding implementation of such capacity.
195 Specifically, the experts from Sudan and China suggest placing emphasis on transportation, communication, and
196 energy technologies to reach human capacities that lack the resources necessary for more formal innovation. The
197 allocation of resources to the most vulnerable Member States is the most critical need in STI knowledge-sharing.

198 **3.2 Actions taken by the Committee**

199 As its meeting on 20 November, 2018, CDPEG approved for recommendation for adoption by ECOSOC
200 resolution II/1 with no amendments and by consensus with no abstentions. Resolution II/1 was sponsored by
201 experts from Ethiopia, France, Japan, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Spain and Sudan.

202 **4 Adoption of the Report**

203 At the 29th AMUN conference, on 20 November 2018, the draft report of the Committee was made available
204 for consideration. The Body considered the report and with no amendments, adopted the report by consensus with
205 no abstentions.

Passed by consensus, with 0 abstentions