

Key policy messages for the 2013 ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review

- The key messages fall into three broad categories.
- First, the need to create an enabling environment that is conducive for innovation.
 - This enabling environment requires a sound policy framework at the national and regional levels. Governments have to nurture an ecosystem of innovation.
 - There should be close collaboration between universities, government and industry to nurture innovation for increasing productivity in the economy.
 - There was a unanimous call for ensuring high quality education and targeted investment in human resources, which are the primary source of innovation in any society.
 - Governments should undertake financial, fiscal and regulatory incentives together with measures for intellectual property rights that foster development and innovation.
- Second, innovation is seen as the most important enabler for the achievement of the MDGs and sustainable development. It was repeatedly mentioned that the transition to sustainable development will largely happen through path-breaking innovations.
 - Enhanced innovation in Africa would be a surest way of overcoming the technological, social and economic challenges in the achievement of the MDGs.
 - STI would also be an effective instrument for ensuring balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.
 - There is a need to build stronger partnerships which lead to wider promotion of innovation as a means to achieve the MDGs and sustainable development.
- Third, global support for the African efforts to promote STI for achieving the MDGs and sustainable development is absolutely essential. ECOSOC could play an important role in galvanizing action for Africa's sustainable development.
 - ECOSOC should not only recognize the African need but also issue a strong call for supporting Africa's endeavours to build the innovation infrastructure and the capacity to create domestic technology solutions.

- In general, ECOSOC must emphasize on the contribution that science, technology and innovation can make to achieving sustainable development, particularly in relation to the post-2015 development framework.