

Scientific and Technological Community Major Group

Intervention at Meeting with Rio+20 Bureau and Member States

United Nations, New York, 30 April 2012

From Science - through R &D - to Application
(Major Groups cluster: S &TC, Business and Industry, Local Authorities)

Co- Chairs,

Science, engineering, technology and innovation have fundamental roles in the transition to green economies, and in achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication.

We need technological innovations but they alone will not be sufficient. We equally need innovative approaches and policies, innovative institutions and in particular new innovative economic models, which truly integrate the environmental, social and economic pillars.

Rio+20 provides a unique opportunity to set in motion an effective “global innovation system”, based on sound science, including in the social and economic sciences, enhanced R & D efforts in all nations and economic sectors, and enhanced testing and deployment of innovations of all kinds, in both cities and megacities, and in rural areas.

To this end, Rio+20 must commit to some key action items related to science, technology and innovation:

- commitment to support major solutions –oriented research undertakings focused on sustainable development challenges – at all scales;

- the private sector should also contribute to enhanced investments in science and technology, and green economy R&D must be stepped up by the private sector and through public-private partnerships;
- we need unprecedented levels of international scientific and technological cooperation, with particular attention to North-South and South-South cooperation, and technical and financial support for scientific and technological capacity building in developing countries must be enhanced;
- support the creation of a global facilitation mechanism for international scientific collaboration addressing sustainable development;
- we strongly support the creation of an international knowledge-sharing platform to facilitate countries' green economy innovation, policy design and implementation;
- the science-policy interface must be strengthened at all levels.

We need an ambitious Rio+20 outcome. The Scientific and Technological Community is committed to working with governments, business and industry, local authorities, all other major groups and stakeholders in the implementation of such an ambitious summit outcome.

QUESTIONS

- Do you think that the draft Rio+20 outcome being negotiated (CST) recognizes the important roles of science, technology and innovation (in all sections of the document)?

- What specific science, technology, and innovation related action items are of priority to you and are they adequately addressed in the CST, as “edited” by this week’s negotiations?