



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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Organisation
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Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Address by Irina Bokova,

Director-General of UNESCO

**on the occasion of then Third International Conference on Financing for
Development**

**Side event on the “Role of Science, Technology and Innovation for
achieving sustainable development**

Addis Ababa, 13th July 2015

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you Mr Seth for delivering this statement on behalf of the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Mr Wu Hongbo.

Thank you for coming to this side event. I also wish to welcome His Excellency Mr Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations, who is one of the architects of the Sustainable Development Goals and a strong upholder of the role of STI in the post-2015 development agenda.

UNESCO's message on the importance of science, technology and innovation (STI) for sustainable development is clear.

The fact that the UN is pronouncing a joint statement today recognizes that we are living today in a new age of limits – in terms of resources, the power of States, the boundaries of the planet.

This means we must make far more of our greatest, ultimate renewable energy, that is human ingenuity – I was very pleased to hear the same words this morning from the Chair of the African Union Commission Her Excellency Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma.

This is why science, technology and innovation is vital.

STI is vital for the creation of knowledge.

It is vital for economic growth.

It is vital for the sustainability of all development.

For this, we need to create the right ecosystem -- we need to bridge knowledge divides.

This means strengthening national capacities in science, technology and innovation.

Science capacity is vital for autonomous – and therefore – sustainable development.

These goals guide all of UNESCO's action – through our intergovernmental scientific programmes, through our STEM education initiatives, through our Centres of Excellences and UNESCO University Chairs, through our science policy initiatives, through the UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

We all can take encouragement today from the growing recognition of the importance of STI for the post-2015 agenda -- as the knowledge base for decision-making and as a critical means of implementation.

We need to keep momentum and ensure clear results in September.

The current chapter on Science, Technology and Innovation in the Draft Addis Accord puts STI at the centre of the discussion on development.

It is encouraging to see the emerging agreement on a Technology Facilitation Mechanism, which takes a 360 degrees perspective on technology, which includes the critical considerations of science, research and development as well as scientific education and capacity building and the enabling policy environment.

The discussions on the Technology Facilitation Mechanism have already had a positive impact on the United Nations system.

The Interagency Working Group is working to strengthen collaboration and synergies between relevant United Nations agencies, to ensure the full and effective support of the entire system in moving forward.

In this spirit, I am very pleased to make the following Joint Statement on behalf of my colleagues and myself:

- Mr Wu Hongbo, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs;

- Mr Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP;
- Mr Li Yong, Director General of UNIDO;
- Mr Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD;
- Mr Francis Gurry, Director General of WIPO;
- Mr Houlin Zhao, Secretary General of ITU;
- Mr Jim Yong Kim, President of the World Bank Group.

Readout of the Joint Statement