# **OECD-South Africa Workshop**

## International Science and Technology Co-operation for Sustainable Development 21-22 November 2005

## Resolutions

#### **Preamble**

Global leaders, experts, policy makers and academics from the OECD countries as well as developing countries met at Kwa Maritane, Nor West Province, South Africa, to further the work of the OECD and its partners in the area of international co-operation in science and technology for sustainable development.

As a follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002, the OECD Committee for Science and Technology Policy adopted the Declaration on International Science and Technology Co-operation for Sustainable Development at its Ministerial session in January 2004.

There is a growing international consensus that science and technology (S&T) is a key vehicle to achieve the global sustainable development agenda. It is also an essential tool in the realization of the Millennium Development Goals within reasonable timeframes. This emerging consensus has revealed that very few countries, if any, have the capacity, knowledge platforms and resources to do this alone. We need smarter and more effective partnerships. We need co-operation between regions, between countries, between institutions and between people. This co-operation should be both north-south and south-south in nature, and by design, governments, academia and business in both OECD member countries and developing countries have important roles to play.

In this spirit, the South African government, through its Department of Science and Technology, has partnered with the OECD to advance co-operation in the areas of policy and good practices in key sustainable development domains. The themes of water and energy were chosen as the focal points of this discussion to coincide with and add value to, the work in these areas underway under the auspices of the UNCSD.

# **Key challenges**

• To identify good practices in international science and technology co-operation, especially between OECD and developing countries, aiming at fostering capacitybuilding in science and technology, at facilitating effective diffusion of scientific knowledge and technology transfer, and at developing knowledge infrastructure and networks, in order to meet sustainable development objectives at national and global levels. Such good practices include highlighting concrete and efficient solutions that have been implemented in the areas of water and energy.

• To consider possible indicators of good practices in international science and technology co-operation for sustainable development and methodologies to evaluate international science and technology co-operation initiatives.

#### **Deliberations**

Using plenary sessions, breakout sessions and panel discussions, the workshop addressed issues such as:

- Effective science and technology capacity building in developing countries.
- Facilitating knowledge and technology transfer and partnerships to achieve this.
- Developing knowledge infrastructure and networks of science and innovation for sustainable development.
- Technologies that best meet the needs of the developing countries in the areas of water and efficient use of energy while meeting sustainable development objectives.
- Indicators and criteria for good practices in science and technology and S&T cooperation for sustainable development.

The principal finding was the importance of scientific and technological co-operation for sustainable development.

#### Resolutions

- Participants invite OECD committees and working groups involved in the production indicators related to sustainable development, development assistance, and science and technology broadly defined to take note of the importance of science and technology cooperation for sustainable development and to consider the production of indicators to support policy development in this area.
- 2) The practical actions for the sustainable use of energy resources: promote the creation of innovative intellectual communities and partnerships within developing countries addressing the key technology, policy and programme issues for the efficient use of conventional and new forms of energy in pursuit of the goals of sustainable development.
- 3) Practical actions for sustainable use of water resources: strengthen, through demanddriven and efficient co-operation (*e.g.* partnerships, centres of excellence) in science and technology, the knowledge base of all levels of stakeholders, in order to synergistically improve access to (efficient and clean) water supply and sanitation from an integrated water resources management approach.
- 4) Further meetings to develop the "science and technology for sustainable development" agenda in the OECD can be envisaged to incorporate insights in other domains (biodiversity and agriculture for example) and to develop envisaged indicators.
- 5) Develop a paper on the cross-cutting nature of international co-operation to achieve sustainable development and the core supporting actions to mainstream the contributions of science and technology to achieve these objectives for submission to UNCSD.

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