Economic and Social Council

Promoting equal access to new and existing technologies for sustainable development

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Forum:	Economic and Social Council
Issue:	Promoting equal access to new and existing technologies for sustainable development
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Introduction

Today, the world is so reliable on technologies that it is hard to imagine living without them. But access to certain types of technologies all around the world is still very unequal. It is important to create a worldwide balance of information and tools to keep avoid biases and nationalistic thoughts based on the accessibility and potential that one's county had with its technological advancements. There are mainly three ways that technologies should fundamentally be equal all around the world.

First it is the accessibility to environmentally sound technologies. These technologies would be able to reduce the amount of damage that certain natural disaster could cause in a specific region or country. They are vital to be able to be accessible to all. Some of these environmentally sound technologies could be known as existing technologies, even though most of them are fairly recently created.

Secondly, there should be equal accessibility to medical technologies. These technologies are crucial to human wellbeing and could potentially save more lives then it's lack in presence murders. These medical technologies should be especially stressed in developing countries where their healthcare and sanitation programs aren't the best. By making medical technologies available and usable to all countries equally, it could contribute immensely to the status of a country.

Thirdly, equal access to technology should also be available in schools, and the general public should be involved and informed about how advantageous certain technologies can be. Not only to them personally, but also to the worldwide community.

Definition of Key Terms

Sustainable Development

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

WHO

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized UN angency that focuses on the health and general wellbeing of the international public. It was established on the 7th of April 1948 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Equal Access Act

A US federal Act passed 1984 which provides that it shall be unlawful for any public secondary school, which receives Federal financial assistance and which has a limited open forum, to deny equal access or a fair opportunity to or discriminate against any students who wish to conduct a meeting within that limited open forum on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings.

LEDC

A Less Economically Developed Country, also referred to as a third world country, is a country that usually has a very low score on the Human Development Index. They are the opposite of MEDCs or Less Economically Developed Countries, also known as First World Countries. MEDCs usually have a much higher score on the Human Development Index.

Environmentally Sound Technologies

Techniques and technologies that are can potentially reduce environmental damage through processes and materials that produce lesser potentially damaging substances, recover such substances from emissions prior to discharge, or utilize and recycle production residues.

Medical Technologies

Medical Technologies are seen as any and all things that are used to save the life of individuals that could be suffering from any range of conditions. Medical technologies can be something as simple as latex gloves, syringes, or wheelchairs, but could also be quite more expensive objects for such as x-ray machines or PET scanners. On the right are some more example of kinds of medical technologies and their categories.

Code	Classification	Example
01	Active implantable technology	Cardiac pacemakers, neurostimulators
02	Anaesthetic and respiratory technology	Oxygen mask, gas delivery unit, anaesthesia breathing circuit
03	Dental technology	Dentistry tools, alloys, resins, floss, brushes
04	Electromechanical medical technology	X-ray machine, laser, scanner
05	Hospital hardware	Hospital bed
06	In vitro diagnostic technology	Pregnancy test, genetic test, glucose strip
07	Non-active implantable technology	Hip or knee joint replacement, cardiac stent
08	Ophthalmic and optical technology	Spectacles, contact lenses, intraocular lenses, ophthalmoscope
09	Reusable instruments	Surgical instruments, rigid endoscopes, blood pressure cuffs, stethoscopes, skin electrodes
10	Single use technology	Syringes, needles, latex gloves, balloon catheters
11	Technical aids for disabled	Wheelchairs, walking frames, hearing aids
12	Diagnostic and therapeutic radiation technology	Radiotherapy units
13	Complementary therapy devices	
14	Biological-derived devices	
15	Healthcare facility products and adaptations	
16	Laboratory equipment	

Figure 1 Medical technologies

Medical Technologies. Digital image. Euco Med. N.p., n.d. Web. 29 Aug. 2015. <http://www.eucomed.be/uploads/Modules/Publications/20140219-mte-data-brochure-the_eu_medtech_industry_in_figures.pdf>.

General Overview

Access to existing and new technologies are very important in the world we live in now, where everything is technology based. It may be common knowledge that LEDC do not have a lot of access to existing and new technologies and this could cause a great number of problems within developing countries. Lack of access to these new and existing technologies causes LEDCs to have trouble developing a stable and sustainable country. We have to try and make all technologies equal and accessible to all so that we can make this unjust world a little more equal.

Technologies allowing access to space-based information

Space-based technologies can be crucial to informing and alarming countries about natural disasters. Though these disasters cannot be stopped, the damage that they might

cause can be incredibly reduced. An example of this could be an early warning system. Space science and technology has shown to play a significant role in helping the causes. The United Nations (UN) platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (SPIDER) has proven to be a significant help in the lessening of damages in humanitarian communities by providing images to the Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. However, these kinds of technologies are more likely to be beneficial if it is accessible to all nations equally. It is said that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, plays an important role in certifying the benefits that space technologies can have in all countries but particularly in LEDCs.

Medical technologies

Medical technologies can range from objects such as syringes and wheelchairs, to objects as complex and expensive as x-ray scanners. As is widely known that LEDCs do know have much access to basic sanitation, let alone advanced medical technologies. It is crucial for nations, especially developing nations, to be able to access any and all necessary medical devices. If we achieve such things it could also contribute to the health-related development goals. Technology has altered the effect of medical care dramatically. However, some of the most essential medical devices are not available everywhere. Each year about 9 million children die before the reach their fifth birthday. This could be avoided if many more countries had access to simple and affordable medical devices. Around 1.3 million people in the world die each year due to unsafe and unsanitary injections. If people would have access to more sanitary, safe, and effective equipment, those number could dramatically reduce.

Education

Firstly, education and raising awareness to people about what new and existing technologies are able to do for us. Technologies can be very beneficial to their lives, and their acceptance on issues such as technology distribution and accepting technologies into their lives can greatly benefit them, and possibly even save lives, regardless of personal opinions. In the infographic below you can see statistics comparing the percentage of the public interested in scientific and technological issues from 1995:

This clearly shows us that there is a significant gap between those who want to learn and those who actually get to learn and be informed on these issues.

Secondly, technology can work as a great stimulus in work and/or learning places like schools or offices. Technology is being seen as a powerful development tool. In most MEDCs evidence has shown that young people are increasingly using information and communications technologies (ICT). However people in developing nations have less access to these types of technologies. Even though it is not absolutely necessary to work with ICTs as a child. It is highly recommendable in such a technologically dependent world as we live in today.
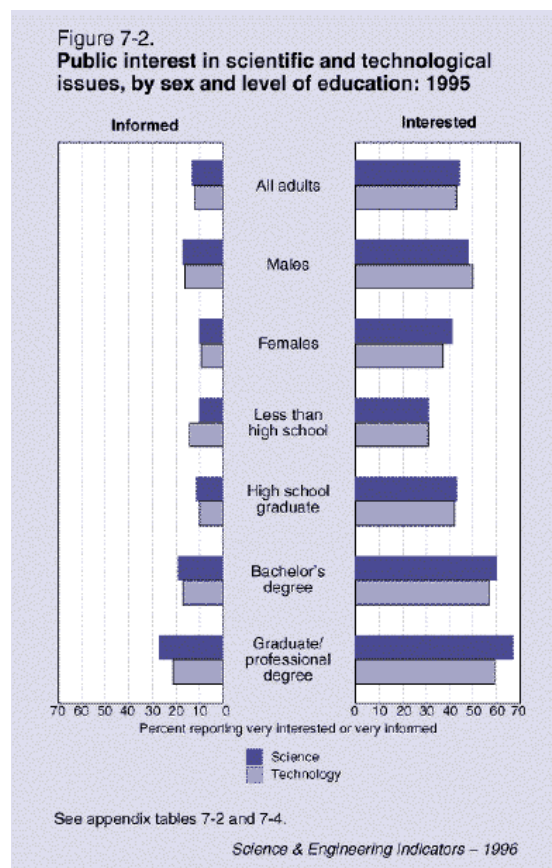

Figure 7-2.
Public interest in scientific and technological issues, by sex and level of education: 1995

Figure 2 Public Interest in Science and Technologies. Digital image. National Science Foundation. N.p., n.d. Web. 29 Aug. 2015. <http://nsf.gov/>.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

UN-SPIDER

UN-SPIDER or the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response is a key party has a key role in providing space-based information. It was set up by the General Assembly to "Ensure that all countries and international and regional organizations have access to and develop the capacity to use all types of space-based information to support the full disaster management cycle" (General Assembly).

WHO

The World Health Organization (WHO) plans to fulfil its mandate in advancing the global health agenda in the field of health technologies. Not all countries have the same advances, if not any, technologies as most MEDCs; and the WHO plans to change this.

CSTD

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) is a sub body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) that provides high-level advice on current and relevant science and technology issues to both the General Assembly and ECOSOC.

UNCHAD

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCHAD) has had a significant impact on the issue at hand it had foreseen most of the more significant changes of equal access and promotion of technologies for sustainable development. UNCHAD contains very important commissions in this matter such as the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD).

UN involvement

The UN has been involved in numerous resolutions that have tried to tackle the idea of creating worldwide technological equality. Especially with their sustainable development oriented organizations. They have also had quite a few meetings at the UNCHAD which has proven to be a success in the past but has not yet delivered significant change in the global community.

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

The UN has created organizations such as UN-SPIDER which has helped a lot of nations with attaining important space-based information. The UN has also set up a commission that goes about discussing various forms of sciences and technologies to be used to develop the world sustainably. Even though the UN has done a lot for repairing the issue at hand, they have not yet fully abled the whole world to experience equal access of technologies. The UN has tried more to undergo certain measures

Possible Solutions

A possible solution to this issue could be to set up certain awareness campaigns, that would not only provide people with the information they need about technologies, but also the knowledge that certain technologies are crucial to human existence in the world we live

today. Not only awareness campaigns, but also possibly fundraisers. The main reason that developing nations do not have the adequate recourses is because their lack in economic progress.

It is also an idea for a program to be set up where people could donate their used, but still workable machines. The reality is that people in MEDCs often have a lot more workable materials than they need. Even certain hospitals could sometimes be able to give some of their machines away to be used more frequently and efficiently thought other parts of the world.

I would also urge for the creation of a new commission that would focus particularly on the wellbeing and accessibility of technologies in LEDCs. Developing nations are the parts of the world that need these new and excising technologies the most. Since they are lacking in this department of their society it also affects other parts of their nation such as economically, and trade wise. If the UN could focus more on these developed nations and their needs it would not only benefit them, but ultimately it would benefit the whole world, as its effects to international businesses such as trade can also be altered with a better technological system within a country.

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Appendices

Appendix I

Useful links:

Official UNOOSA website: http://www.unoosa.org

Official UN website (in English): http://www.un.org/en/index.html

Official UN Sustainable Development website: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org

Official WHO website: http://www.who.int/

Official UNCTAD website (helpful for relevant

resolutions): http://unctad.org/en/pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=606