

Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP)

Review of Angola



UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

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FOREWORD

As the lead agency within the United Nations system for science and technology as part of its work on trade and development, UNCTAD is pleased to publish the *STIP Review of Angola*. The latest in the STIP series, it strengthens UNCTAD's support in country-level mechanisms, including within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals as called for by its Panel of Eminent Persons. We in UNCTAD believe that technology is a crucial element for enhancing the growth prospects of developing countries and is a necessary precondition for overcoming poverty and marginalization. In spite of increasing global commitment to address this issue, the technology gap among and within nations continues to widen. The present work contributes to the global knowledge and experience in identifying policies and measures for integrating technology into national development strategies and in maximizing their impact towards the achievement of the MDGs, as well as in building innovation capabilities, developing absorptive capacity and infrastructure for technology transfer, and applying ICTs to development. We actively sought the views of stakeholders across the board in producing this work, including government officials and development partners, foreign investors and local entrepreneurs, NGOs and academe. I would like to thank all those who have contributed to it in one way or another.

The signing of the 2002 Peace Accords has heralded double-digit economic growth in Angola, underpinned largely by the country's rich natural resources. Inasmuch as Government is the principal actor in both economic and social scenes at this time, the review focuses on the technology needs of the main ministries and proposes innovative measures for creating additional value-added in their service delivery and organizational dynamics. While national research and development capacity was critical not only in agriculture and health but also in the nascent private sector, the review stresses that it should be development-oriented rather than research-centered. In addition to the two platform technologies it proposes to support Angola's current economic and social growth, i.e. ICTs and energy, it offers sector-specific and cross-cutting measures to create an environment conducive to innovation and growth. Foremost among these is strengthening human capital.

Angola has the resources and potential to become an economic engine in the sub-region. Its success will not only serve as an example for countries emerging from conflict but also as a stabilizing factor in the geopolitical dynamics in the region. We are therefore proud and honored to be of service to the Government of Angola in its peace-building and reconstruction efforts.

Dr. Supachai Panitchpakdi
Secretary-General of UNCTAD

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ABSTRACT

Prepared at the request of the government of Angola, this paper pinpoints the key areas in the national landscape wherein science and technology could play a catalytic role in stimulating economic growth and improving public service delivery. It proposes platform technologies that provide maximum impact across both public and private sectors activities and development; and offers options for promoting science and technology as well as fostering innovation in key growth areas such as education and enterprise development.

Earlier STIP reviews carried out by UNCTAD confirms the catalytic and reinforcing role of science and technology in the development process. The recommendations made in the present review are underpinned by the national innovation system theory, which posits that innovation and technology development are results of a complex set of relationships among actors in the system, which includes enterprises, universities and government research institutes. While assessing the structures of the principal sectors involved and the dynamics among them, the analysis of the present review has been primarily confined to areas where science, technology and innovation could make the most impact.

In a post-conflict country engaged in massive reconstruction and heavily dependent on natural resources, as is the case of Angola, the public sector constitutes the principal source of activity and employment. The review addresses both the present urgency to improve of basic public services and the need to build human capacity and technological facilities in order to ensure sustained economic growth. It proposes STI-related, sector-specific recommendations for the key public sectors such as education, agriculture and health, and well as across-the-board measures to ensure synergy and coordination, as well as regulations and measures for creating a regulatory framework and business environment that are conducive to innovation. The review identifies ICT and energy supply as platform technologies that should be solidly in place in order to support and promote STI growth in other areas. Through effective use of science and technology, underpinned by a strengthening culture of innovation and innovativeness, the review argues that Angola could become an economic engine and food basket of the region.

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