



# Science, Technology & Innovation Policy Review

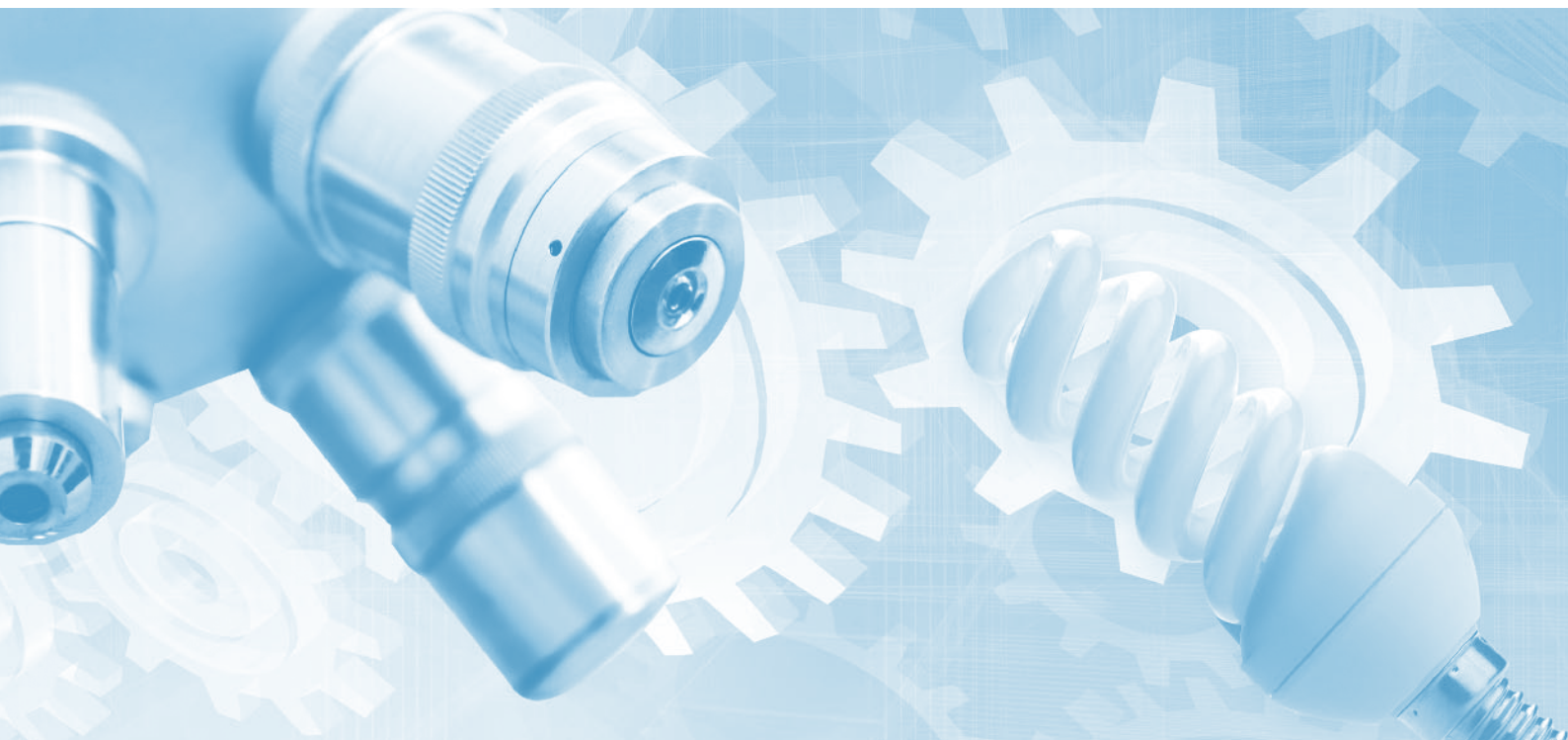
El Salvador





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## PREFACE

The purpose of UNCTAD's science, technology and innovation policy reviews is to assist governments in developing their national capacities in science, technology and innovation, so that national science, technology and innovation plans and programmes support the various components of the national development agenda and help the productive sectors to compete in a knowledge-based global economy, generating better paid jobs, raising living standards, reducing poverty and promoting a strategy of growth and commercial diversification.

This review is intended to be a tool for learning and reflection, not a rating mechanism but an analytical tool that examines a series of proposals from a neutral external viewpoint. The ultimate objective of the science, technology and innovation policy review of El Salvador is to provide the Salvadorian Government with an up-to-date diagnostic analysis of the effectiveness of its science, technology and innovation-related policies and measures, and strengthen these policies and measures by integrating them in the national development process. It also seeks to improve technological capacity, encourage innovation and incorporate greater added value into production processes.

The science, technology and innovation policy review of El Salvador was instigated at the request of the Salvadorian Government and enjoyed the support of the Vice Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Vice Ministry of Science and Technology. The review was conducted jointly by UNCTAD and ECLAC and forms part of a proposal of technical cooperation to the Salvadorian Government.

The review was prepared by a team of experts under the direction of Anne Miroux, Director of the Technology and Logistics Division of UNCTAD and under the direct supervision of Mongi Hamdi, Chief of the Science, Technology and ICT Service (UNCTAD). Marta Pérez Cusó (UNCTAD) coordinated the review in collaboration with René Hernández (ECLAC). Roberto López Martínez (national system of innovation) and Eduardo Huidobro (agro-industrial sector) prepared reports which served as the basis for the review. The team of experts carried out two missions in the field, in July 2010 and March 2011, and conducted over 50 interviews and two round tables with representatives of government bodies, research institutes, universities, industry associations and chambers of commerce, experts in science, technology and innovation, companies, non-governmental organizations and international cooperation agencies. The national discussion workshop held on 29 March 2011 in San Salvador permitted the gathering of comments on the first draft from a group of over 40 experts and national actors.

Kiyoshi Adachi, the Salvadorian Association of Computer Professionals (ASPROC), Néstor Bercovich, the Salvadorian Chamber of Information and Communication Technologies (CASATIC), Quentin Dupriez, Reina Durán de Alvarado, Ángel González Sanz and Jorge Patiño contributed invaluable material, comments and suggestions. In addition, a great many people in El Salvador generously contributed their time and comments in the preparation of this review. It is impossible to name them all, but the team responsible for this document wishes to express its appreciation to all of them.

This review would not have been possible without the support of Mr Mario Cerna, Vice Minister of Trade and Industry and Dr Erlinda Handal, Vice Minister of Science and Technology. The Directorate of Technological Innovation, headed by Mr Yax Canossa and assisted by Mrs Verónica López and the National Directorate of Science, Technology and Innovation, headed by Dr Alba María Orellana González were closely involved in the review and deserve our sincere gratitude.

The evaluations and conclusions expressed in the review, however, are exclusively those of the UNCTAD Secretariat and ECLAC.



## CONTENTS

Preface .....	iii
Abbreviations .....	xi
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>xiii</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>xviii</b>
<b>CHAPTER I. GENERAL BACKGROUND OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION IN THE ECONOMY OF EL SALVADOR .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>A. Performance and evolution of the Salvadorian economy .....</b>	<b>3</b>
1. Macro-economic performance .....	3
2. Structural conditions .....	8
<b>B. Performance in science, technology and innovation in El Salvador .....</b>	<b>15</b>
1. Inputs.....	16
2. Results.....	21
3. Innovation activities and their impact.....	23
<b>CHAPTER II. THE COMPONENTS OF THE NATIONAL SYSTEM OF INNOVATION OF EL SALVADOR.....</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>A. Introduction.....</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>B. Governance of science, technology and innovation (STI).     Functions of cohesion and foresight – policy system .....</b>	<b>27</b>
1. National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, 2006–2030 .....	28
2. The Five-Year Development Plan, 2010–2014 (PQD) .....	29
3. National Scientific and Technological Development Plan.....	30
4. The comprehensive export promotion strategy .....	31
<b>C. The administrative framework of science, technology and innovation.     Management, control and regulatory functions – link between the policy     system and the executing system .....</b>	<b>31</b>
1. Presidency of the Republic .....	31
2. Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock .....	31
3. Ministry of Economy .....	32
4. Ministry of Education .....	33
5. Laws and regulations .....	33
<b>D. Operators in the system of innovation. Production and execution function –     executing system .....</b>	<b>33</b>
1. Industry.....	33
2. Organizations which generate and disseminate knowledge .....	38
3. Support organizations .....	42
4. Financial system .....	43
5. Collaboration and links between agents.....	44
<b>E. Principal instruments of innovation policy .....</b>	<b>44</b>
1. Direct financing measures .....	44
2. Indirect regulatory measures .....	46
3. Other direct measures .....	46
4. Catalytic financial measures .....	46
5. Combined or mixed measures .....	46
6. Other.....	46

<b>CHAPTER III. EL SALVADOR: A NATIONAL SYSTEM OF INNOVATION – WORK IN PROGRESS. DIAGNOSTIC OF THE SYSTEM AND PROPOSALS FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT .....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>A. General diagnostic .....</b>	<b>48</b>
1. Functions of cohesion and foresight .....	48
2. Management, control and regulatory functions .....	49
3. Production and execution function .....	49
<b>B. Strengthening the components and relationships of the Salvadorian system of innovation .....</b>	<b>50</b>
1. Political and social conviction and commitment .....	50
2. Direction and cohesion .....	51
3. Foresight and setting of priorities for research and development .....	51
4. Organizational structure and management .....	52
5. STI policy instruments .....	53
6. Education .....	57
<b>CHAPTER IV. INNOVATION IN THE AGRO-INDUSTRIAL SECTOR .....</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>A. Agro-industry in El Salvador .....</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>B. Diagnostic of the system of innovation in the agro-industrial sector .....</b>	<b>63</b>
1. Production and execution function – executing system .....	63
2. Cohesion and foresight functions – policy system .....	80
3. Management, control and regulation functions – link between the policy system and the executing system .....	81
<b>C. Conclusions and recommendations.....</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>CHAPTER V. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES .....</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>A. The global context of the ICT sector .....</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>B. Diagnostic of the system of innovation in the ICT sector .....</b>	<b>91</b>
1. Production and execution function – executing system .....	91
2. Cohesion and foresight functions – policy system .....	100
3. Management, control and regulation functions – link between the policy system and the executing system .....	102
<b>C. Conclusions and recommendations.....</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>CHAPTER VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. A ROAD MAP FOR STRENGTHENING THE SYSTEM OF INNOVATION OF EL SALVADOR ....</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>A. Conclusions and recommendations .....</b>	<b>112</b>
<b>B. Road map for the strengthening of the system of innovation .....</b>	<b>116</b>
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY .....</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>ANNEXES.....</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>Annex A. National science, technology and innovation policies .....</b>	<b>126</b>
<b>Annex B. Development and limitations of the national systems of innovation approach.         The concept of systems in the technological innovation literature.....</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>Annex C. Regional systems of innovation (RSI).....</b>	<b>136</b>
<b>Annex D. Patent analysis .....</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>Annex E. Information on higher education institutions.....</b>	<b>144</b>

<b>Annex F. Bibliometric study of Salvadorian scientific output .....</b>	<b>146</b>
<b>Annex G. Provision of education at technical, higher education and postgraduate level and R&amp;D activities in ICT in educational institutions, El Salvador, 2011 .....</b>	<b>157</b>

## TABLES

### CHAPTER I

1. GDP growth and critical factors of growth in El Salvador, 1950-2009 .....	3
2. El Salvador in the Central American context, 2009 .....	3
3. Gross fixed capital formation, Central American countries, 2009 .....	4
4. El Salvador: selected economic indicators, 2004-2009 .....	5
5. Exports and imports of El Salvador, 2009 (in millions of dollars).....	7
6. Balance of payments of El Salvador, 2004-2009 (millions of dollars).....	7
7. Real exchange rate, base 1993=100, 2004-2009 .....	8
8. Entrepreneurial structure by economic activity (economic census of 2005).....	10
9. The infrastructure of El Salvador, 2010 (ranking out of 139 countries).....	11
10. Principal ICT infrastructure indicators, 2008 .....	11
11. Indicators of educational coverage and quality in Central America, 2008 .....	12
12. Percentage of literate persons and average years of schooling, by geographical area and degree of poverty, 1992 and 2007 .....	13
13. Rates of abandonment, repetition and over age pupils, 2003-2007 .....	14
14. Students in higher education by area of education and level of studies, 2009 .....	15
15. Staff employed in R&D, full time equivalent and total actual persons, selected countries 2008 .....	19
16. Staff employed in R&D per thousand employed persons, full time equivalent and total actual persons, selected countries, 2008.....	19
17. Academic staff by function and sex, 2009.....	20
18. Academic staff and researchers by level of education, 2009.....	20

### CHAPTER II

1. Functions and dimensions of sustainable systems.....	26
2. Priority programmes and projects in the Five-Year Development Plan (millions of dollars).....	30
3. National higher education indicators, 2008-2009 .....	41
4. Indicators of the World Economic Forum on competitiveness related to education.....	42

### CHAPTER III

1. STI policy mix matrix and approximation of its current use in El Salvador .....	54
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### CHAPTER IV

1. Agriculture and manufacturing, by branch of economic activity in millions of dollars (constant 1990 prices) and as a percentage of GDP .....	62
2. Agricultural and agro-industrial exports of El Salvador (in millions of current dollars) .....	63
3. Number of establishments and jobs in Salvadorian agro-industry, according to the 2005 economic census.....	67
4. Coffee exports, 2004 -2009 (thousands of quintals) .....	68
5. Production of the fisheries and fish-farming sector, 2006 .....	70
6. Exports of essential oils and balsam (2008-2010)(in thousands of dollars) .....	73
7. Principal fruit exports, 2008-2010, in thousands of dollars.....	74
8. Education in agro-industry related subjects, El Salvador, (2005-2009).....	76
9. Agricultural research and development: El Salvador in the Central American context, 2006 .....	77
10. Budgets of the principal public institutions that participate in the promotion of agro-industry .....	82

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