

Science for Global Development: The Lisbon Declaration

Preamble

1. The global community has been responding to a food price and energy crisis; it is in the middle of financial turmoil, compounded by the looming climate change
2. For many developing countries, the full benefits of economic globalization have yet to be realized. Among the chief reasons for this are a relative lack of basic and applied science; inadequate physical, human and financial capital; and institutional and policy weaknesses.
3. A more integrated global economy requires that all countries achieve greater institutional and policy coherence. This, in turn, depends on credible interdisciplinary research aimed at filling sizable knowledge gaps concerning the interactions between governance and globalization.
4. In the public and private sectors, scientific knowledge is increasingly important for development decision-making, especially with regard to policy and regulatory matters. A long-term partnership among relevant stakeholders aimed at improving governance for inclusive economic globalization would thus result in improved scientific capacity and infrastructure, fostering the exchange and application of knowledge.

Whereas:

5. Ensuring sustainable and equitable development requires scientific capacity and infrastructure, supported by regional and international cooperation, such as that underlying the Millennium Development Goals;
6. Stakeholder decisions about development need to reflect a deeper understanding of local history and culture, because development is deeply grounded in this context and it may profoundly influence the outcomes;
7. Improved access to high quality data and indicators for development policymakers and practitioners, so they can track the performance of national science, technology and innovation systems, would maintain scientists on the ground and enhance scientific capacity building;

Therefore, be it resolved that:

8. We the participants in the workshop on “Science for Global Development” held at Lisbon, Portugal, on September 29-30, 2008 under the auspices of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the United Nations University and research institutions in the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP):
 - a. Recognize that academics, policy makers, the business community and civil society face the common challenge of learning, through joint endeavors, to use scientific knowledge for sustainable development to improve human well-being, based on effective governance for inclusive economic globalization;
 - b. Maintain that governance responses to globalization are more likely to promote sustained development if they are rooted in local cultures and that shared values are critical for fostering cooperation based on trust and mutual accountability, as expressed in the vision of a “Global Partnership for Development”;
 - c. Encourage countries, in particular developing countries, to reassess their incentive structure for talent in order to develop their human capital within the frame of increased mobility of talent
 - d. Encourage countries to devise common sets of indicators to monitor national Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation systems, thereby contributing to more effective national and regional governance
 - e. Advocate the creation of an international forum devoted to S&T for development associating, on a voluntary basis, governmental bodies, non governmental institutions, industry and individuals for providing further insight on these issues
9. In conformity with the above considerations, we adopt the Lisbon Declaration on “Science for Global Development,” in the hope that it will mobilize the support of all present, with a view to reinforcing international coordination and cooperation in knowledge for development.

Lisbon, 30 September 2008