Current Status of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Review in Tanzania

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Tanzania’s S&T Historical Perspective

• Among few African countries to implement UNESCO 1960s recommendation to establish national S&T framework
• Tanzania National Scientific Research Council (TNSRC) established in 1968
• First national S&T policy framework in 1985
National S&T policy implementation milestones

- 1986: Tanzania Commission for S&T (COSTECH) established
- 1990: Ministry of S&T and Higher Education formed
- 1996: National S&T policy revised
- 2006: S&T and innovation policy revision initiated
- 2008: Ministry of Communication, S&T formed
- 2008: STI review process initiated
Current status of STI policy review

• Draft revised STI policy discussed by stakeholders
• Improved salient features of revised draft policy include:
  – Refined national STI agenda
  – Articulation of legal & regulatory framework in the policy
  – Linkage to education and human resources development
  – Level and mechanism of STI funding
  – Articulation of innovation systems, transfer and indigenization of technology
  – Articulating aspects of intellectual property rights
  – Position of indigenous knowledge systems articulated

☐ Draft revised policy now in final approval stages
National STI systems review: Background

- TZ implementing socio-economic reforms since 1990
- Reforms not in tandem with STI systems review
- Review of STI systems crucial to development
- 2007 TZ requested UNESCO support for STI review
- UNESCO offered to support the process
- 2008 Government started preparations for the review
Preparations for national STI systems review

- May 2008: Visit to South Africa to learn on SA STI review process
- July 2008: Formation of review Task Force
- July-September 2008: Prepare STI review concept paper
- September-October 2008: Prepare Cabinet paper
- 2008: Government approval to undertake the review
- Establish STI review secretariat
- Prepare background paper (document) through situation analysis
- Develop human resources and institutional capacity
- Carry out stakeholder consultative process
- Appoint STI review panel (foreign experts + local support)
- Conduct STI review
Lessons learnt from South Africa

- Adequate preparations
- Government commitment and leadership
- Adequate stakeholder consultative process
- Inculcation of stakeholder ownership
- Independent process coordination
- Development of human and institutional capacity
- Clarity and consistence of objectives and goals
- Clear terms of reference
- Allocation of adequate resources (funds, facilities, human resource)
Thank you for your attention