



UNITED NATIONS
TECHNOLOGY BANK
FOR LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

The UN Technology Bank

ensuring that LDCs are not left behind

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7th ESCWA Technology Centre's Technical
Committee Meeting

Kempinski Hotel, Amman, Jordan

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A brief history

2011

The United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries in Istanbul, calls for the establishment of a Technology Bank for LDCs

2016

The Technology Bank is established as a subsidiary organ of the United Nations General Assembly in New York

2017

The Council is appointed by the Secretary General and host country agreement with Turkey signed

2018

The Technology Bank begins operations, marking the achievement of the first SDG target – Target 17.8

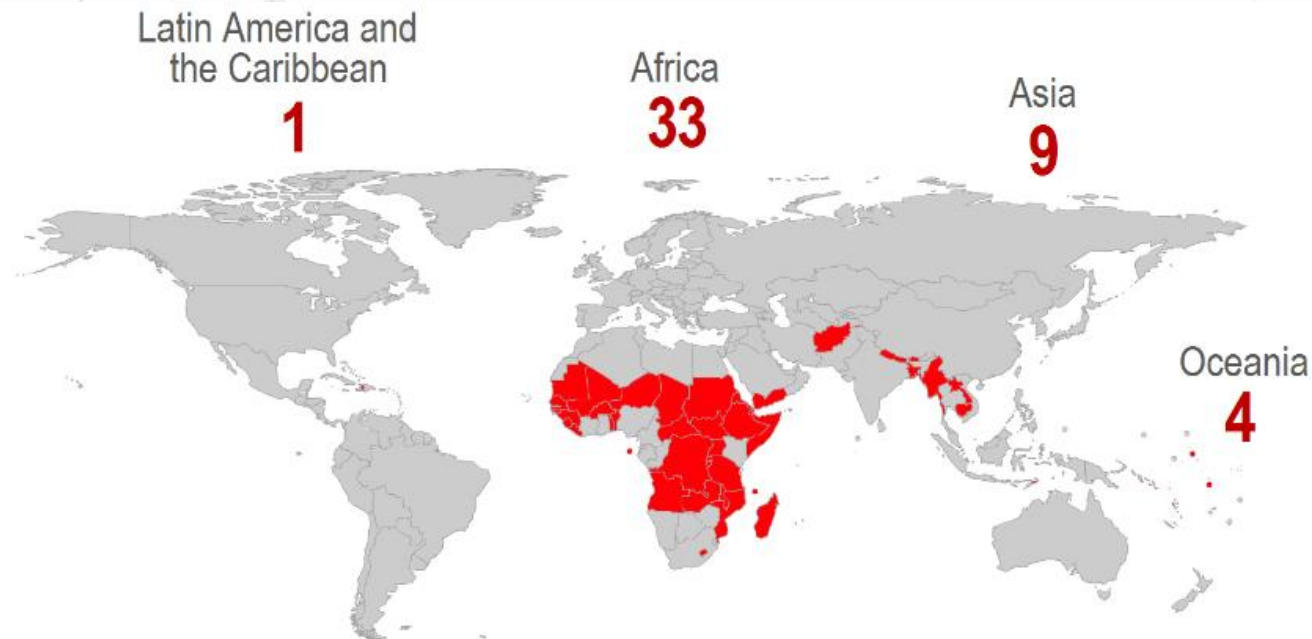
Premises are inaugurated in Gebze, Turkey



Context and rationale

Achieving 2030 Agenda in the 47 LDCs will pose significant challenges without:

- rapidly building up capacities in science, technology and innovation (STI) and,
- accessing appropriate technologies



Mandate

- Strengthen STI capacity of LDCs
- Promote the development and implementation of national and regional STI strategies
- Reinforce partnerships in the public and private sectors, encouraging cooperation among those involved in STI
- Support LDCs as they identify, access and use technologies
- Assist in the transfer of technologies to LDCs



Governance and financing

Governance

- 13 member Council composed of independent experts in STI and development cooperation
- The Technology Bank reports annually to the UNGA

Financing

- Voluntary contributions from UN Member States and other stakeholders, including the private sector and foundations



Current activities

Science, technology and innovation reviews and technology needs assessments

- facilitating a space for dialogue among all stakeholders involved in STI
- providing a clear understanding of the policy and regulatory STI framework in LDCs
- articulating a series of concrete measures and capacity development initiatives to improve STI for SD
- improving national legislation and measures to maximize the impact of STI for SD
- contributing to building capacity to interface with donors, UN agencies and IGOs to articulate the priority needs of LDCs

UNCTAD, UNESCO, Commonwealth Secretariat, World Bank



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Current activities

Regional technology innovation lab

- work collaboratively with diverse expertise across disciplines and industries to develop innovative technology solutions
- leverage the UN & build networks (North-South, South-South) to offer global innovation solutions to leapfrog LDCs
- incubation, acceleration, development and implementation



Current activities

Technology transfer programme

- assist LDCs identify, access & use free patent information & technologies
- support LDCs in scouting, identification and review of commercially available technologies
- resource mobilization efforts for the purchase of technologies
- establish linkages with national, regional and global IP organizations to enhance communication and provision of support to LDCs
- support LDCs in the establishment of TTOs



Current activities

Digital access to research, technical and scientific knowledge

- assist LDCs to secure greater online access to scientific knowledge and databases at no cost
- train librarians, university teachers, graduate students, researchers and information technology specialists to better understand resources available to them
- improve collaboration between research centers and universities in LDCs

Research4Life – WHO, FAO, WIPO, ILO, UNEP



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Current activities

Enhancing the role of academies of sciences in national and regional STI agenda

- empowering academies to engage in national and regional STI/SDG dialogue
- enhancing capacity of academies to lead and coordinate national scientific and research agenda
- establishing academies where none exist

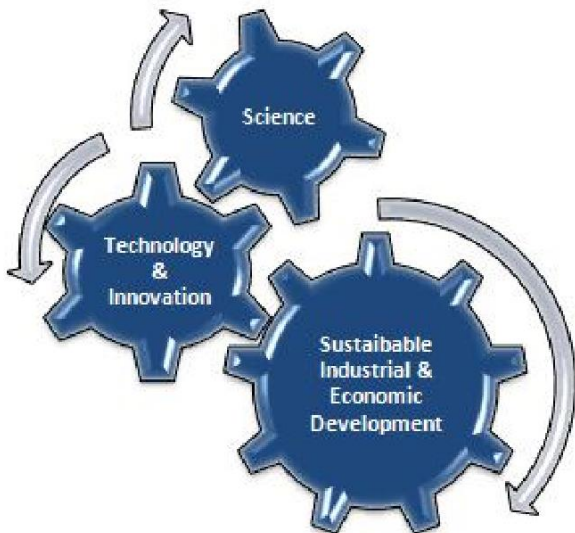
In Africa – AfDB, AUC, UNECA, NASAC, IAP/TWAS

In Asia/Pac – ESCAP, UNESCO, AASSA, IAP/TWAS



Pipe-line projects

- capacity development on artificial intelligence
- improved access to and capacity to use satellite imagery
- matchmaking events, connecting needs with solutions
- awards and innovation competitions
- fund for technology transfer



Greening LDC economies – a necessity

- transition to a greener economy is not a choice but an economic and social necessity
- climate change & resource degradation render many LDCs extremely vulnerable
- -ve impacts on economic production, social wellbeing and employment

LDCs have great potential to go green

young and growing populations & abundant natural resources

but lack the physical and financial capital and skills to realize that potential



Greening LDC economies – what is needed

**investment
policy reform
capacity development**

enhance livelihoods, create employment opportunities and
reduce poverty



economic growth and sustainable development



Thank you

