BACKGROUND

Acquiring new technologies and building domestic capacity and a knowledge base are essential for LDCs to leverage productive capacity building and structural transformation in their economies. The IPoA’s aim of enabling half of LDCs to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020 suggests an even steeper learning curve, if Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) were to fulfil its potential of equipping LDCs to better compete in the global economy. The IPoA emphasized the critical role of STI as key drivers for transformation. It agreed to undertake a joint gap and capacity analysis with the aim of establishing a technology bank and STI- supporting mechanism dedicated to the LDCs. Accordingly, the Secretary-General submitted his report to the General Assembly at its 68th Session on Technology Bank and STI Capacity Building in LDCs.

There are many provisions governing the transfer of technology in international agreements, conventions and protocols. However, the existing arrangements and mechanisms for the transfer of technology, which are fragmented and often ad hoc in terms of objective, content and country coverage, are not all-encompassing for scientific and technological capacity building in LDCs. Thus, the General Assembly Resolution 68/224 requests the Secretary-General to constitute a high-level panel of experts in order to examine the scope, functions, institutional linkage with the United Nations and organizational aspects of a technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to LDCs.

With global economic and political dynamics vastly changing over the last several years, South-South and triangular cooperation has emerged as an important complement to the traditional north-south cooperation. Therefore, the time has come to introduce new and innovative mechanisms such as the South-South Technology Transfer Facility for LDCs to be hosted by the Government of Benin.

OBJECTIVE

The main objective of this session is to discuss how to transform the science, technology and innovation (STI) base in LDCs, including through public private partnerships. This event will also provide an opportunity to exchange views among various stakeholders, including policy makers, on the ways and means to fully operationalize the technology bank and STI supporting mechanism for LDCs and to undertake other game changing initiatives, such as UNOSSC’s South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange (SS-GATE), through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation. At this session the South-South Technology Transfer Facility for LDCs will be presented, which will utilize the SS-GATE platform to transfer viable, sector-specific technologies and private sector investments aimed at developing and strengthening capacities and production in LDCs.

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

- How to build a robust endogenous STI capacity in LDCs?
- How to build a Research Depository Facility (RDF) that pools together available scientific knowledge, information and innovation?
- How to facilitate transfer and adaption of technologies to LDCs, while protecting the legitimate rights of the IP holders?
- How PPP, South-South and triangular cooperation can facilitate technology transfer to LDCs?