



**UN-OHRLLS**

**Remarks**

**by**

**Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu  
High Representative  
And  
Under-Secretary-General**

**for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries  
and Small Island Developing States  
at the**

**PRESS BRIEFING**

**The Full Operationalisation of the Technology Bank for Least Developed  
Countries**

**The First SDG Target to be achieved (SDG target 17.8)  
Press Briefing Room, Level 2, UNHQ, New York  
22 September, 2017 from 11:30AM to 12:00PM**

Your Excellency, Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey

Your Excellency Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali,  
Foreign Minister of Bangladesh and Chairperson of LDCs

Members and friends of the Press

As the intense high level week comes to its close, I am personally very happy to share with you today that since the member states through General Assembly Resolution 71/251 decided that access to technology, science and innovation would be key for the LDCs, we be signing later today the formal operating agreement for

THE TECHNOLOGY BANK FOR LDCs.

This also marks the first SDG target to be achieved and that is SDG 17.8.

This achievement is not only highly symbolic but also of great strategic importance to the LDCs in their overall achievement of the SDGs.

This Bank is all about leaving no one behind. I am sure as you have followed discussions, meetings, events of the week, you heard how over and over again it was stressed that the great new divide of our times is in access to science, technology and capacity to innovate. We must ensure that the LDCs are not yet again left behind.

The establishment of the Technology Bank has already been a high priority for LDCs under the Istanbul Programme of Action. Its importance was confirmed in the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development and then again in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Finally we are there!

So, this afternoon, the Government of Turkey and the United Nations, will sign the Host Country Agreement and the Financial and In-kind Contributions Agreement for the Technology Bank at our Annual LDC Ministerial meeting.

What is this Bank expected to contribute to?

The Technology Bank is expected to broaden the application of science, technology and innovation in the world's poorest countries. It will improve technology-related policies, facilitate technology transfer, and hasten the integration of LDCs into the global knowledge-based economy. It will also serve as a knowledge hub connecting needs, resources and actors, facilitating LDC access to existing technology-related projects and fostering joint initiatives with relevant organizations and the private sector.

Let me give you a concrete example. You know about how key access to health care is in enabling a productive life. Digi healthcare is at the forefront of innovations in facilitating access to care. So why can't we leverage such advances, adjust them to the specific environments and conditions of the LDCs and broaden access to health care? I could give many more examples but this to illustrate a bit what this bank is about.

So, I wish to thank the Government of Turkey for its strategic and generous support and financial support to host the Technology Bank.

The LDC needs are extensive. The LDCs need to be provided with expedited capacity support in their strive to meet the 2030 goals.

While we at OHRLLS will mobilise all of the UN system capacities that are around , still we need additional voluntary contributions from other partners from the public to private to civil society sectors to put this critical effort on a solid and sustainable financial footing.

There are great minds, with great ideas, with dreams all across the developing world. This untapped potential has to be unleashed. This potential is currently held back by lack of access to funds, market access and patent protection. Just think of affording basic start-up capital to the many young driven people in LDCs, affording them access to science and technology and innovate and dream of one day being the Steve Jobs, the Marie Curie, or finding a better way for sustainable agriculture in their community! It is my sincere hope that the Technology Bank will also be a beacon of support to young boys and girls to integrate into a future where access to science, technology and the ability to innovate will be so determining.

The Technology Bank will tap into, and support this vast pool of talent and innovation. I invite all stakeholders, including the private sector and foundations, to extend their support to this exciting new initiative.

Thank you for your attention.

