



Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries

Distr.: General
21 March 2018

English only

Council

First session

New York, 20–21 November 2017

Report of the first session of the Council of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries

1. The first session of the Council of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries was held on 20 and 21 November 2017 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The list of participants in the session is contained in annex I. The agenda of the session is contained in annex II.

2. The Acting Managing Director of the Technology Bank, Heidi Schroderus-Fox, formally opened the meeting by congratulating the Council members on their appointment. She gave a brief update to the Council on the progress towards the full operationalization of the Technology Bank. The Under-Secretary-General, Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, as the representative of the Secretary-General in the Council, expressed the gratitude of the Secretary-General to all the Council members for their commitment. She reiterated that the Secretary-General remains fully committed to mobilizing the entire United Nations system in support of the Bank.

I. Decisions taken

3. The Council adopted the following documents:

- (a) Agenda of the session (TBLDC/2017/1) (see annex II);
- (b) Rules of procedure of the Council (TBLDC/2017/2);
- (c) Budget and the programme of work of the Technology Bank for 2018 (TBLDC/2017/3);
- (d) Report to the General Assembly on the work of the Technology Bank in 2017 (TBLDC/2017/4);
- (e) Report of the session (TBLDC/2017/5).

4. The Council requested the Acting Managing Director to submit to the Secretary-General the report to the General Assembly on the work of the Technology Bank in 2017 to be transmitted for its information.



II. Election of the officers of the Council

5. In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, the Council unanimously elected the following individuals to serve as officers of the Council for a term of office ending in 2019:

- (a) Chair: Mohamed H. A. Hassan;
- (b) Vice-Chair: Sonia Bashir Kabir;
- (c) Vice-Chair: Zakri Abdul Hamid;
- (d) Rapporteur: Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu.

III. Discussion

6. The Acting Managing Director introduced the provisional agenda for the session, which was approved unanimously by the Council.

7. The Acting Managing Director introduced the draft rules of procedure, which were approved unanimously by the Council.

8. The Acting Managing Director presented the budget estimates and the programme of work for 2018, stressing that they followed the strategic plan of the Technology Bank adopted by the interim council in 2016, in a manner commensurate with the resources currently available in its trust fund.

9. The Acting Managing Director noted that the proposed programme of work for 2018 focused on the science, technology and innovation country reviews, including technology needs assessments, and digital access to research. Lastly, she outlined the proposed budget for 2018, noting that 2018 would be a year of transition towards the full operationalization of the Technology Bank.

10. Following the introduction of the two documents, the Council members engaged in a discussion of the programme of work and resource mobilization in the light of the budget estimates.

11. The members were supportive of the documents and the general direction outlined. Several members underlined that activities needed to be undertaken in line with the priorities of the least developed countries and in collaboration with national counterparts. In that regard, it was emphasized that the reviews needed to be carried out in close cooperation with and building upon the existing work of other organizations within and outside the United Nations. Members stressed the importance of avoiding duplication and ensuring that the Technology Bank enhances synergies among all stakeholders, so as to optimize the delivery of concrete results at the country level.

12. In that regard, strong emphasis should be placed on implementation based on robust analyses and assessments. Several members emphasized capacity-building at the country level as a tool for enhancing science, technology and innovation at both the national and regional levels and for addressing bottlenecks in the area of the deployment and upscaling of existing technological solutions. Attention needed to be given to customizing capacity-building measures to fit the needs of different beneficiaries, such as start-up entrepreneurs, government officials and researchers. Some members also stressed the importance of measuring impact, which would be important in assessing the work of the Technology Bank overall.

13. The Acting Managing Director provided an update on the current efforts in relation to resource mobilization. The Council members engaged in a wide-ranging

discussion on possible avenues to mobilize additional resources. The critical importance of Member States' support for the core activities of the Technology Bank was acknowledged. Members also highlighted the need to urgently identify alternative sources for funding, with outreach to traditional donors and other development partners of the least developed countries in both the private and public sectors. The need to approach the private sector and foundations to support and collaborate with the Technology Bank on programmatic activities was stressed. The option of mobilizing in-kind support, such as in the areas of training and capacity-building, was also highlighted.

14. The Chair invited the Rapporteur to introduce the draft report of the session, which was approved unanimously by the Council.

Annex I

List of participants

1. The following members of the Council attended the session:
 - Ann Maria Aerts
 - Aggrey John Douglas Ambali
 - Abdoulaye Yero Baldé
 - Sonia Bashir Kabir
 - Bitrina Daniel Diyamett
 - Xiaolan Fu
 - Zakri bin Abdul Hamid
 - Orkun Hasekioglu
 - Mohamed H. A. Hassan
 - Guillermina Rosibel Ochoa Salgado
 - Alfred Watkins
 - Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu
2. The following entities of the United Nations system participated in the session as observers:
 - United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
 - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
 - World Bank Group
 - United Nations Development Programme
3. The Acting Managing Director of the Technology Bank, Heidi Schroderus-Fox, attended ex officio.

Annex II**Agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
 3. Election of the officers of the Council.
 4. Discussion of the budget estimates and the programme of work for 2018.
 5. Discussion of the report to the General Assembly.
 6. Discussion of resource mobilization opportunities.
 7. Adoption of the budget and the programme of work for 2018.
 8. Adoption of the report to the General Assembly on the work of the Technology Bank in 2017.
 9. Adoption of the report of the session.
-