



Press Statement by Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu, the
High-Representative and Under-Secretary-General for
the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing
Countries
and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS)

At the Press Conference

Following the Inauguration of the Headquarters of the
Technology Bank for LDCs

Headquarters of the Technology Bank, Gebze

4 June 2018

Dear Members and friends of the Press, good morning and thank you all for being here.

Allow me also to thank H.E. Dr. Faruk Özlü, Minister of Science, Industry and Technology of the Republic of Turkey, for his remarks.

Together with the Turkish Government, UN-OHRLLS is delighted to celebrate progress towards bridging the technology gap in the poorest countries through the Technology Bank.

Dear Friends,

Without rapidly building up capacities in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) and accessing appropriate technologies, achieving sustainable development in the world's 47 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) will not be possible.

The Technology Bank is tasked by the UN General Assembly to strengthen the knowledge capacity of the world's 47 least developed countries, foster development of their national and regional innovation ecosystems to attract outside technology, and generate homegrown research and innovation. The Technology Bank has been a long-standing priority for LDCs.

The Technology Bank will implement projects and activities in the LDCs and serve as a knowledge hub connecting LDCs' Science, Technology and Innovation needs, with available resources and key STI actors who can respond to these needs. It will be in a position to facilitate LDC access to existing projects and foster joint

initiatives with relevant organizations, the private sector, foundations and academic institutions.

The Council of the Technology Bank met on 20-21 of November 2017 and adopted the 2018 work plan and budget, where in Dr. Orkun Hasekioğlu, the Vice President of TUBITAK was present. In 2018, the Technology Bank will start its operation with baseline Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) reviews and Technology Needs Assessments in 5 LDCs (Guinea, Haiti, Sudan, Timor-Leste, and Uganda) in collaboration with all relevant UN agencies. The Technology Bank will also focus on improving access for scientists and researchers to data, publications, and STI initiatives in twelve LDCs (Bangladesh, Mozambique, Nepal, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda, Tanzania, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Liberia, Madagascar, and Malawi).

In this regard, I wish to thank our generous host. Turkey continues to demonstrate an unwavering leadership and support to the LDCs' development agenda.

I wish also to express my appreciation to the Government of Norway, Sudan, Bangladesh and the Philippines for their contributions.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention that once the press conference is done, we will immediately proceed to a panel discussion on "Fostering STI in the LDCs: 'The contribution of the Technology bank for LDCs'", to which I invite you to participate.

And now I will be happy to answer few questions.