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Remarks

by Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu

High Representative

and

Under-Secretary General

Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries

and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS)

Ambassadorial Level Meeting of Least Developed Countries and

Friends of Least Developed Countries

on

Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries

Tuesday, 4 December 2018, 11:00-13:00hrs

CR 11, 4 November 2018

UNHQ, New York

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Colleagues & friends

Thank you so much Ambassador Perks Master Clemency Ligoya, Permanent Representative of Malawi for giving me the honor to join you all today at this gathering of Ambassadors from LDCs and Friends of LDCs.

This is an important day and a day showing what we can do when we all work together - what a day of hope to be here to mark the establishment of the Technology Bank and its full operationalisation.

This is a milestone achievement not just for the development of science, technology and innovation in the world's poorest countries. It is a milestone achievement in our shared determination to include all, to leave no one behind as we strive to make Agenda 2030 a reality for all.

The great new divides of our times lie in access to science, technology and capacity to innovate. How can you be a full player in the green economy, in the blue economy, in access to health for all being excluded from this critical access?

I truly hope that the Technology Bank will fully play its role as a critical accelerator for the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action and the achievement of SDGs for all Least Developed Countries.

I equally hope that the Technology Bank will also guide us at the United Nations to better support the implementation of the SDGs on the ground in all LDCs.

I must once more express appreciation to Turkey for hosting and financially supporting the Technology Bank, and I express the same to Norway, India and Bangladesh for their financial contributions.

What an encouragement also to see that Bangladesh has contributed USD 50,000 and Sudan has pledged USD 100,000, both countries are LDCs. Other LDCs have also expressed interest to make a token contribution. This is YOUR Technology Bank and these contributions are a clear indication of the LDC's ownership of and commitment to the Technology Bank.

The needs are vast and complex, and I may even add, time is of the essence! Further resources are needed to ensure the Technology Bank reaches its full potential with activities in all LDCs. I appeal to all Member States to contribute to the Technology Bank.

Our Secretary-General remains fully committed to mobilize the entire UN system in support to the Technology Bank, and to mobilize resource from all stakeholders, including, foundations, CSO, and the private sector.

Excellencies,

It is now with great pleasure that I have the honor to introduce the new Managing Director of the Technology Bank, Mr. Josuha Setipa.

Mr. Setipa brings to the Technology Bank over 20 years of experience in government and international organizations. He held senior roles dealing with international

trade, economic policy, investment strategy and economic development with focus on LDCs. His has vast experience on strategic management of key stakeholder relationships with private sector, governments, multilateral and regional development institutions, and global donors working on the sustainable development agenda.

Let us all join in wishing Mr. Setipa's the very best to lead the Technology Bank to its full potential in support of the least developed countries and above all the peoples in the LDCs.

I also wish to thank Ms. Heidi Schroderus-Fox for her role as the Acting Managing Director of the Technology Bank and all she did to contribute for establishing and fully operationalizing the Technology Bank.

As the representative of the Secretary General on the Council of the Technology Bank, I pledge to you that OHRLLS will continue working with all stakeholders in supporting the work of the Technology Bank.

Thank you.