

Technology Bank for LDCs

Presentation by

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Panel on Technology Bank for the Least
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UN-OHRLLS

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Background

- Structural handicaps to growth and sustainable development are a defining feature of LDCs
- Technology gap faced by LDCs is a key determinant of their structural deficiencies
- State of STI in LDCs remains poor
- No comprehensive mechanism to address these deficiencies

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Background (contd.)

- Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs (IPoA) made a breakthrough by aiming to establish a Technology Bank and STI supporting mechanism in order to systematically address LDCs' technology gap
- Technology Bank is envisaged as a facilitating mechanism to help LDCs build robust STI base by improving LDCs' technology access, acquisition and utilization
- In doing so, it will promote national actions by LDCs, mobilize international support and build on existing mechanisms

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Background (contd.)

- Secretary-General's Report (A/68/217) outlined a conceptual framework for Technology Bank
- UNGA res 68/224 requested the Secretary-General to constitute a high-level panel to carry out a feasibility study, with OHRLLS support, on the scope and functions of Technology Bank, institutional linkage with the UN and organizational aspects

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State of Play

- Turkey to host Technology Bank
 - Istanbul Declaration and UNGA welcomed Turkey's offer to host Technology Bank
- High-Level Panel of the UN Secretary-General
 - 10 members from LDCs and development partners from North and South
 - 50:50 gender balance
 - Prof. Romain Murenzi, Executive Director of The World Academy of Sciences and former Science Minister of Rwanda is Chair of the HLP

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Terms of Reference of High-Level Panel

The TORs were established by the UNGA res. A/68/224:

- Assessing the ability of a technology bank to promote scientific research and innovation and facilitate the diffusion and transfer of technologies to the least developed countries, on voluntary and mutually agreed terms and conditions, and with necessary protections for intellectual property;
- Considering the current international institutional landscape, synergies and options for cooperation with relevant international technology initiatives, stakeholders and organizations, both within and outside the United Nations system, and the need to avoid duplication of efforts;

Terms of Reference of High-Level Panel (Cont.)

- Examining and outlining potential functions, activities, working methods, governance mechanisms, staffing arrangements and costs for a technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism, including possible regional centres in the least developed countries;
- Examining options for facilitating the necessary voluntary financial support to a technology bank for its establishment and effective and sustained functioning.

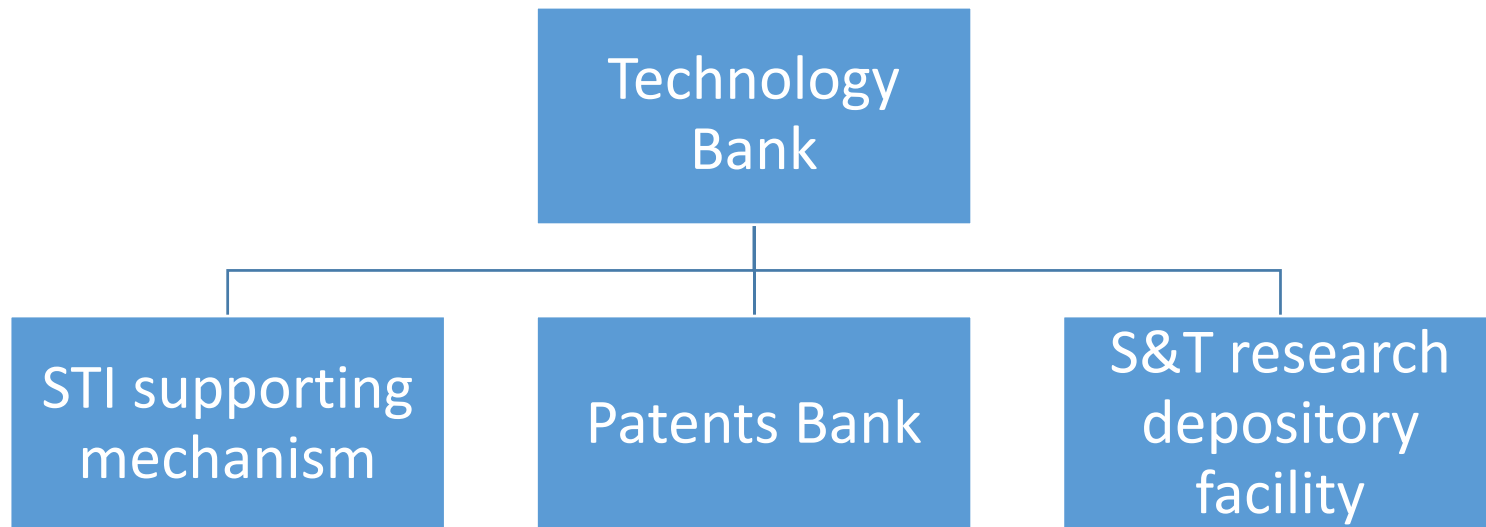
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Functions and structure: SG's Report

- Three interrelated functions:
 - Technology transfer and acquisition
 - Science, Technology and Innovation supporting mechanism
 - Networking and access of LDCs' researchers and scientists

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**Integrated structure reflecting
interrelated functions**



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STI Supporting Mechanism

- Support to building LDCs' human and institutional capacity in the area of STI
- Assistance to establishment of technology incubators and ICT connectivity
- Support to marketing LDCs' research results and improve IPR management capability
- Leveraging LDCs' diaspora knowledge networks

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Patents Bank

- Help LDCs secure relevant IP at negotiated or concessionary rates
- Technical assistance to identify appropriate technologies
- Help LDCs in IP protection for technologies facilitated by Technology Bank
- Help protect IP rights derived by LDC inventors

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Science and Technology Depository Facility

- Support to LDCs' access to scientific literature
- Help broker LDCs' research collaboration through partnerships
- Research support and networking services for LDC researchers
- Capacity building support to expand publication of LDCs' scientific work

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Next steps

- Feasibility study to be overseen and finalized by the High-level Panel
- Report of the High-Level Panel to the SG
- SG's report to the 70th UNGA session
- Operationalization by 70th UNGA session

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Concluding observations

- Primacy of partnerships: combination of national policies and international support
 - Strong national actions to build STI capabilities
 - Robust international cooperation
 - Effective involvement of the private sector, STI communities and UN system and other relevant organizations

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Thank You.

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