



As prepared for delivery

**Statement of Mr. Joshua Setipa, Managing Director for the UN Technology
Bank for LDCs**

Closing Ceremony

26 February 2021

17:00 – 18:00 Lilongwe

18:00 – 19:00 Istanbul

Lilongwe, Malawi

Excellency, Vice President and Chair of the Africa Regional Review Meeting,

Honorable Ministers,

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to first congratulate the government of Malawi for successfully hosting the Africa Regional Review Meeting this week.

Several sessions and side-events held this week have provided the platform for sharing a wealth of knowledge, experiences and opportunities for the LDCs to prepare for the 5th Conference of Least Developed Countries.

Chair,

I have the honor to present the summary report of the side-event organized by the UN Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries in collaboration with the Government of Malawi, Government of Turkey and the UN Economic Commission for Africa. The theme of the event was “**Empowering LDCs through Science, Technology and Innovation – Lessons Learned**”.

The side-event featured the UN Technology Bank's activities, which support LDCs in enhancing their science, technology, and innovation capacity to build sustainable and productive capacities and promote structural economic transformation and early results in selected African LDCs. The event also outlined the challenges faced by LDCs as a result of COVID-19 and **how to build back better in the post-COVID-19 recovery**.

The event was graced by:

- **H.E. Mr. Gospel Kazako**, Minister of Information, Malawi
- **H.E. Dr. Elioda Tumwesigye**, Minister of Science, Technology, and Innovation, Uganda
- **Dr. Solomon Benor**, Director General for Science and Research Affairs Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MoSHE), Ethiopia
- **Prof. Hasan Mandal**, President of The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey
- **Dr. Victor Konde**, Scientific Affairs Officer, UN Economic Commission for Africa
- **Mr. Joshua Setipa**, Managing Director, UN Technology Bank for the LDCs

The summary report will be transmitted for inclusion in the Report of the ARRM (official document of the LDC5 conference).

Allow me to share key policy messages from the side event that the panelists expressed:

1. Science Technology and Innovation is critical for the development and achievement of sustainable development
2. Capacity development is critical for building productive capacities and structural transformation
3. Enhance research and development capacity in LDCs to facilitate commercialization of innovations

4. STI should be integrated into national development plans and through partnerships and coordination across the ecosystem.
5. Sustainable development requires R&D and innovation from basic sciences to engineering as well as in the social sciences and humanities.
6. Digital transformation and ICT connectivity are critical to stimulate competitiveness and facilitate the export of value-added products from LDCs.
7. Increase investment in STI and R&D through collaboration between the private sector and academia to enhance innovation and competitiveness.
8. Facilitate technology transfer to LDCs and promote awareness of intellectual property rights to protect innovations from LDCs.
9. Provide financial and in-kind resources to the Technology Bank to continue supporting LDCs to enhance science, technology and innovation capacity

I thank you