



As prepared for delivery

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

Ministerial Dialogue: Lessons Learned and Building Back Better

22 February 2021

16:00 - 18:45 Lilongwe

17:00 – 19:45 Istanbul

Lilongwe, Malawi

Your Excellency, Vice President of the Republic of Malawi and Minister of
Economic Planning and Development and Public Sector Reforms

Honorable Ministers

Heads of international organizations

Member states

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to express appreciation to the Government and the people of Malawi for hosting this important meeting. This meeting comes at a crucial time for the Least Development Countries as they continue not to only respond to the current pandemic but to also take stock of progress in the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action.

The Technology Bank was born out of the Istanbul Programme of Action and is the first SDG indicator to be achieved in the 2030 Agenda.

Chairperson,

COVID19 has changed the world in more than one way, resulting in a significant impact on health, social, economic, and political structures in LDCs. From the total disruption of global supply chains to the working environment, there is no doubt that COVID-19 will significantly setback global efforts to eradicate extreme poverty and previous gains in critical areas such as health. The reality now is that the LDCs which were already lagging will now be further left behind.

Chairman,

If there is one key lesson, we have learnt over the past 12 months, it is that partnerships are the only way we can address the challenges facing the LDCs. We

have all witnessed how through global partnerships in science, COVID19 vaccines were developed in record time for a disease that was unknown 12 months ago.

It is only through strong partnerships and enhanced coordination, that LDCs can successfully respond to COVID19 and recover, foster productive capacities, graduate from LDC status and achieve the sustainable development goals. However, a post COVID19 recovery that will lead to a more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive future will require a coordinated multilateral response and the use of innovative tools and risk mitigation instruments. These concerted efforts must address *inter alia* the following:

1. **Tackling inequality** within and across countries. The nationalism demonstrated initially in the procurement of PPE and related Covid 19 technologies and now in relation to vaccines is one of many examples.
2. **Bridging the digital divide.** The shift to online services such teleworking, online-schooling, online-shopping has put into perspective the extreme digital gap between the LDCs and the rest of the world.
3. **Strengthen care health systems** by accelerating universal health care progress and investing in resilient health systems, especially in LDCs with a strong focus on primary health care.
4. **Enhancing STI capacity** in LDCs including in governments, universities, academies of science, businesses and civil societies.
5. **Developing supportive networks** by facilitating collaboration and resource-sharing between public and private sector actors in LDCs and globally on STI development in LDCs.

In concluding Chairperson, the Technology Bank stands ready to support LDCs to identify their STI challenges and opportunities as a means to building productive

capacities and promoting structural economic transformation and achievement of SDGs.

I thank you for your attention.