



UNITED NATIONS  
**TECHNOLOGY BANK**  
FOR LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

**United Nations to strengthen National Academies of Science in Eastern Africa**

**Press Release**

2 September 2019, Kampala – Science, technology and innovation play a vital role in ensuring sustainable development in Eastern Africa, especially for low-income countries. In support of this, a two-day consultation on strengthening National Academies of Science in the region opens in Kampala, Uganda today.

The event, organized by the United Nations Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries, brings together policymakers, representatives of existing national academies of science, scientists and researchers to exchange experiences and identify pilot countries for the establishment and support of National Academies of Science.

“We are delighted to be hosting this event in Kampala. National Academies of Science are recognized by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation as key institutions which can support the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.” Said Hon. Dr. Elioda Tumwesigye Minister, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Uganda

The Consultation, held in partnership with The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, The Network of African Science Academies, The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Uganda and in collaboration with the Uganda National Academy of Science, will outline a roadmap for capacity development and cooperation, regionally and nationally, to boost National Science Academies.

“National Academies of Science are key to ensuring that governments receive authoritative guidance on how science and technology can benefit a nation’s economy and society,” said Mr. Joshua Setipa, Managing Director of the United Nations Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries.

“The world’s least developed countries stand to gain greatly if these institutions are supported and established nationally, through devising policy, promoting partnership and encouraging interaction. We are very pleased to be in Kampala to listen to the experience of a range of stakeholders and to plan a way forward together”.

A number of high-level speakers and participants are expected to participate. These include Hon. Dr. Elioda Tumwesigye, Minister, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Uganda,

Hon. Prof Hirut Woldemariam, Minister, Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Ethiopia and Mr. Joshua Setipa, Managing Director, UN Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries.

Throughout the two days, perspectives and experiences will be shared by representatives of National Academies in Burundi, Ethiopia, , Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Uganda.

The UN Technology Bank is a new global organisation, dedicated to enhancing the contribution of science, technology and innovation for sustainable development in the world's 47 least developed countries. Least developed countries are low-income countries confronting severe structural impediments to sustainable development. They are highly vulnerable to economic and environmental shocks and have low levels of human assets.

The UN Technology Bank supports national and regional technological efforts in least developed countries, reinforcing partnerships across sectors and helping nations identify and use appropriate technologies to transform their economies and improve livelihoods.

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