



UNITED NATIONS
TECHNOLOGY BANK
FOR LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

United Nations to strengthen National Academies of Science in Northern Africa

Press Release

25 September 2019, Nouakchott – Science, technology and innovation play a vital role in ensuring sustainable development in Northern 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 Nouakchott, Mauritania, 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.

The Consultation, held in partnership with The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and The Network of African Science Academies and the Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research, Information Technology and Communication, Mauritania, will outline a roadmap for capacity development and cooperation, regionally and nationally, to boost National Science Academies.

“Governments in least developed countries stand to gain exponentially from the guidance and expertise that National Academies of Science can offer,” said Mr. Joshua Setipa, Managing Director of the United Nations Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries.

“The UN Technology Bank is very pleased to be in Nouakchott this week, convening key partners, who we are committed to supporting National Academies of Science in North Africa.”

High-level speakers expected to participate include Hon. Dr. Sidi Salem Minister of Higher Education, Scientific Research, Information Technology and Communication and Mr. Joshua Setipa, Managing Director of the United Nations Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries.

Throughout the two days, perspectives and experiences will be shared by representatives of National Academies in the sub-region.

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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More information: www.un.org/technologybank/