SPEECH
BY
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ON THE 24TH FEB 2021 DURING THE
AFRICA REGIONAL REVIEW OF THE 5TH UN CONFERENCE ON LDCS

1. H.E Mr Gospel Kazako, Minister of Information Malawi

2. Ministers and fellow panelists

3. Managing Director of the UN Technology Bank for LDCs

4. Participants across the globe

Mr Moderator,

5. The partnership between UN Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries and Ministry of Science Technology and Innovation (MoSTI) dates back to 2019 and continues to grow stronger by the years. Within its strategic framework, MoSTI hosted a UN TBLDCs workshop on Strengthening National Academies of Science in Least Developed Countries in Kampala, Uganda in September 2019. Participants included policymakers, representatives of existing national academies of science and scientists and researchers from countries without academies. Representatives from some non-LDCs with mature academies were also invited to share their experiences and to serve as champions for the programme.

Academies of Science among other things, serve the very important purpose of advising governments by providing authoritative and organized guidance on issues related to science and technology thus benefiting both the economy and society and, as such, should play a major role in the development of national science and technology as well as sustainable development policies. Participating policymakers called for the science community to:

   a) play a stronger advocacy role in STI for the SDGs;
   b) apply more rigour to measuring the direct impact of STI underpinning their work with concise economic arguments and demonstrating their own performance/impact;
   c) make their work more intelligible and accessible and;
   d) be timely in their interventions and mindful of policy cycles and processes.

6. **Technology Needs Assessments (TNA)**

Another initiative is a project that is supported by the United Nations Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries (UNTBLDC) in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The Inception meeting for Technology Needs Assessment that took place on 17th December, 2019 at the Golden Tulip Canaan, Kampala. The objective of the meeting was to deliberate on the progress of the assignment on Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) for the Agriculture Sector,

The aim of TNA is to understand the technological needs for catalysing fundamental transformation of Uganda's agricultural sector. The workshop was informed that a TNA primarily comprises four interlinked and iterative stages:

a) Identification of relevant technologies based on stakeholder consultations and desktop research. To this end, the consultant had undertaken consultations with stakeholders in the public sector, private sector, academia, development partners, civil society and other groups as well as undertaken necessary desk research, identified and classified relevant technologies as per three segments of the agricultural value chain: Primary Production; Post Harvest Handling and Markets and Value Addition.

b) Prioritisation of identified technologies, which was one of the main agenda items for the workshop. This was to be (is) undertaken using a multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) tool that the consultant had prepared and was also to be validated at the workshop. This was then the second agenda item.

c) Identification of barriers to the implementation of the priority technologies as well as relevant measures for addressing the barriers (which would form the basis of the Barrier Analysis and Enabling Framework (BAEF) report, being the third agenda item; and

d) Prioritisation of the identified measures for addressing the technology's barriers, which would form the basis of the Technology Action Plans (TAPs). This was then the fourth agenda item.

MoSTI has received and internally validated the draft TNA report on 20th August, 2020 via a zoom call chaired the Permanent Secretary, MoSTI. Mr. Joshua Setipa, Managing Director, UN TBLDCs was also in attendance. The report has since been revised to accommodate the views shared in the 1st validation meeting and will thereafter undergo due process leading up to national validation. The TNA report will inform the revised ST&I Policy and also inform Technology Action Plans (TAPs) and a plethora of key interventions in the hitherto Agriculture Sector now the Agro-industrialisation programme.

7. GIT Training

To support the climate change risk management and mitigations, the United Nation Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries (UN TBLDC) in partnership with United Nation Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation conducted a five day training on Geospatial Information Technologies for local experts in Uganda between 2nd and 6th March 2020. The training was identified following increasing number and intensity of natural disasters in the past few years coupled with severe consequences in terms of human lives that were impacted, structural damage and economic losses.

8. GIT Awareness Workshop

The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation in partnership with The UN Technology Bank and UNITAR-UNOSAT convened a one-day workshop to demystify geospatial technologies and raise awareness of the important role that they can play to support Uganda's development efforts. The workshop on the role of geospatial technologies for sustainable development was held at Silver Springs Hotel on 9 March 2020 in Kampala, Uganda. The workshop sessions were clustered around themes

related to geospatial technologies: (a)role of Big Data – challenges and opportunities; (b) geospatial technologies supporting the achievement of the SDGs in Africa; (c) Global Monitoring for Environment and Security for Africa; (d) understanding Uganda's needs; (e) Understanding what is possible with geospatial technologies; and (f) Thematic application of geospatial technologies for Uganda. The workshop also included presentations and working groups. The workshop enabled mid- to high-level decision makers from Uganda to increase their understanding the role of geospatial technologies in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The workshop was attended by fifty (50) participants ranging from policy-makers, academia, and practitioners. The participants shared knowledge, practices and technologies currently available that can influence sustainable development.

Innovation Hub

Through the UN Technology Innovation Lab, Uganda will create a platform for collaborative problem solving in partnership with UNDP, Private Sector, Academia and Civil Society through support from four different dimensions:

a) Improving the enabling environment (e.g. better policy and regulatory space for innovation);
b) Developing skills (innovation methods, learning behaviours, outcome-focus, action-orientation, technology innovation), including understanding what makes local solutions work and reverse engineering them into different contexts to ensure scale and spread;
c) Design, development of proto types, testing and market application of digital solutions
d) Improving internationalization for Uganda-designed digital solutions

9. **SDG Impact Accelerator**

SDG Impact Accelerator (SDGia), a global accelerator launched by Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNDP in 2018, opened its second global call for impact entrepreneurs to find innovative solutions for SDG-related complex development challenges. During the second SDGia program, startups will work on products and services in the field digital agriculture in Uganda. The second SDGia program is led by the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNDP Turkey, and United Nations Technology Bank for LDCs with the support of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, relevant government institutions and UNDP Country Offices in Uganda. The Digital Agriculture Call is addressing the digital agriculture challenge in Uganda focusing on 'world with zero hunger', which requires more productive, efficient, sustainable, inclusive, transparent and resilient food systems. The general focus of this call is "Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure" which aims to build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation in agriculture. With this aspect, the program aims at urgent transformation of the current agri-food systems with innovative solutions after the COVID-19 pandemic. This is an opportunity for startups who would like to be part of a global network that continues supporting them as they work towards the implementation of the SDGs. Along with mentorships from UNDP, UN Technology Bank, governmental institutions, financial and technology experts, and global investors, the teams will be able to create and scale their impact up in the world. During the acceleration program, teams will receive equity-free grant

of up to $15,000 and in the event that their product or service is selected for implementation in Uganda, teams may also receive impact investment at the end of the program.

10. Technology Access Partnership (TAP)

To save lives and empower Uganda to meet rising demand and accelerate local production of critical health tools, the UN Technology Bank, together with UNDP, UNCTAD and WHO and other partners have partnered with the Government of Uganda under the auspices of the Tech Access Partnership (TAP).

The Partnership will facilitate connections between large global or regional manufacturers and local manufacturers in Uganda to share key data, knowledge, manufacturing specifications and other relevant support through a coordinated network.

This unique initiative will also provide local manufacturers with technical support to help troubleshoot issues they may encounter as they seek to ramp up production, including information on market dynamics and regulatory hurdles.

The Ministry has to date made strides towards realising the key deliverables entailed under the Country Roadmap. The Country Roadmap aims at serving as a guiding framework for the government and in-country partners to evaluate country needs and capacities, and design a strategy to promote local production with a reference for tasks and stakeholders that occur in each stage. The document was informed by the experience and expertise of the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW-Madison or UW) and Engineers Without Borders (EWB) with input from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Crisis Bureau and HIV, Health and Development Group. This roadmap is being used as part of the Technology Access Partnership (TAP) hosted by the UN Technology Bank, in core partnership with UNDP, WHO and UNCTAD.

The Technology Bank under the Technology Access Partnership engaged the Ministry of Health to support their national plan for the response to the COVID vaccine in a number of areas, integrating innovative projects from their Innovation Hub.

TAP has reached out to Makerere University Bulamu Ventilator project to identify their needs with regard to their Bulamu ventilator project.

Technology Bank will provide support to Makerere University to host regional capacity-building training in bio sequencing (together with Wits University South Africa, organised by Wellcome Trust H3ABioNet)

Moderator

The UN Technology Bank within the short time of being operational has demonstrated that the vision of the Least Developed Countries can be achieved by of establishing a repository of technologies. The UN Technology Bank was the first indicator to be achieved for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Uganda therefore, calls on member States and in particular development partners to provide in-kind and or financial support, to the Technology Bank as the focal point on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Least Developed Countries within the United Nations towards the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you all for listening

For God and My Country