



Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries

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Report to the General Assembly on the work of the Technology Bank in 2018

Report on the work of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries in 2018

1. In the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, the Heads of State and Government and representatives of the States participating in the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries called for the establishment of a technology bank dedicated to the least developed countries, a long-standing priority of the least developed countries that was confirmed in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development of 2015 and in Sustainable Development Goal 17.
2. The General Assembly established the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries and adopted the Charter of the Technology Bank (see [A/71/363](#)) on 23 December 2016, in its resolution [71/251](#). In that resolution, the Assembly reaffirmed the importance of improving the least developed countries' scientific research and innovation base, promoting networking among researchers and research institutions and helping the least developed countries to access and utilize critical and appropriate technologies". The Bank is financed by voluntary contributions from Member States and other stakeholders, including the private sector and foundations.
3. In 2018, the Technology Bank was headed by the Director of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing

* TBLDC/2019/1.

Countries and Small Island Developing States, Heidi Schroderus-Fox, who had been appointed to serve as Acting Managing Director of the Technology Bank until a managing director was recruited and took up his or her duties. The staff of the Office of the High Representative provided support to the Bank on a transitional basis in 2018. Particular attention was paid to raising awareness among beneficiaries and potential donors of the new United Nations entity.

4. An inter-agency task team on the operationalization of the Technology Bank was created at the beginning of 2018 to ensure that the headquarters of the Bank conforms with United Nations security and operational requirements. On 4 June 2018, the headquarters of the Bank, located in Gebze, Turkey, was inaugurated by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Minister for Science, Industry and Technology of Turkey.

5. As provided for in the budget and programme of work of the Technology Bank for 2018 (TBLDC/2017/3/Rev.1) adopted by its Council, operational activities began in 2018. The Bank focused on preparing science, technology and innovation/technology needs assessment reviews and on digital access to research.

6. The Managing Director of the Technology Bank was appointed by the Secretary-General on 24 November 2018. Other core staff of the Bank is constituted by two Programme Officers, who took up their duties in December 2018 and January 2019, respectively. As a result, 2018 remained a transitional year for the Bank.

7. The science, technology and innovation/technology reviews are aimed at identifying technological gaps and priority needs and providing recommendations for strengthening policies and measures to improve national and regional technological capabilities and encourage innovation, including assessments in areas of critical importance for the countries under review. The Technology Bank entered into arrangements with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the preparation of reviews of Guinea, Haiti, the Sudan and Timor-Leste and with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for the preparation of a review of Uganda. Work is under way on all five reviews.

8. With regard to digital access to research, the Technology Bank intends to facilitate and increase online access to scientific and technical published information, including high-quality scientific journals, books and databases, to support the capacity of least developed countries to improve the training of researchers and the quality of the research produced. Such access presents no direct charge to the least developed countries, as beneficiaries. Activities in 2018 included 38 workshops in 10 least developed countries (Burkina Faso, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique,

Nepal, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania), engaging some 1,500 researchers, academics and librarians, and advance planning for workshops in Bangladesh and Bhutan. The workshops resulted in the increased usage of scientific and technical published information in 2017 in the majority of the countries involved. Activities relating to digital access to research engaged government ministries, parastatal organizations, national and regional research and education networks, national universities and research institutes and national and regional professional associations. In Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, institutions and individuals have been identified to lead South-South mentoring activities relating to digital access to research in 2019. Such access has also increased the visibility of the Technology Bank in the beneficiary countries and has the potential to facilitate the expansion of further activities of the Bank.

9. Turkey, as the host country, agreed to provide an annual contribution of \$2 million and premises free of charge for five years, starting in 2017. Norway contributed \$1,069,201, which provided momentum to the start of the Technology Bank's activities in 2018. In addition, India and Bangladesh made contributions of \$100,000 and \$50,000, respectively, in 2018.
