



Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries

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Council

Fourth session

Gebze, Turkey, 9 and 10 November 2020

Report of the Council of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries on the work of its fourth session

1. The fourth session of the Council of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries was convened virtually on 9 and 10 November 2020. The list of participants is contained in annex I and the agenda in annex II. The fourth session was held online owing to travel restrictions related to COVID-19.
2. The Vice-Chair of the Council, Sonia Bashir Kabir, acting as the Chair, opened the session by welcoming the Council members and observers.

I. Decisions

3. The Council adopted the following documents:
 - (a) Agenda ([TBLDC/2020/7](#); see also annex II);
 - (b) Report to the General Assembly on the work of the Technology Bank in 2020 ([TBLDC/2020/6](#) and [TBLDC/2020/6/Corr.1](#));
 - (c) Budget and programme of work of the Technology Bank for 2021 ([TBLDC/2020/5](#));
 - (d) Report on the fourth session ([TBLDC/2020/8](#)).
4. The Council requested the Managing Director to submit to the Secretary-General, for transmission to the General Assembly for its information, the report on the work of the Technology Bank in 2020 and the budget and programme of work of the Technology Bank for 2021.

II. Discussion

5. The Council adopted the provisional agenda after its introduction by the Chair. The Chair informed the Council of the closed meeting on the annual performance review of the Managing Director, to be held on 10 November 2020, in accordance with Council decision 2020/1.



6. The Chair invited the Managing Director to introduce matters arising from the third session of the Council. During the discussion, the Managing Director informed the Council of the resource mobilization strategy to be developed and implemented in 2021. The Council referred to paragraph 9 of its report on the work of its third session ([TBLDC/2020/4](#)) and requested information on the follow-up activities related to its recommendations. The Council also requested that the Managing Director inform the Council members on the development of new programmes, projects and activities initiated by the Technology Bank beyond the annual workplan. The Managing Director indicated that information on the follow-up activities could be found in the budget and programme of work of the Technology Bank for 2021 presented to the Council.

7. The Council recalled paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution [71/251](#) and requested the Technology Bank to report on results achieved during the first three years of its operation at the seventy-sixth session of the Assembly, and submit the report to the Secretary-General by mid-June 2021.

8. The Managing Director provided an overview of the report to the General Assembly on the work of the Technology Bank in 2020, highlighting the major activities and achievements, including the work on technology needs assessments, academies of sciences and the Technology Access Partnership. The Council members acknowledged and commended the work of the Bank in 2020, in particular the launch of the Technology Access Partnership initiative, which supports least developed countries in responding to the challenges posed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The Council requested that future reports to the Assembly be more informative and comprehensive.

9. The Council highlighted the Technology Bank's contribution to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and emphasized the importance of ongoing collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other United Nations entities. The Council emphasized the relevance of pursuing South-South cooperation. The Council also highlighted the importance of avoiding the duplication of activities.

10. The Council further recommended the inclusion of local innovation, communities and organizations in the work of the Technology Bank.

11. The Council noted the efforts related to the establishment of new academies in partnership with leading academies in Egypt, Ethiopia, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda. They encouraged the strengthening of existing academies of science in addition to the creation of new academies to incorporate science, technology and innovation into national development plans.

12. The Council noted the potential impact of the Technology Access Partnership on access to technologies related to COVID-19. They welcomed the partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, WHO, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Commonwealth, and the progress made in a short time. The Council took note of the significant constraints facing the Technology Access Partnership and recommended the redoubling of efforts to implement the resource mobilization strategy developed in 2020, and pledged its support to contributing to these efforts.

13. The Council highlighted the need for strengthening the role of entrepreneurship in the programme of work of the Technology Bank for 2021.

14. In the light of the new post-COVID-19 resource landscape, the Council advised the Technology Bank to strengthen its value proposition and its role in supporting the technological transformation and capacities in least developed countries. The Council recommended that the report on the work of the Technology Bank for the Least

Developed Countries for 2020 be adopted, with the following text to be added as new paragraph 2:

The Technology Bank provides a unique horizontal and sectoral approach for enhancing science, technology and innovation for the least developed countries to build productive capacities and structural transformation for resilient and sustainable development. The unique positioning of the Bank facilitates a coordinated approach through informed support to the least developed countries by undertaking technology needs assessments to facilitate the prioritization of the integration of science, technology and innovation into national development strategies, and by supporting the strengthening and establishment of academies of sciences which serve to support science-based policy formation by governments. The technology needs assessments also enhance the coordination of support for least developed countries across and within the United Nations system and with other development partners.

15. The Managing Director presented the budget and programme of work for 2021. The Chair commended the Technology Bank on the clear articulation of the activities and proposed programme and budget for 2021, including the new programme on partnership and coordination. The Council acknowledged the ambitious nature of the programme of work for 2021. The Council noted the Bank's contribution to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

16. The Council requested the circulation of technology needs assessment reports and emphasized the importance of those reports as the foundation for the Technology Bank's programmes. The Managing Director informed the Council of the development of a new technology needs assessment methodology by the Technology Bank. The Council recommended that the Technology Bank identify partners that can support and finance the implementation of the findings from the assessments. The Council was informed that the technology needs assessment activities will be initiated in 15 additional countries in 2021, and also that a corrigendum was published to replace Tonga with Sao Tome and Principe in paragraph 6 of the report to the General Assembly on the work of the Technology Bank in 2020 (see [TBLDC/2020/6/Corr.1](#)).

17. In the context of monitoring and evaluation, the Council recommended that the Technology Bank also consider, as reflected in its charter ([A/71/363](#)), an independent evaluation of the activities of the Bank.

18. The Council recalled its recommendation to maintain a budget allocation of 20 per cent for operational costs. While acknowledging the need to strengthen the Technology Bank's capacity, the Council expressed caution with regard to increasing the number of staff in the event of limited commitments for 2022.

19. The Managing Director informed the Council of the phasing out of the services of the United Nations Office for Project Services as at 31 December 2020 and indicated that the United Nations Office at Geneva had been identified as a potential service provider for non-local activities.

20. The Council noted with appreciation the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries budget and programme of work for 2021. The Council underlined the importance of implementing the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and requested that the Technology Bank follow up and report on the implementation of the Committee's recommendations in its future reports.

21. The Council adopted the budget and programme of work for 2021 and requested that the Managing Director transmit to the General Assembly the budget and

programme of work for 2021 together with the report of the Council. The Council also requested that it be informed on the transmission of information to the Assembly.

22. The Managing Director briefed the Council on the Technology Bank's resource mobilization initiatives, which were to be strengthened and supported by the development of the resource mobilization strategy. The Managing Director informed the Council of the upcoming negotiations on the renewal of the agreement on financial and in-kind support for the Technology Bank between the United Nations and Turkey, in line with the existing agreement.

23. The Council highlighted the need for the Technology Bank to focus on resource mobilization and to actively seek new strategic partnerships in the public and private sectors to support its work. The Council took note of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the need to broaden the Bank's donor base. The Council also recalled the commitment of the Secretary-General to support resource mobilization for the Technology Bank and suggested that the Bank build on this commitment. The Council encouraged its members to actively support resource mobilization initiatives, led by the six-member committee on resource mobilization.

24. The Managing Director expressed appreciation for the host country's support in providing financial resources and actively seeking to support the Bank in various forums. The Managing Director thanked the Council for its continued guidance and support with regard to the activities of the Technology Bank.

25. The Chair invited the rapporteur to introduce the draft report on the session, which was approved unanimously by the Council.

Annex I**List of participants**

1. The following members of the Council attended the session:
Aggrey Ambali
Abdoulaye Yero Baldé
Sonia Bashir Kabir
Bitrina Diyamett
Xiaolan Fu
Zakri Abdul Hamid
Mohamed H. A. Hassan
Hasan Mandal
Stefano Manservisi
Rosibel Ochoa
Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu
Alfred Watkins
2. The following participated in the session as observers:
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
World Bank Group
3. The Managing Director of the Technology Bank, Joshua Setipa, attended ex officio.

Annex II

Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Matters arising from the third session of the Council.
 3. Discussion and adoption of the report to the General Assembly on the work of the Technology Bank in 2020.
 4. Discussion and adoption of the budget and programme of work for 2021.
 5. Update on resource mobilization opportunities and new strategic partnerships.
 6. Adoption of the report of the session.
 7. Closing of the session.
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