



Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries

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Council

Eighth session

Istanbul and Gebze, Türkiye, 18 and 19 December 2023

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

1. The eighth session of the Council of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries was convened in Istanbul and Gebze, Türkiye, on 18 and 19 December 2023. The list of participants is contained in annex I and the agenda in annex II to the present report.
2. The representative of the Secretary-General in the Council, the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, Rabab Fatima, opened the session and welcomed the Council members and observers. She presided over the first item of the agenda, on the election of officers of the Council.
3. In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, the Council unanimously elected the following individuals to serve as officers of the Council for a term ending on 31 December 2026:
 - (a) Chair: Hasan Mandal;
 - (b) Vice-Chair: Lok Bahadur Thapa;
 - (c) Vice-Chair: Moctar Yedaly;
 - (d) Rapporteur: Agnes Mary Chimbiri Molande.

I. Decisions

4. The Council adopted the following documents submitted by the Acting Managing Director:
 - (a) Agenda of the session ([TBLDC/2024/1](#) and [TBLDC/2024/1/Corr.1](#)) (see annex II);
 - (b) Budget and programme of work of the Technology Bank for 2024 ([TBLDC/2024/3](#));

* Reissued for technical reasons on 5 March 2024.



(c) Report to the General Assembly on the work of the Technology Bank in 2023 ([TBLDC/2024/2](#));

(d) Report on the eighth session of the Council ([TBLDC/2024/4](#)).

5. The Council took note of a report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the budget and programme of work of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries for 2024.

6. The Council requested the Acting Managing Director to submit to the Secretary-General, for transmission to the General Assembly for its information, the budget and programme of work for 2024 and the report on the eighth session of the Council.

II. Discussions

7. The Chair introduced the provisional agenda, which was adopted by the Council.

8. The representative of the Secretary-General briefed the Council on the Secretary-General's initiatives to strengthen the governance structure of the Technology Bank and improve its accountability to the General Assembly. She highlighted the change in the composition of the Council membership and the decision of the General Assembly, at its seventy-eighth session, in which it had requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly, at its seventy-ninth session, under the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries", a report on the operations of the Technology Bank. Doing so will be an opportunity to mobilize intergovernmental support and resources for the activities of the Technology Bank, to enhance its accountability to the General Assembly, including with respect to oversight by Member States, and to raise its overall profile and visibility.

9. The Council welcomed with appreciation the measures taken by the Secretary-General to revitalize the Technology Bank, including with respect to its resources, governance and accountability mechanisms.

10. The Council recalled the discussion at its seventh session on the establishment of a functional office of the Technology Bank in Istanbul, while maintaining its headquarters in Gebze. The Council welcomed the offer by the host country to establish a functional office, located within the planned United Nations House in Istanbul, so as to ensure the integration of the Technology Bank into the United Nations system presence in Istanbul and reap the benefits of shared administrative and operational services.

11. The Council took note that representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Telecommunication Union and the World Food Programme had been invited to join as additional observers for a three-year term starting on 1 December 2023.

12. The Acting Managing Director provided an overview of the report to the General Assembly on the work of the Technology Bank in 2023, highlighting the major activities and achievements. The Council adopted the report to the General Assembly on the work of the Technology Bank in 2023 ([TBLDC/2024/2](#)).

13. The Acting Managing Director provided an overview of the budget and programme of work for 2024 ([TBLDC/2024/3](#)).

14. The Council recommended that the Technology Bank identify the lessons learned from the four major pilot projects initiated in 2023 and replicate the country-focused projects in other least developed countries, as indicated in the budget and programme of work for 2024. The Council stressed that programmes should be demand-driven and include a monitoring mechanism to ensure impact at the country level.

15. The Council agreed that the Technology Bank should:

(a) Continue to design programmes and specific projects that have an impact on the ground and that support the least developed countries in their efforts to develop technological and innovative capabilities;

(b) Strengthen the project identification, design and selection mechanism, taking into account the financial sustainability of projects from the outset;

(c) Continue to strengthen technology needs assessment, including by improving the quality, expanding the coverage of the least developed countries and enhancing the visibility of technology needs assessment as an effective policy tool to identify the priority areas in which the least developed countries need technological solutions and to develop evidence-based and country-specific technology transfer and capacity-building support programmes;

(d) Intensify resource mobilization efforts through diverse channels, including by developing a targeted, project-focused resource mobilization strategy;

(e) Enhance the visibility of the Technology Bank and build partnerships, including by engaging in the plenary sessions of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development; the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals; the upcoming third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries and fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States; and other relevant United Nations conferences and platforms.

16. The Council adopted the budget and programme of work for 2024, including the proposal to utilize the unspent balance of \$500,149 from the 2023 budget and programme of work as additional funding for project-related activities planned for 2024. The decision was prompted by the recognition that additional funding would be required to accelerate the implementation of the country-focused support programmes that had begun in 2023 and the ongoing efforts to mobilize additional resources. In addition, the Council authorized the Technology Bank to utilize \$60,000 from the reserve to prepare the report of the Secretary-General on the operations of the Technology Bank to be submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session and for the Council meetings to be held in 2024.

17. The Acting Managing Director provided an update on current efforts in relation to resource mobilization and outreach. The Council noted with appreciation the Technology Bank's extensive efforts to mobilize resources during 2023 and urged the Bank to further strengthen its resource mobilization drive and broaden its donor base, including among the private sector, so as to enable the Bank to enter a phase of growth.

18. In accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure, the Council established a subcommittee on partnerships and resource mobilization, comprising Philippe Kridelka, as Chair of the subcommittee, Tania Serafim Yvonne Romualdo, Agnes Mary Chimбири Molande, Lok Bahadur Thapa, Erika Kraemer-Mbula, Moctar Yedaly and Bridget Dougherty. The Council requested the Chair to report to the Council on the work of the subcommittee on a biannual basis and the Technology Bank to prepare the subcommittee's terms of reference.

19. In line with a decision made during its sixth session to strengthen the effectiveness of the Technology Bank, the Council established an additional subcommittee to define the modalities of the work of the Council, building on Council duties and responsibilities as set out in the Charter of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries. The subcommittee comprises the Acting Managing Director, as the Chair of the subcommittee, Sophia Tesfamariam, Lamin B. Dibba and Moctar Yedaly. The Council requested the Chair to report to the Council on the work of the subcommittee by the end of the first quarter of 2024 and the Technology Bank to prepare the subcommittee's terms of reference.

20. The Council also requested the Technology Bank to prepare a strategic plan for 2025–2027, to be submitted to the Council for approval at its ninth session.

21. The Council requested the Technology Bank to prepare the report of the Secretary-General on the operations of the Technology Bank and to submit the report to the Secretary-General in time for its submission to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session.

22. The Council expressed its appreciation to the Acting Managing Director for leading the Technology Bank with exemplary commitment and dedication over the previous two years. The Council noted that a new Managing Director had been appointed by the Secretary-General, after consultation with Council members, and was expected to take up the position upon completion of the onboarding process.

23. The Council reiterated its gratitude to the host country for its continued support for the Technology Bank.

24. 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:

Lamin B. Dibba

Philippe Kridelka

Agnes Mary Chimbiri Molande

Tania Serafim Yvonne Romualdo

Sophia Tesfamariam

Lok Bahadur Thapa

Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, Rabab Fatima

Bridget Dougherty

Erika Kraemer-Mbula

Hasan Mandal

Moctar Yedaly

2. The following representatives participated in the session as observers:

Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Türkiye, Esen Altuğ

Representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Angélica Jácome

Representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Constanze Westervoss

Representative of the International Telecommunication Union, Alex Wong

Representative of the World Intellectual Property Organization, Purevdorj Vaanchig

Representative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Ángel González Sanz

3. The Acting Managing Director of the Technology Bank, Taffere Tesfachew, attended the session in an ex officio capacity.

Annex II

Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
 2. Election of officers of the Council.
 3. Consideration of the report of the Council to the General Assembly on the work of the Technology Bank in 2023.
 4. Consideration of the budget and programme of work for 2024.
 5. Adoption of the report of the Council to the General Assembly on the work of the Technology Bank in 2023.
 6. Adoption of the budget and programme of work for 2024 and of the report of the Council on its eighth session.
 7. Closing of the session.
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