



DRAFT 25May2018 10.30 a.m.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

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**REMARKS AT INAUGURATION OF TECHNOLOGY BANK
FOR LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
Gebze, 4 June 2018**

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the United Nations, I am delighted to participate in this significant milestone.

With this ceremony to mark the operationalisation of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries, we celebrate today the achievement of the first target of the 2030 Agenda, SDG target 17.8.

This is a tangible materialization of an important aspiration of the Least Developed Countries and their partners.

The Secretary-General and I are fully committed to continue advocating for and supporting the realization of the full potential of the Technology Bank so it can fulfil its important mission in all 47 LDCs.

I would like to thank the Government of Turkey, the Least Developed Countries and their friends for their support to this important initiative.

I would also like to convey my appreciation to the Office of the High-Representative, the various departments of the Secretariat, and the agencies of the United Nations that have contributed to the operationalization of the Technology Bank.

The spirit of collaboration and partnership showed by the UN system throughout this process will continue to be important to its success.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Our common goal of advancing the objectives of the Istanbul Programme of Action and implementing the Sustainable Development Agenda in the LDCs depend in large part on science, technology and innovation.

They are key to improving economic performance and social well-being and to building resilience.

By building technical, vocational, managerial and scientific capacity in LDCs, we will make major strides towards our critical objective of leaving no one behind.

Enhancing capacity to generate scientific and technical knowledge and the ability to integrate innovative technologies is crucial to overcome LDCs' structural challenges and assist their efforts to eradicate poverty.

This includes harnessing and building on indigenous technologies and experience.

Technology has to diffuse to all communities to enable them to leapfrog traditional development challenges.

I am delighted that the Technology Bank brings this spirit in its approach to science, technology and innovation for the LDCs.

The Technology Bank is the instrument of and for the LDCs to promote their full integration into the world economy, promote social progress and build resilience.

We now have a collective responsibility to make it an effective tool.

I therefore appeal to Member States, the United Nations system and all stakeholders, including the private sector and philanthropic foundations, to contribute generously to the financing of this Technology Bank so it may reach its full potential.

I look forward to continuing to engage with all of you on the path forward as we work to build an inclusive, resilient, sustainable and peaceful future for all.

Thank you.

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