

**UN TECHNOLOGY DIALOGUES**

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**DIALOGUE 2**

**Presentation**

**by**

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# Science and Technological capacity in LDCs

- **The Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) recognizes Science, Technology and Innovation as critical enablers for the structural transformation of the economies of LDCs.**
- **LDCs are lagging well behind other developing countries in the capacity to generate and apply scientific and technological knowledge.**
- **Research and development expenditure as a percentage of GDP stood nearly at nil in the majority of these countries.**

## Existing arrangements and mechanisms of technology transfer

- Key avenues of technology transfer are :
  - Imports (technology acquisition);
  - FDI ;
  - Licensing.
- However, LDCs, given their structural constraints, have not been able to take meaningful advantage of these three channels.

## EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS IN THE FIELD

### WIPO GREEN

- **An interactive marketplace that promotes innovation and diffusion of green technologies.**
- **A database and network to connect with technology and service providers, or advertise needs.**

## **EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS IN THE FIELD**

### **UNFCCC TECHNOLOGY MECHANISM**

- **To enhance the coordination** of the full range of stakeholders in different countries and regions;
- **To engage them in cooperative efforts** to accelerate the development and diffusion, including transfer, of technologies, know-how and practices to and between countries, particularly developing countries, through technology cooperation and partnerships; and,
- **To facilitate the development of projects and programmes** to support such ends.

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## EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS IN THE FIELD

- **CGIAR – Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research**
- **A Consortium** established by 15 International Agricultural Research Centers.
- **The goal of reducing rural poverty**, increasing food security, improving human health and nutrition, and ensuring more sustainable management of natural resources.



**CGIAR**

## **Partners & Stakeholders**

Work with us for a food secure future. Consulted through the **Global Conference for Agricultural Research for Development**.

## **Consortium**

Integrates and coordinates researchers and funders. The Consortium consists of the **Consortium Board, Consortium Office** and **15 research centers**.

## **Independent Evaluation Arrangement**

Evaluates the work of the **CGIAR Research Programs**.

## **Fund**

Ensures funds for the research of the Consortium. The Fund consists of the **Funders' Forum, Fund Council** and the **Fund Office**.

## **Independent Science & Partnership Council**

Advises the **Fund** on research priorities and funding.

## **Existing arrangements and mechanisms of technology transfer: how effective for LDCs?**

- The existing arrangements and mechanisms for the transfer of technology have not been able to benefit the least developed countries in a substantial way so as to bring fundamental transformation in their technological base.
- Because neither they are comprehensive nor they are specifically tailored to LDCs. They are rather driven by the existing market forces. So, they are not benefiting LDCs substantially.

## Existing arrangements and mechanisms of technology transfer: how effective for LDCs?

- **CGIAR** is dedicated to research in the field of agriculture, which is just one of the fields of activity related to sustainable development.
- While the **UNFCCC** operates multiple mechanisms, they are rather related to climate change which does not exhaust the fields of concern as regards sustainable development.

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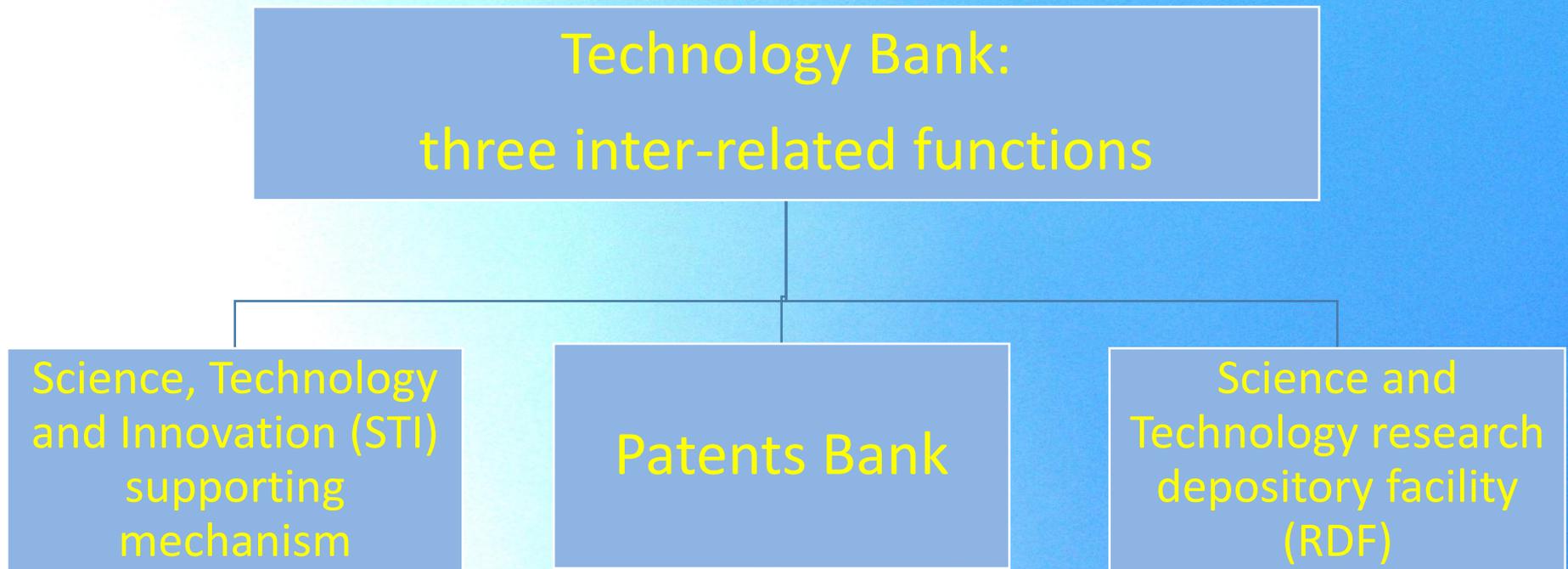
## Addressing overlaps and duplications and building synergies

- **Since each Agency has its mandate and develop activities related to it, one should not worry much about the duplication.**
- **One should rather look for ways to ensure synergies among them, by making them establish collaborative interaction in the implementation of concrete projects and programmes aiming at capacity development in the countries in need, especially LDCs.**
- **The proposed technology bank for LDCs offers a vibrant option for addressing the gaps and building synergies.**

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## Components of LDCs TB

- As defined in the report of the SG, contained in document [A/68/217](#)



**COMPONENTS****FUNCTIONS****A****patents  
bank**

- **Facilitate the transfer and adaption of technologies to LDCs.**
- **The Patents Bank arm :**
  - **to balance the technological needs of LDCs on the one hand, and**
  - **To protect the legitimate interests of individual IP holders.**
- **Technology bank would attract additional ODA while at the same time provide guarantees to IP holders by offering a corresponding legal framework that protect any IP transferred by the Bank.**

## COMPONENTS

A  
patents  
bank

## FUNCTIONS

- This would allow Intellectual Property (IP) holders to safeguard their rights which have a genuine and direct value to themselves, without having to establish a comprehensive and costly IP regime in LDCs.
- An enforcement mechanism could be in place to ensure the application of such intellectual property on an *à la carte* basis in least developed countries, as well as an arbitration mechanism;

**COMPONENTS**

**A science,  
technology  
and  
innovation  
(STI)  
supporting  
mechanism**

**FUNCTIONS**

**The need for such a mechanism has been made acute by the internationalization of R&D requiring strong local capacity for acquisition and adaptation of technologies.**

**The STI would help improve least developed countries' scientific research and innovation base.**

## COMPONENTS

**A science,  
technology  
and  
innovation  
(STI)  
supporting  
mechanism**

## FUNCTIONS

**This arm would do the following:**

- **Support to building least developed countries' endogenous human and institutional capacity for acquisition and adaptation of technologies;**
- **Assistance with the establishment of technology incubators in universities in least developed countries and support for information and communications technology connectivity;**

## COMPONENTS

**A science,  
technology  
and  
innovation  
(STI)  
supporting  
mechanism**

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## FUNCTIONS

- **Beyond traditional North-South avenues, an STI mechanism can also encourage capacity building through South-South cooperation.**
- **Support with marketing least developed countries' research results and improving intellectual property rights management capability.**
- **Leverage LDCs' diaspora knowledge networks.**

**COMPONENTS****A Science  
and  
Technology  
Research  
Depository  
Facility  
(RDF)****FUNCTIONS**

- This can offer the potential for LDC S&T investigators to join global research teams "virtually."
- This would help broker collaborations with advanced-economy institutions (North-South), across the developing world through South-South, and act as a global facilitator for them all through Triangular cooperation.

## COMPONENTS

- A Science and Technology Research Depository Facility (RDF)

## FUNCTIONS

- The RDF could also build on some of the existing mechanisms such as Research4Life, an innovative public-private-partnership (PPP) between four UN agencies (WHO, FAO, UNEP, and WIPO), global publishers of online scientific and technical publications, and several technical partners, including Microsoft.
- Capacity-building support in order to expand the publication of scientific work in least developed countries in peer-reviewed journals.

## FUNDING OPERATIONS OF THE TECHNOBANK FOR LDCs

- the initiative of the **Technology Bank for the LDCs** arose partly from **frustration that the promise under article 66.2 of the TRIPS agreement has not been realized.**
- Just as the development community has embraced the notion of aid for trade, so could it consider **supporting the concept of aid for science and technology**, especially as it concerns the LDCs and provide additional resources, on concessional basis, **as requested by RIO+20.**

## FUNDING OPERATIONS OF THE TECHNOBANK FOR LDCs

- **A multi-donor trust fund,**
  - To be supported by :
    - traditional donors;
    - emerging economies,
    - regional development banks ;and
    - other multilateral agencies.
  - **to finance and investment scheme for start-up ventures oriented towards science technology and innovation, in accordance with standard management practices, but tailored to the circumstances of the LDCs**

## FUNDING OPERATIONS OF THE TECHNOBANK FOR LDCs

- Host country could also bear a part of funding for establishing the Technology Bank for LDCs ;
- other donor governments could be invited to share the cost,

**The purpose is :**

**to allow LDCs to benefit from the same attention to science technology and innovation that has accelerated economic progress among more advanced developing economies.**

## The way forward

In accordance with mandate given by the GA resolution 68/224

- a high-level panel of experts (HLPE) is to be constituted by the Secretary-General, on the basis of voluntary contributions, with the secretariat support provided by the OHRLLS,
- In order to examine the scope, functions, institutional linkages with the UN and organizational aspects of the Technology Bank.

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Thank you for your attention