



# Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries

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## Council

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Agenda item 3

### Draft budget and programme of work for 2023

## Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries: budget and programme of work for 2023

### I. Mandate

1. In accordance with the mandate entrusted by the General Assembly and the Charter of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries, the specific objectives of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries are to:

(a) Strengthen the science, technology and innovation capacity of least developed countries, including the capacity to identify, absorb, develop, integrate and scale up the deployment of technologies and innovations, including indigenous ones, as well as the capacity to address and manage intellectual property rights issues;

(b) Promote the development and implementation of national and regional science, technology and innovation strategies;

(c) Strengthen partnerships among science, technology and innovation-related public entities and with the private sector;

(d) Promote cooperation among all stakeholders involved in science, technology and innovation, including researchers, research institutions and public entities, within and between least developed countries, as well as with their counterparts in other countries;

(e) Promote and facilitate the identification, utilization and access of appropriate technologies by least developed countries, as well as their transfer to the least developed countries, while respecting intellectual property rights and fostering the national and regional capacity of least developed countries for the effective utilization of technology to bring about transformative change.

2. Moreover, the consensus reached among Member States as part of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, for the decade 2021–2030, has reinforced the mandate of the Technology Bank by reaffirming that the Bank will serve as “a focal point for least developed countries to strengthen their science,



technology and innovation capacity towards building sustainable productive capacities and promoting structural economic transformation”.

## II. Overall orientation

3. In its sixth, special session held on 30 and 31 May 2022, the Council, after considering the recommendations arising from the functional review of the Technology Bank, prepared at the request of the Council, decided to introduce a series of reform measures, including a reduction in the number of posts, the reprofiling of posts to ensure relevance for programme delivery, the introduction of a more tailored approach to project design and implementation and a new approach to project financing based on targeted resource mobilization (see [TBLDC/2022/4](#)). The Council considered and approved a revised budget and programme of work for 2022. The year 2022 has therefore been a transition period for the Technology Bank, leading to downsizing and restructuring.

4. Moving forward, a two-track approach is envisaged for the implementation of the budget and programme of work for 2023. The first track will focus on the consolidation of the organizational restructuring carried out during 2022, including the recruitment of the next Managing Director, based on a revised profile and job description. The second track will involve the continuity of the programme of work carried over from 2022 and the implementation of new technology transfer and capacity-building projects which were initiated by the Technology Bank during 2022. In line with the new strategic direction proposed by the functional review, from 2023 onward the support that the Technology Bank provides to the least developed countries will focus on the following three broad areas:

- (a) Research, analysis and technology needs assessment;
- (b) Identification of technologies and technical know-how that are relevant, appropriate, and applicable to least developed countries; formulation of demand-driven and bankable transfer of technology projects; and initiating their implementation in collaboration with partners, both national and international;
- (c) Forging partnerships and mobilizing resources for effective, inclusive and sustainable implementation of technology transfer and capacity-building projects.

5. The Technology Bank, as recommended by the functional review, has already introduced a new approach to project design and implementation, which encompasses:

- (a) Identifying technologies and determining their relevance, applicability, appropriateness and cost effectiveness and the scope for transfer to least developed countries. Extensive consultations with stakeholders at the national and international levels will be critical, along with ensuring that due diligence evaluation of the risks and benefits are carried out in designing projects;
- (b) Facilitating the transfer of identified appropriate technologies and strengthening science, technology and innovation capacity in least developed countries, including the capacity to absorb, integrate and scale up technologies;
- (c) Strengthening resource mobilization and partnership for inclusive growth and maximum impact.

6. Within each project designed is embedded a commitment to inclusivity and diversity at all levels, particularly with respect to mainstreaming gender- and youth-related issues in the work of the Technology Bank.

7. The budget and programme of work for 2023 will be based on the annual contribution of \$1.7 million by the Government of the host country, Türkiye, and will build on the lessons learned from the experience of the Technology Bank in delivering support to the least developed countries.

8. In line with the decision of the Governing Council of the Technology Bank, the implementation of the 2023 budget and programme of work will be guided by the key principles of being demand-driven and responsive to the science, technology and innovation needs of the least developed countries; giving priority to resource mobilization; building and leveraging partnerships in support of science, technology and innovation capacity-building; maintaining agility and responsiveness to new challenges and opportunities; focusing on comparative strengths; and commitment to inclusive technological development, paying special attention to youth and gender equity in science, technology and innovation.

9. To enhance the result-based management practice of the Technology Bank and in line with the new approach to programme implementation, the strategic plan of the Technology Bank for 2022–2024 includes a strategic framework to enable monitoring, evaluation and learning.

10. The programme of work for 2023 will comprise a combination of new projects on transfer of technology and ongoing programmes initiated in 2021 and 2022 in the key areas of technology needs assessments, technology transfer and the enhancement of science, technology and innovation capacities.

11. Furthermore, in the future, the Technology Bank will develop and strengthen its capacity to conduct policy-oriented research and analysis, which are critical for enhancing the thought leadership of the Technology Bank and raising global awareness of the challenges and opportunities associated with building science, technology, and innovation in the least developed countries. The Technology Bank will thereby establish a reputation and develop expertise for specialized advisory services on science, technology and innovation capacity-building.

12. The Technology Bank will intensify its efforts to strengthen partnerships with key stakeholders, including entities of the United Nations system and the private sector. The Technology Bank participated and actively engaged with Member States, including development partners, in the preparatory work for the second part of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which was held in Doha in March 2023. The Government of Türkiye provided \$100,000 for side events at the second part of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries designed to showcase activities carried out by the Technology Bank. This occasion provided the opportunity to mobilize resources.

13. In 2023, the Technology Bank will sustain close coordination with the executive preparatory committees of the Türkiye-Africa Partnership Summit, co-hosted by the African Union and Türkiye, and the Antalya Diplomacy Forum.

14. The Technology Bank will also foster new partnerships and collaborate with other regional and continental economic bodies, such as the African Union, the Southern African Development Community, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the Economic Community of West African States, and international bodies, to ensure coordinated approaches to science, technology and innovation development as well as enhanced synergies for interventions in least developed countries.

15. In 2023, the Technology Bank will continue to prioritize resource mobilization by committing resources dedicated specifically to mobilizing funds for programme implementation, while developing a broader resource mobilization strategy and

operational plan consistent with the funding requirements of the work of the Technology Bank going forward.

### III. Overview of budget estimates and available resources

16. The status of contributions, financial resources by component, post resources and resource requirements by object of expenditure are provided in tables 1 to 4, respectively.

17. For funding the programme of work for 2023, the Technology Bank will rely on the annual contribution of \$1.7 million that the host country provides in accordance with the five-year financial agreement between the Technology Bank and the Government of Türkiye signed on 3 February 2022. In addition, the host country has agreed to provide every year an additional \$200,000 earmarked for Sustainable Development Goals-related activities, to be disbursed upon the submission of viable project proposals showing tangible impact on least developed countries. From 2023 onward, and in line with the decision of the Governing Council in May 2022, all projects and programmatic activities will be financed from resources that are specifically mobilized for projects. Unlike in past practice, unspent funds from the previous year will not be used to cover operational and programme costs of the subsequent year. In 2023, the unspent balance and savings from prudent management of resources during 2022 is estimated to be \$1,960,185 (see table 1). This amount will be kept as reserves and contingency funding.

18. The host country will continue to provide in-kind support, that is to say, office space and all facility services (security, cleaning, maintenance and utilities) at no cost to the Technology Bank.

19. The overall budget requirement for 2023 is estimated to be \$1,699,857, covering the costs of Council support, executive direction and management and operational support, the programme of work and programme support costs (at 13 per cent) (see table 2). The respective shares are: Council support (3.4 per cent), executive direction and management and operational support (43.4 per cent) and programme of work (53.2 per cent). The Technology Bank endeavours to meet the Council's recommendation that the operational cost should not exceed 20 per cent of the total annual budget of the organization.

20. The Junior Professional Officers Programme has been extended by the Government of Italy up to October 2023, which marks the third year of operation of the Junior Professional Officers Programme. In accordance with the agreement with the Government of Italy, the Technology Bank will cover 50 per cent of the cost for extension to the third year (2023). The Technology Bank has already initiated the request for the extension and has allocated the funds necessary to cover the 50 per cent cost. In addition, the Technology Bank is currently discussing with the Ministry of Commerce of China the possibility of a two-year secondment to the Technology Bank of an expert at the P-4 level. The cost of the seconded staff (\$470,000) will be fully covered by the Ministry of Commerce of China.

21. The changes in resource requirements by object of expenditure from 2022 to 2023 are shown in table 4 below. The total resource requirements for 2023 are \$1,699,857, which is significantly lower (47 per cent) than the total resource requirements in the revised budget for 2022 (\$3,633,932). This is the result of the major reform undertaken by the Technology Bank involving a significant reduction in the number of posts (from 18 to 9), resulting in a sharp decrease in staff and non-staff costs (travel, consultancies, general operating expenses and contractual services).

Table 1  
**Status of contributions**

(United States dollars)

	<i>Amount</i>
<b>Fund balance, 1 January 2021</b>	4 527 050
Voluntary contributions received in 2021	2 000 000
Interest income, 2021	10 418
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>6 537 468</b>
Expenditures in 2021	(3 845 870)
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>(3 845 870)</b>
<b>Fund balance, 31 December 2021</b>	2 691 598
Voluntary contributions received in 2022	1 700 000
Interest income, January–June 2022	6 683
Voluntary contributions expected	–
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>4 398 281</b>
Expenditures, January–June 2022	(1 447 843)
Projected expenditures, July–December 2022	(990 253)
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>(2 438 096)</b>
<b>Projected fund balance, 31 December 2022</b>	<b>1 960 185</b>

Table 2  
**Financial resources by component**

(United States dollars)

<i>Component</i>	<i>2021 expenditure</i>	<i>2022 initial approved</i>	<i>2022 revised approved</i>	<i>Change versus revised</i>	<i>2023 estimate</i>
Council support	392	49 495	49 495	1 233	50 728
Executive direction and management and operational support	825 718	1 054 500	722 114	(69 511)	652 603
Programme of work	2 638 637	2 468 780	2 444 260	(1 643 293)	800 967
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3 464 748</b>	<b>3 572 775</b>	<b>3 215 869</b>	<b>(1 711 571)</b>	<b>1 504 298</b>
Programme support costs <sup>a</sup>	381 122	464 461	418 063	(222 504)	195 559
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 845 870</b>	<b>4 037 236</b>	<b>3 633 932</b>	<b>(1 934 075)</b>	<b>1 699 857</b>

<sup>a</sup> Programme support costs for the trust fund in 2023 are assumed at 13 per cent, pending the Controller's approval of a reduced rate of 11 per cent.

Table 3  
Post resources

<i>Component</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022 initial approved</i>	<i>2022 revised approved</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>2023 estimate</i>
Professional and higher categories	7	8	10	(6)	4
General Service and related categories	10	10	8	(3)	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>(9)</b>	<b>9</b>

Note: The organizational structure and post distribution for 2023 are shown in annex II.

Table 4  
Resource requirements by object of expenditure

(United States dollars)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>2021 expenditure</i>	<i>2022 initial approved</i>	<i>2022 revised approved</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>2023 estimate</i>
<b>Staff and other personnel costs</b>					
1. International staff	1 034 967	1 522 495	1 510 496	(693 691)	816 805
2. Local staff	97 019	281 652	139 875	39 890	179 765
3. General temporary assistance	81 107	397 118	316 866	(316 866)	–
4. Consultants and experts	1 162 671	453 680	32 000	173 000	205 000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2 375 763</b>	<b>2 654 945</b>	<b>1 999 237</b>	<b>(797 667)</b>	<b>1 201 570</b>
<b>Hospitality</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>4 200</b>	<b>4 200</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>4 200</b>
<b>Travel</b>					
1. Travel of Council members	243	44 095	44 095	1 233	45 328
2. Travel of staff	84 957	280 656	105 786	(26 286)	79 500
3. Travel of participants to meetings and workshops	34 481	–	–	–	–
4. Travel of consultants, resource persons and panellists	–	16 814	6 364	(6 364)	–
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>119 681</b>	<b>341 565</b>	<b>156 245</b>	<b>(31 417)</b>	<b>124 828</b>
<b>Grants and fellowships</b>	<b>661 946</b>	<b>145 140</b>	<b>880 487</b>	<b>(880 487)</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Contractual services</b>	<b>65 733</b>	<b>123 425</b>	<b>125 700</b>	<b>(74 500)</b>	<b>51 200</b>
<b>Equipment and vehicles</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>4 900</b>	<b>1 500</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>1 500</b>
<b>Supplies</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>10 000</b>	<b>5 000</b>	<b>(2 500)</b>	<b>2 500</b>
<b>General operating expenses</b>	<b>241 623</b>	<b>288 600</b>	<b>43 500</b>	<b>75 000</b>	<b>118 500</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 464 748</b>	<b>3 572 775</b>	<b>3 215 869</b>	<b>(1 711 571)</b>	<b>1 504 298</b>
Programme support costs	381 122	464 461	418 063	(222 504)	195 559
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>3 845 870</b>	<b>4 037 236</b>	<b>3 633 932</b>	<b>(1 934 075)</b>	<b>1 699 857</b>

## A. Council support

22. The resource requirements for Council support are outlined in table 5.

**Table 5**  
**Resource requirements for Council support**

(United States dollars)

<i>Object of expenditures</i>	<i>2021 expenditure</i>	<i>2022 initial approved</i>	<i>2022 revised approved</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>2023 estimate</i>
Travel	243	44 095	44 095	1 233	45 328
Hospitality	–	4 200	4 200	–	4 200
Contractual services	149	1 200	1 200	–	1 200
<b>Total</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>49 495</b>	<b>49 495</b>	<b>1 233</b>	<b>50 728</b>

23. The amount of \$50,728, at maintenance level, will provide for the travel of Council members (\$45,328), accommodations for up to eight observers (\$1,200) for one two-day Council session and hospitality services for the Council session (\$4,200). The Council's subcommittee on resource mobilization plans to hold two virtual meetings in 2023. In its sixth, special session held in May 2022, the Council decided to meet twice a year: for its annual meeting, to be held in person; and a virtual midterm review meeting.

## **B. Executive direction and management and operational support**

24. Under the guidance of the Council, the Managing Director of the Technology Bank provides overall executive direction on substantive and managerial matters and ensures the effective delivery of the annual programme of work and strategic plan approved by the Governing Council.

25. The core responsibilities of executive direction and management and operational support are, inter alia:

- (a) Setting a vision and strategic direction;
- (b) Providing sound management and operational guidance;
- (c) Organizational coordination to ensure coherence, consistency and efficient utilization of resources;
- (d) Managing external relations and representation vis-à-vis Member States including host Governments and media;
- (e) Directing resource mobilization efforts and relations with the Council.

26. At the end of 2020, following consultations with the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance and the Department of Operational Support, the Technology Bank identified the United Nations Office at Geneva as a service provider. A standard memorandum of understanding was signed by the Bank and the United Nations Office at Geneva in early 2021. The memorandum of understanding contains a list of services available to all clients of the United Nations Office at Geneva and the standard price list. The costs are charged to the Technology Bank on a quarterly basis. The calculation of costs is based on the number of transactions processed for the Technology Bank multiplied by the standard prices. For example, the cost of services provided by the United Nations Office at Geneva amounted to \$29,108 for the first quarter of 2022 and to \$21,122 for the second quarter of 2022. The United Nations Office at Geneva has been providing recruitment, payroll, accounting, budget and travel services to the Bank. The costs depend on the volume of transactions, reflecting the needs of the Technology Bank. It is advisable,

however, that, in the long term, the Technology Bank develops its own in-house capacity for some of the services that can be provided from within the Technology Bank instead of continuing to rely on the United Nations Office at Geneva. The Technology Bank has started to build its capacity for administrative and financial accounting through training provided by the United Nations Office at Geneva. This process will continue during 2023.

27. Within the United Nations, the head of an organization is normally supported by a dedicated front office to help with routine functions and provide support to the executive officer. However, in view of the small size of the Technology Bank, the Managing Director will be assisted by one General Service staff.

28. The resource requirements for executive direction and management and operational support are outlined in table 6 below.

Table 6

**Resource requirements for executive direction and management and operational support**

(United States dollars)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>2021 expenditure</i>	<i>2022 initial approved</i>	<i>2022 revised approved</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>2023 estimate</i>
<b>Staff and other personnel costs</b>					
1. International staff	428 760	609 874	530 341	(4 738)	525 603
2. Local staff	83 506	165 404	84 195	(84 195)	–
3. Consultants and experts	47 000	–	–	–	–
<b>Subtotal, staff costs and other personnel costs</b>	<b>559 266</b>	<b>775 278</b>	<b>614 536</b>	<b>(88 933)</b>	<b>525 603</b>
<b>Operational costs</b>					
1. Travel of staff	12 248	6 322	4 578	(78)	4 500
2. Contractual services	12 581	35 000	53 000	(53 000)	–
3. Equipment and vehicles	–	4 900	1 500	–	1 500
4. Supplies	–	10 000	5 000	(2 500)	2 500
5. General operating expenses	241 623	223 000	43 500	75 000	118 500
<b>Subtotal, operational costs</b>	<b>266 453</b>	<b>279 222</b>	<b>107 578</b>	<b>19 422</b>	<b>127 000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>825 718</b>	<b>1 054 500</b>	<b>722 114</b>	<b>(69 511)</b>	<b>652 603</b>

**1. Staff and other personnel costs**

29. The amount of \$525,603, reflecting a decrease of \$88,933, will provide for the funding of two posts in executive direction and management: post of Managing Director at the D-2 level and post of Administrative Officer at the P-3 level.

**2. Operational costs**

30. The operational costs for 2023 will be in the amount of \$127,000 and involve two major components. The first component relates to expenses in travel, supplies, contractual services, translation and printing of documents, office equipment, information technology support services and licences, internal translation and hospitality. In 2023, the resource requirements for these items will amount to \$47,000, representing a reduction of 56 per cent (\$60,578) from the revised 2022 budget. The reduced requirements for operational costs are due to reductions in travel of staff for



capacity development; greater reliance on online training; reduced requirements for contractual services related to website development; reduced general operating expenses; and reduced requirements for office vehicles. The second component involves the direct costs for covering expenses related to services charges of service providers. Those costs are estimated at \$80,000.

## **V. Programme of work**

### **A. Research, analysis and technology needs assessment**

#### **1. Background and rationale**

31. Developing research and analysis capacity will provide the Technology Bank with intelligence and thought leadership on prominent issues related to science, technology and innovation in the least developed countries. Moreover, that capacity will deliver a systemic process for identifying the development challenges facing the least developed countries and for choosing the technologies and policy options that may be best for the conditions of the least developed countries. The research and analysis work will focus on policies, incentives, regulations, rules and governance-related issues, which is necessary for the development of science, technology and innovation capacity (as compared with more specialized and scientific technical know-how).

32. In 2022, the Technology Bank launched a substantive report on the state of science, technology, and innovation in least developed countries. Drawing on the main insights outlined in the report, the Technology Bank will continue to develop and issue short thematic briefs on the state of science, technology and innovation in the least developed countries.

33. Country-based technology needs assessment will continue to form the basis for designing technology transfer and capacity-building programmes which will be implemented by the Technology Bank in support of the least developed countries and to help them achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

34. For the Technology Bank, the technology needs assessment programme remains critical, since it serves as a knowledge product that provides both the Technology Bank and beneficiary countries with valuable information on the technological situation in each country and priority technological needs. The technology needs assessments also serve as effective instruments for identifying development challenges in least developed countries that require technological solutions through targeted project design and sustainable technology transfer.

35. In 2023, the focus of Technology Bank work on technology needs assessments will be twofold: finalizing up to six technology needs assessments that started in 2021 and 2022 but were not completed for various reasons, including inability to conduct surveys, and initiating two new technology needs assessments. Details of technology needs assessment programme countries are provided in subsection 6 below.

36. Moving forward, the implementation of the technology needs assessment programme will incorporate lessons learned from recent experiences and the recommendations emerging from a peer-review workshop on technology needs assessment that the Technology Bank organized in April 2022. In this regard, in future, all technology needs assessments will be demand-driven; clarify the link between the key development challenges and the technologies identified to address the developmental challenges; ensure active engagement of stakeholders at all levels throughout the process; and propose technologies that have the potential to address multiple challenges simultaneously.

37. Regarding partnerships, the Technology Bank will continue to seek new partners in the private sector and specialized agencies such as the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa and regional bodies such as the Southern African Development Community while strengthening the existing partnerships with the Commonwealth as co-sponsor of the implementation of technology needs assessments in some least developed countries.

38. In 2023, the Technology Bank will establish a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the progress made in its activities and the lessons derived therefrom. The system will be comprehensive, transparent and evidence-based, with a strong focus on the assessment of outputs, outcomes and impacts. This will lay the groundwork for the subsequent establishment of a dedicated monitoring, evaluation and learning unit and a comprehensive monitoring, evaluation and learning strategy.

## **2. Relationship to the strategic plan of the Technology Bank**

39. The research, analysis and technology needs assessment programme is directly linked to outcome 1 of the strategic plan for 2022–2024, under output 1.1 (evidence- and policy-based science, technology and innovation analyses aimed to inform technological development) and output 1.2 (technology needs assessments).

## **3. Objectives**

40. The main objective of the programme is to support sustainable technological development through evidence-based interventions informed by rigorous research, analysis and technology needs assessments. The programme generates knowledge products that provide critical insights on the technological situation and priority technological needs aimed towards guiding least developed countries and the Technology Bank. The specific objectives of the programme are:

(a) To identify prominent and emerging issues in science, technology and innovation while analysing their implications for least developed countries, to enable the Technology Bank to carry out its advocacy role in science, technology and innovation-related issues affecting least developed countries;

(b) To identify the core areas of focus and technological solutions that each country may include as part of its national development strategy to accelerate efforts towards the implementation of national development plans and to promote the achievement of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals;

(c) To support identification of technology transfer needs and facilitate targeted project development and design;

(d) To assist enterprises and innovators to identify and develop technologies that suit the needs of the least developed countries.

## **4. Main activities**

41. The main activities under the programme are:

(a) Preparing policy-oriented briefs on science, technology and innovation covering key issues that are directly relevant to the least developed countries and promoting dissemination of findings;

(b) Finalizing technology needs assessment reports based on the information collated from the inventories, other statistical materials, desk-based research and interviews conducted by the contracted experts in collaboration with national working group members and other stakeholders;

(c) Preparing booklets for selected least developed countries summarizing the technology needs assessment findings;

(d) Designing a database and inputting technologies prioritized by least developed countries in selected sectors;

(e) Liaising with other programme areas to share findings from research, analysis and technology needs assessments, discuss identified priority areas and inform project development.

## **5. Expected accomplishments**

42. The expected accomplishments in 2023 under the programme are:

(a) Four science, technology and innovation policy-oriented briefs covering key issues emerging from the state of science, technology and innovation report are published;

(b) At least six technology needs assessments are completed and validated by targeted least developed countries;

(c) A database with technologies needed by at least 14 least developed countries is compiled;

(d) Dialogue among stakeholders involved in science, technology and innovation is conducted as a follow-up to the research or technology needs assessment reports.

## **6. Country coverage**

43. To date, the Technology Bank has completed and validated 11 technology needs assessments. In 2021 and 2022, eight countries were suspended or deferred owing to either political instability (Afghanistan, Burkina Faso and the Sudan) or less active engagement by the countries (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Malawi, Nepal, and Zambia). In 2023, the Technology Bank will validate the technology needs assessment reports prepared in 2022 for Bangladesh, Benin and Djibouti and initiate two new technology needs assessments, one of which will be for the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The Technology Bank will continue to engage countries with the aim of completing up to five suspended technology needs assessments during 2023.

# **B. Technology transfer project design and implementation**

## **1. Background and rationale**

44. Science, technology and innovation form the building blocks of sustainable development. A technology gap exists, however, between the least developed countries and the rest of the world. Technology is inaccessible to the least developed countries for many reasons. Most important is their limited absorptive capacities resulting from domestic resource constraints, inadequate backbone infrastructure, limited investment in human capital, insufficient incentive structures and institutional and policy weaknesses. The General Assembly, in its resolution [71/251](#), reaffirmed, as does the Charter of the Technology Bank the importance of promoting and facilitating the identification and utilization of and access to appropriate technologies by the least developed countries, as well as their transfer to the least developed countries.

45. Technology transfer is not, by itself, sufficient for inducing technological development. Effective utilization and deployment of acquired technologies and their

absorption and scaling up will depend on the level of development of domestic science, technology and innovation capacity and the policy and regulatory environment that supports the science, technology and innovation system ecosystem. It is therefore important that the support provided by the Technology Bank not be limited to identification and deployment of technologies only but also include creating – in partnership with key national and international partners – the enabling environment necessary to sustain local technological capability-building through learning, absorption, scaling up and building the capacities for innovation, including the effective utilization of indigenous technologies. These objectives would require introducing the right policy and regulatory measures and supporting the least developed countries in the management of intellectual property rights.

46. Guided by insights produced through research and analysis, as well as through the demand-driven technology needs assessment outputs, the Technology Bank will continue to identify technologies that least developed countries need and design bankable projects in collaboration with technology providers, funders and other stakeholders to forge partnerships, mobilize resources and implement the projects.

47. In 2022, the Technology Bank piloted a new model for designing technology transfer projects as recommended in the functional review, leveraging insights on technological needs identified in technology needs assessments and development challenges articulated in national development strategies. As a result, seven country-specific projects have been developed for implementation in 2023 covering four areas: health care, sustainable housing, food systems and digitalization. These projects include the Technology Makers Lab, to be implemented in the Niger; the Post-Harvest Management project, to be implemented in the Gambia; the Hear, Listen and Speak project, to be implemented in Malawi and potentially Bangladesh; and the Rammed Earth Housing project, to be implemented in Mozambique.

48. The Technology Makers Lab project has been developed in partnership with the National Agency for the Information Society of the Presidency of the Niger, the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency, the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye and the Ministry of Industry and Technology of Türkiye and the Turkish Presidency Strategy and Budget Office. The project aims to enhance digital and entrepreneurial skills among the youth in the Niger and prepare them for the diffusion and uptake of frontier technologies. The project will target high school students, providing workshops and trainings on robotics and coding, design and production, materials science, nanotechnology, advanced robotics, software technologies and cybersecurity. In 2022, the Technology Bank set up the project and coordinated the first phases, including advancing resource mobilization efforts. The project is under consideration by the African Development Bank for \$5,190,000. The Technology Bank has also submitted a proposal to replicate the Technology Makers Lab in the United Republic of Tanzania and will further explore opportunities for demand-driven expansion of the project in other least developed countries, subject to successful mobilization of resources.

49. Drawing from the recently completed technology needs assessment in Mozambique, the Technology Bank has also developed a project proposal aimed at transferring technology for building sustainable and resilient rammed earth dwellings with local materials developed by Sakarya and Düzce Universities in Türkiye. The project aims towards building low-cost, affordable, resilient, eco-friendly and sustainable housing. The project consortium includes the Technology Bank, the Ministry of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources of Mozambique, the Engineering Laboratory of Mozambique, the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye and Sakarya and Düzce Universities where, as already mentioned, the technology was developed.

50. The Post-Harvest Management project has been developed in collaboration with the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye, the Food Institute and the Central Research Institute of Food and Feed Control, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Türkiye. The project focuses on technologies and know-how on treatment of agricultural produce after harvest to ensure its protection, conservation, processing, packaging, distribution, marketing and utilization to meet food standards and nutritional requirements. The project will target farmers on small to medium-sized farms, as well as government institutions regulating food standards in two least developed countries to prevent extensive post-harvest losses and improve the quality of the produce for formal markets (including export) and increase the livelihoods of farmers. The outcome of the project will be replicated and adapted in other least developed countries. The project will be aligned with the outcomes of the technology needs assessments and will support national development priorities. During 2023, the Technology Bank will focus on targeted resources mobilization initiatives to support implementation.

51. In 2021, the Technology Bank initiated a knowledge transfer programme in Bhutan aimed at providing health-care services focusing on loss of hearing. The project comprises early identification of hearing loss or ear disorder, mapping of referral mechanisms for treatment, building resource capacity of the treatment hub along with upskilling of human resources and, finally, treatment of identified patients through medication, surgeries or hearing aids. The initiative is undertaken in collaboration with Medtronic Labs and other private sector entities. In 2022, in the first phase of the programme, 12,000 children from the Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital in Thimphu were screened. The project includes a capacity-building component for health-care workers, more specifically on the use of audiology equipment and screening device technologies provided to Bhutan through the project. Support has been provided for establishing and sustaining the first ever Ear Mould Lab and 200 hearing aids have been donated by GN ReSound. The programme has received funding from Hear the World Foundation for provision of additional screening technologies and hearing aids for the remaining 170,000 children to be screened by end of 2024. MED-EL, funded by the Austrian Development Agency, will provide rehabilitation training to families and provide audiology and diagnostic equipment to two regional hospitals under the programme. In addition, it will strengthen local surgical capacities; and international know-how partners (mentor surgeons) will conduct practical workshops and familiarize local participants with a broad range of surgical techniques for basic and advanced ear surgeries. Learning from the successful experience in Bhutan, the Technology Bank has designed another Hear, Listen and Speak project to be implemented in Malawi. The Technology Bank has received initial expressions of interest from other countries in replicating the Hear, Listen and Speak project and will mobilize resources for implementation in 2023.

52. Academies of sciences, with their independence and competencies, are unique institutions which provide evidence-based advice to Governments on formulating national policies in response to national, regional and global scientific challenges. To date, the Technology Bank has facilitated the establishment of academies of science in four countries and facilitated support to eight countries in their efforts to establish and legally register their academies. In 2023, the Technology Bank will continue to support newly established academies of science by organizing quarterly meetings (online) to provide a network for engagement between academies.

53. In 2021, the Technology Bank, in partnership with the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, launched a new programme which offered fellowships to early-stage researchers from the least developed countries for periods of up to six months for visiting research centres in Trieste, Italy; Cape Town, South

Africa; and New Delhi, India. The programme was expected to run for five years, with the first cohort starting the fellowship in 2021. Thirteen fellowship recipients, eight males and five women, from 10 countries – Afghanistan, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Nepal, Mozambique, the Sudan and Togo – were selected to participate in the fellowship programme in 2021. The cost for the first year, amounting \$584,000, was covered by the Technology Bank with the understanding that over a period of three years, the Bank will commit over \$1.8 million to implement the programme. Owing to delays in the selection of candidates and other setbacks, the 2021 cohort started the programme only during 2022. However, the unsustainability of the financial commitment made by the Technology Bank has necessitated a rethinking on how this specific programme should be managed and financed moving forward. The Technology Bank together with partners will explore alternative financing sources, as the Technology Bank is not in a position to fulfil the commitments made when the programme was launched in 2021. Consequently, it has been agreed that during 2023, a joint resource mobilization effort of the Technology Bank, the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology and the World Academy of Sciences will be undertaken to mobilize resources for the next cohort of fellowships. The Technology Bank will promote and raise awareness of participants from least developed countries with respect to applying for Ph.D. and postdoctoral fellowships offered by partners of the Technology Bank such as the World Academy of Sciences.

## **2. Relationship to the strategic plan of the Technology Bank**

54. The programme is linked to outcome 2 of the 2022–2024 strategic plan of the Technology Bank. The activities under this programme contribute to the identification of technology solutions and related project development and design to support accessing, acquiring, absorbing, and implementing technologies (outputs 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4).

## **3. Objectives**

55. The main objective of the programme is to support least developed countries' access and deploy appropriate technologies available elsewhere by facilitating technology and know-how transfer on voluntary and mutually agreed terms and conditions, while enhancing capacities for technological development across different stakeholders. The specific objectives are:

- (a) To initiate and complete the designing of project proposals in consultation with key stakeholders to ensure effective technology transfer;
- (b) To facilitate and coordinate the implementation of demand-driven technology and knowledge transfer projects, including the knowledge transfer of screening technologies and the fitting of hearing aids to address hearing loss in children, the Technology Makers Lab, the Rammed Earth Housing project and the Post-Harvest Management project;
- (c) To support the transfer or diffusion of technologies to local entrepreneurs who can use them to produce more knowledge-intensive, higher value added goods and services;
- (d) To support the emergence of new entrepreneurs and attract existing entrepreneurs from inside and outside the country with a view to initiation of new ventures based on technologies that are new to the country;
- (e) To increase awareness; enhance science, technology and innovation-related knowledge and capacity; and influence policy formulation in the least developed countries through collaboration and partnering with national, regional and

international organizations, as well as academic institutions, to provide targeted training in access to digital research, industrial design, biotechnology and science diplomacy for experts and policymakers.

#### **4. Main activities**

56. The main activities under the programme are:

(a) Identifying technologies aligned with the outputs of the research, analysis and technology needs assessments that are considered relevant, appropriate and applicable for least developed countries;

(b) Identify potential beneficiary countries, based on evidence from research, analysis and technology needs assessments, and through consultations with perspective recipient least developed countries;

(c) Secure expressions of interest from least developed countries and assess the capacity of potential beneficiary countries to implement transferred technologies;

(d) Design project proposals in consultation with key stakeholders and other programme areas in the Technology Bank;

(e) Conduct due diligence assessment of potential risks and project sustainability;

(f) Develop key performance indicators to guide the monitoring and evaluation of the impact of projects;

(g) Develop and implement technology and know-how projects, including the hearing loss programmes in Malawi, the Technology Makers Lab in the Niger and the prototype rammed earth dwelling in Mozambique;

(h) Develop a prototype for post-harvest loss management technologies and knowledge-sharing on food standards for export;

(i) Identify the policy measures and other actions, such as technical training, needed to improve the science, technology and innovation capacities of countries where the Technology Bank has initiated technology transfer projects.

#### **5. Expected accomplishments**

57. The expected accomplishments in 2023 under the programme are:

(a) A successful technology transfer model, including a work and activity plan, which can be applied to the least developed countries is developed;

(b) At least three of the four new projects that the Technology Bank initiated in 2022 have become operational and show significant progress in implementation;

(c) Sixteen health workers are trained on rehabilitation, screening technologies, producing ear moulds and fitting hearing aids to children;

(d) A due diligence and risk matrix for sustainable technology transfer projects is developed.

#### **6. Country coverage**

58. All least developed countries will have access to and benefit from the services provided under the programme.

## **C. Resource mobilization, strategic communications and partnership development**

### **1. Background and rationale**

59. Given the significant challenges of the least developed countries in science, technology and innovation and the need to address the full range of objectives set out in its Charter, the Technology Bank must rely on core strategic partnerships within and outside the United Nations system, and other concerned entities from Member States as well non-State actors, to mobilize resources and implement its programmes. Coordinating these multi-dimensional partnerships, developing key instruments and conducting research to underpin programmes are therefore critical.

60. As stipulated in the Charter, the budget of the Technology Bank relies solely on voluntary contribution. During its first three years of operations, the Technology Bank has not managed to expand substantially its sources of funding. Based on the current stocktaking, the Technology Bank is in urgent need of resource mobilization to finance programmes, including the associated staff cost.

61. In the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries 2022–2031, there is a clear expression of support and expectation from Member States regarding the Technology Bank's replenishment of its resources. In the Doha Programme of Action, Member States, as well as international organizations, foundations and the private sector, are invited to provide voluntary financial and in-kind resources to the Technology Bank in order to enhance its capacity and effectiveness.

62. In 2023, the Technology Bank will intensify its resource mobilization efforts, including by committing resources dedicated for mobilizing funds for programme implementation.

### **2. Relationship to the strategic plan of the Technology Bank**

63. Resource mobilization is the key enabler for survival and sustainability of the Bank's operations and programme, especially at the current stage. Resource mobilization, strategic communication and partnership development are linked to outcome 3 of the strategic plan 2022–2024, under output 3.1 Cross-sector partnerships to enhance STI development and output 3.2 Increased resources to build a solid base for self-financing.

64. Resource mobilization, strategic communication and partnerships are linked to form one cluster as they work hand in hand to attract and retain resources and recognition of the work of the Technology Bank to support the least developed countries. In addition, the organization has to reassure and report back to donors and contributors that the resources are managed properly and utilized for concrete deliverables and impact. There are lessons learned from the previous operations along these lines. In the future, continuous engagement of the resource mobilization and partnership officers, including their work on the project verification stage and donor reporting throughout the whole programme cycle, will therefore be essential to obtaining and retaining resources.

### **3. Objectives**

65. The objectives of the Technology Bank in resource mobilization and partnership development are:

(a) To identify and mobilize key strategic partners which could work closely with the Technology Bank to enhance the impact of projects implemented in least developed countries;



- (b) To nurture and develop relations with the relevant government institutions of Member States, including the host country;
- (c) To secure the Technology Bank's institutional presence at relevant international summits to enhance stakeholders' engagement;
- (d) To mobilize financial and in-kind contributions from stakeholders, including Member States and the private sector, to enable the implementation of designed projects;
- (e) To mobilize voluntary technology transfer and related pro bono services to support science, technology and innovation development in least developed countries, in line with the Technology Bank's priority programme areas;
- (f) To establish the Technology Bank as a trusted development partner and attract and retain donors through awareness, reputation and synergy building;
- (g) To expand and utilize communications networks, including co-branding and in-kind advertising opportunities, and fully leverage communications channels to demonstrate programme impact;
- (h) To reinforce high-level political support.

#### 4. Main activities

66. The main activities under the programme are:

- (a) Nurturing existing partnerships and developing new ones to support the delivery and expansion of effective programmes and projects;
- (b) Securing the representation and facilitating the participation of the Technology Bank in international forums and summits related to science, technology and innovation development in least developed countries;
- (c) Participating actively in the work and activities of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism;
- (d) Ensuring active coordination between project partners to support implementation of agreed initiatives;
- (e) Convening meetings and consultation with the Council's resource mobilization subcommittee to seek guidance and introduction to donors and report on progress;
- (f) Developing a resource mobilization strategy;
- (g) Establishing a donor database;
- (h) Proactively undertaking outreach to Member States, and especially to friends of least developing countries, to mobilize resources and increase awareness;
- (i) Identifying and designing innovative approaches to attracting private sector, foundation and multilateral organization donors;
- (j) Continuous progress verification and donor reporting through the programme cycles;
- (k) Supporting the engagement of the Managing Director with potential donors;
- (l) Continuous development of the communications strategy and workplan, including regular updates of the official website and social media channels;
- (m) Establishing tailored communications planning for Technology Bank programmes, events and activities, as mentioned in this workplan, including the

development of audience-centred messages, channels, approaches, tactics, tools and a communications calendar.

## 5. Expected accomplishments

67. The expected accomplishments in 2023 under the programme are:

(a) Identify key project partners for joint project development and implementation;

(b) Increased donor awareness and engagement of Technology Bank's work and its impact with 20 priority donor outreach and advocacy;

(c) New financial and/or in-kind resources raised for programme implementation.

## 6. Country coverage

68. The programme will benefit all least developed countries. Resource mobilization aims at targeting donors and contributors from all sectors and geographical locations to reach a healthy balance and inclusivity for development. Strategic communication aims towards covering a global audience, with a focus on the least developed countries, stakeholders in the science, technology and innovation fields and the programme-specific development partner.

Table 7

### Resource requirements for the programme of work

(United States dollars)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>2021 expenditure</i>	<i>2022 initial approved</i>	<i>2022 revised approved</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>2023 estimate</i>
<b>Staff and other personnel costs</b>					
1. International staff	606 208	912 621	980 155	(688 953)	291 202
2. Local staff	13 513	116 248	55 680	124 085	179 765
3. General temporary assistance	81 107	397 118	316 866	(316 866)	–
4. Consultants and experts	1 115 671	453 680	32 000	173 000	205 000
<b>Subtotal, staff and other personnel costs</b>	<b>1 816 497</b>	<b>1 879 667</b>	<b>1 384 701</b>	<b>(708 734)</b>	<b>675 967</b>
<b>Travel</b>					
1. Travel of staff	72 709	274 334	101 208	(26 208)	75 000
2. Travel of participants to meetings and workshops	34 481	–	–	–	–
3. Travel of consultants, resource persons and panellists	–	16 814	6 364	(6 364)	–
<b>Subtotal, travel</b>	<b>107 190</b>	<b>291 148</b>	<b>107 572</b>	<b>(32 572)</b>	<b>75 000</b>
<b>Grants and fellowships</b>	<b>661 946</b>	<b>145 140</b>	<b>880 487</b>	<b>(880 487)</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Contractual services</b>	<b>53 003</b>	<b>87 225</b>	<b>71 500</b>	<b>21 500</b>	<b>50 000</b>
<b>General operating expenses</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>65 600</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Furniture and equipment</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 638 637</b>	<b>2 468 780</b>	<b>2 444 260</b>	<b>1 600 293</b>	<b>800 967</b>

## **8. Staff and other personnel costs**

69. In 2023, the cost of staff engaged in programme-related activities will be \$470,967, which is significantly lower than the \$1,352,701 spent on programme support staff in 2022 (see table 7). In particular:

(a) In 2023, the number of posts devoted to programme support will comprise 1 Economic Affairs Officer at the P-4 level; two national Officers (NO-B level); 1 Staff Assistant at the G-6 level; and 2 Research Assistants at the G-5 level. In addition, in 2023, the Bank will continue to benefit from the support of 1 Associate Programme Management Officer at the P-2 level, to be extended for a third year following in agreement with the Government of Italy under the Junior Professional Officers Programme;

(b) The budget for engaging consultants and experts, including for the implementation of technology needs assessment, country-specific policy analysis, advocacy and publication, and targeted resource mobilization for project implementation, will be \$205,000.

## **9. Travel**

70. An amount of \$75,000, reflecting a reduction of \$32,572 from 2022, will provide for the travel of staff, their substantive and programmatic support and their participation in local consultations, workshops and training courses, as well as outreach activities in support of resource mobilization. The decrease is due mainly to reduced requirements for the travel to attend meetings and workshops.

## **10. Grants and fellowships**

71. This budget line is now at zero level, as the Technology Bank does not envisage any grants and fellowships expenses in 2023.

## **11. Contractual services**

72. The budget for contractual services in 2023 has decreased from \$71,500 in 2022 to \$50,000 owing to an anticipated lower amount of resources required for website development, maintenance and administration, enhanced communication activities in support of resource mobilization, production of information and promotional material, translation, and printing and processing of technology needs assessment and related reports.

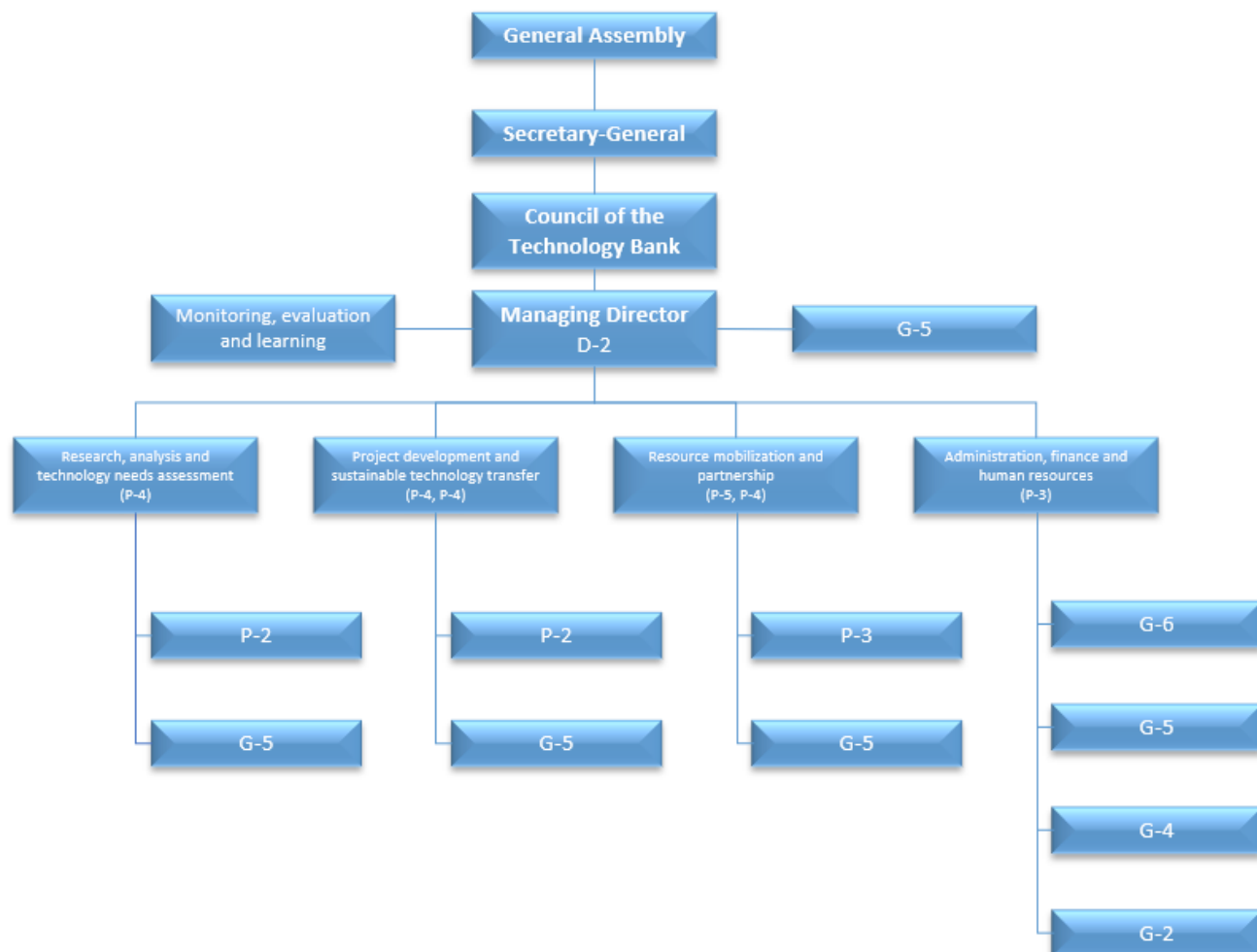
## **12. General operating expenses**

73. For 2023, there are no general operating expenses budgeted under the programme of work.

## Annex I

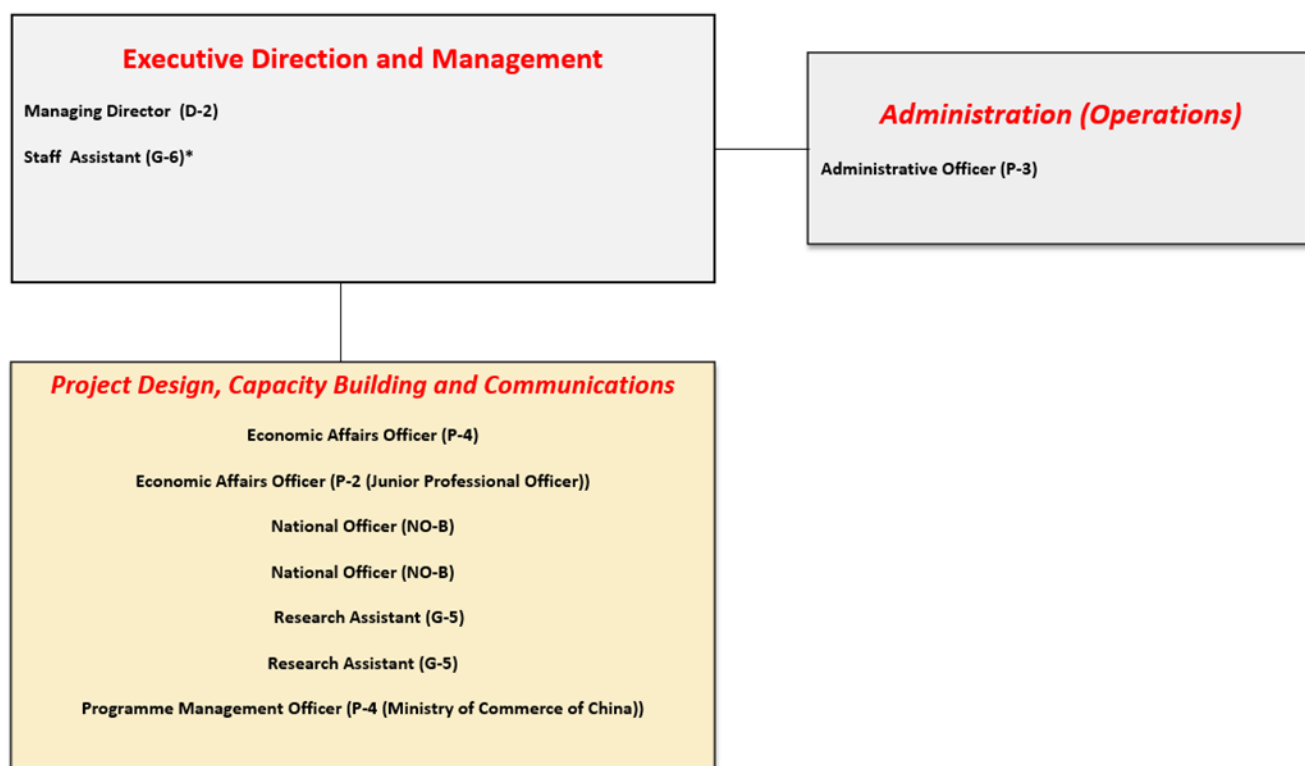
## Technology Bank organogram (2022)

## Technology Bank organizational chart



## Annex II

## Technology Bank organogram (2023)




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\* Also assists with administration and information technology-related activities.

## Annex III

## Summary of follow-up actions taken to implement relevant recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

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*Recommendations of Advisory Committee*


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*Status/action taken to implement the recommendation*


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### II. Budget and programme of work for 2022: proposed budget

#### *Paragraph 4*

The Advisory Committee notes the underexpenditure in 2020 and during the first nine months of 2021 and proposed resource reductions for 2022 under consultants and experts, as well as travel. The Committee encourages the Technology Bank to make greater use of virtual meetings and online training tools for workshops, conferences or meetings, and to continue to ensure that resources for consultants and travel of staff are kept to a minimum. The Committee trusts that the next report will also include information on efficiency gains

The Technology Bank is committed to making greater use of virtual meetings and to keeping expenses for consultants and travel to a minimum. Indeed, the Bank has already begun implementing this recommendation. During 2022, all validation workshops for technology needs assessment (Mozambique, Sierra Leone and Kiribati), involving national stakeholders, were held virtually. Moreover, during 2022, only US\$ 41,636 was spent on consultancy and US\$ 65,992 on travel, compared with US\$ 1,162,671 and US\$ 119,681, respectively, in 2021. Given the limited financial resources available to the Technology Bank, the funds earmarked for consultancy and travel during 2023 will be reduced significantly

#### *Paragraph 5*

The Advisory Committee notes the proposed reduced requirements under programme support costs and trusts that the proposed resources will fully cover the costs of supporting programmatic activities. The Committee further trusts that more information will be provided in the next report

Concerning any new programmatic activity, as part of its revised approach to project design and resource mobilization, the Technology Bank has ensured that project proposals being developed include a budget line for programme support costs at the rate of 13 per cent

In accordance with the current memorandum of understanding between the Technology Bank and the United Nations Office at Geneva, for administrative service support, the United Nations Office at Geneva standard price list is being used for the services provided. Based on the current level of services provided by the United Nations Office at Geneva to the Technology Bank, the costs of the United Nations Office at Geneva should be covered in 2023 by the revenue generated from the decreased programme support costs of 11 per cent provided that the proposed budget is implemented fully and in a timely fashion. However, owing to the uncertainty in expenditure patterns and in light of the lack of confirmed additional funding, the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries is currently considering keeping the programme support costs rate at the standard rate of 13 per cent and this rate was already included in the project proposals developed for potential donors.

*Recommendations of Advisory Committee**Status/action taken to implement the recommendation**Paragraph 7*

The Advisory Committee reiterates that the Technology Bank should strengthen its efforts on resource mobilization and to continue to seek to broaden its donor base, including through more sustainable funding, as well as the private sector

Since January 2022, the Technology Bank has introduced sweeping reforms involving the streamlining of programmatic activities to ensure efficient use of resources, the reduction of 15 posts and the introduction of a new business model for the design and implementation of projects and mobilization of resources. In early 2022, a “functional review” of the Technology Bank was conducted at the request of the Governing Council of the Technology Bank. The recommendations of the functional review include the strengthening of resource mobilization supported by the design of country-specific projects, based on technology needs assessment, and targeting a wider range of potential donors, including the private sector. In line with these recommendations, the Governing Council has decided that from January 2023 onward, all technology transfer and capacity-building-related programmes will be funded from resources specifically mobilized for the purposes of programme financing. It is expected that this approach will broaden the sources of funding for activities undertaken by the Technology Bank. In fact, currently the Technology Bank is mobilizing resources for seven country-specific projects and has already secured some contributions both in kind and funding

In February 2022, the Technology Bank signed a five-year financial agreement with the host country, Türkiye. Under the agreement, Türkiye will provide \$1.7 million per year unearmarked funding and an additional \$200,000 earmarked for Sustainable Development Goals-related activities in the field. The unearmarked funding will be used to cover the cost of up to eight staff to oversee both the operational and programme-related activities of the Technology Bank. Moving forward, the Technology Bank intends to establish a dedicated unit for resource mobilization, outreach and partnership. Furthermore, the Technology Bank is grateful to the Government of China for providing the Technology Bank with funds equivalent to \$470,000 to be used for a secondment of a Principal Officer from China for a period of two years.

Finally, the Technology Bank believes that the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, to be held in Doha in March 2023, provides a timely opportunity for advocacy of the work of the Technology Bank and resource mobilization

## II. Budget and programme of work for 2022: staffing

### *Paragraph 12*

The Advisory Committee encourages the Technology Bank to increase the geographical diversity of its staffing, especially recruitment from the least developed countries, and trusts that an update on the recruitment process will be provided in the next report

Until September 2022, the Technology Bank had 18 staff members from 10 different countries of which 4 were least developed countries. In its sixth special session held in May 2022, the Council decided to reduce the size of the staff composition of the Technology Bank. Thus, by January 2023, the composition of posts and levels will be as follows: 1 D-2, 1 P-4, 1 P-3, 2 P-2 (1 Junior Professional Officer), 1 G-6 and 2 G-5. With the exception of the P-3 post and the Junior Professional Officer post, all other posts will be filled by newly recruited staff. The Technology Bank will do everything possible to ensure that the principle of geographical diversity of staff, including from least developed countries, is adhered to in its recruitment process

## II. Budget and programme of work for 2022: programme of work

### *Paragraph 14*

The Committee looks forward to an update on this initiative in the next report.

The Technology Bank has concluded the implementation of year 1 activities for the Hear, Listen and Speak project for all Bhutanese children, which aims at strengthening the continuum of care in Bhutan from screening to habilitation to address hearing loss and ear disorders in all babies and children aged 0–14 years. The consortium of the programme comprises the Technology Bank and Medtronic Labs, and collaborative partner MED-EL (public-private partnership in cooperation with the Austrian Development Agency), along with technical partners (Ministry of Education, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Bhutan) and Ministry of Health as the technical lead. Using Medtronic Labs portable screening and digital patient management technologies, health workers conduct community and school screenings for newborn babies up to children 14 years of age and opportunistic screening of adults in various community and medical outreach activities, enhancing early detection of preventable hearing difficulties. MED-EL contributed to knowledge and technology



*Recommendations of Advisory Committee**Status/action taken to implement the recommendation*

transfer for long-term sustainability through the direct provision of equipment, training of care and maintenance providers, training of trainers and establishment of mechanisms for sustained provision of care across the continuum once the project has ended. Additionally, MED-EL will provide training for families and caregivers to help support listening and spoken language development in their young children with hearing loss. The current financial contributions and donated equipment include in-kind training for fittings, hearing aids and batteries in the amount of \$87,339 from GN ReSound, all screening-related aspects in the amount of \$131,183 by Medtronic Labs, programme development and administration in the amount of \$46,000 by the Global Foundation for Children with Hearing Loss and awareness and outreach in the amount of \$72,830 by the Technology Bank. The successful application for funding from the Hear the World Foundation, which was confirmed in September 2022, includes hearing aids, audiological equipment and local costs for training for approximately SwF 2,089 for phase 2, SwF 3,960 for phase 3 and SwF 5,268 for phase 4.

*Paragraph 16*

The Advisory Committee encourages the Technology Bank to increase cooperation, synergies and partnership with least developed countries, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, regional commissions, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and United Nations system entities such as the World Food Programme as well as under the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation and the Development Account. The Committee trusts that an update will be provided in the next report

The Technology Bank is strengthening its collaboration with the resident coordinators system and, through them, with relevant United Nations entities at the country level. As an example, the Technology Makers Lab project development for the Niger was carried out in close consultation with the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank to leverage and complement their experience with the Sustainable Development Goals Accelerator Lab and support in digital transformation, respectively. The Technology Bank conducts monthly consultation with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and partners with other United Nations entities in the implementation of projects

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*Recommendations of Advisory Committee**Status/action taken to implement the recommendation*

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*Paragraph 17*

The Committee trusts that more information on monitoring and evaluation will be provided in the next report.

In its new strategic plan 2022–2024, the Technology Bank has included a strategic results framework to enable monitoring and evaluation. Furthermore, monitoring, evaluation and learning have been incorporated in the strategic plan as a key enabling principle of the work of the Technology Bank, as well as a critical component to deliver on outcome 1 (“enhanced knowledge generation and evidence-based dialogues on science, technology and innovation in the least developed countries”). In consequence, the Technology Bank programme of work includes “Expected accomplishments” and “Indicators of achievement” under each programme area. This will lay the groundwork for subsequent establishment of a dedicated monitoring, evaluation and learning unit and a comprehensive monitoring, evaluation and learning strategy

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