



Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries

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Draft budget and programme of work for 2022

Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries: budget and programme of work for 2022

I. Introduction

1. In the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, adopted in 2011 at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the Heads of State and Government and representatives of the States participating in that Conference called for the establishment of a technology bank dedicated to the least developed countries. The creation of the bank was a long-standing priority of the least developed countries that was confirmed in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, under Sustainable Development Goal 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development).
2. On 23 December 2016, the General Assembly adopted resolution [71/251](#), on the establishment of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries. By that resolution, the Assembly decided to establish the Bank as a subsidiary organ of the Assembly and adopted its Charter (see [A/71/363](#)). In the same resolution, the Assembly invited Member States and other stakeholders to provide voluntary funding for the trust fund for the operationalization of the Bank.
3. The operationalization of the Technology Bank was achieved in 2018, after the signing, on 22 September 2017, of the agreement between the United Nations and Turkey concerning the establishment of the Bank and the agreement between the two parties on financial and in-kind support for the Bank, the inauguration of the premises of the Bank in Gebze, Turkey, on 4 June 2018, and, finally, the appointment of its Managing Director, on 24 November 2018.
4. The Technology Bank is a major step towards advancing the efforts of the least developed countries to enhance their science, technology and innovation capabilities and to integrate those capabilities into their sustainable development efforts and the structural transformation of their economies. The operationalization of the Bank, which is target 17.8 of Goal 17, is the first target to be reached under that Goal and



contributes directly to the objective of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind, as well as to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action.

5. In accordance with its Charter, the Technology Bank will continue to support the strengthening of the science, technology and innovation capacities of the least developed countries, including their capacity to identify, absorb, develop, integrate and scale up the deployment of technologies and innovations, including indigenous ones. The Bank will also support the capacity of the least developed countries to address and manage intellectual property rights issues; promote the development and implementation of national and regional science, technology and innovation strategies; strengthen partnerships among public entities and with the private sector working in this field; and promote cooperation among all stakeholders involved in science, technology and innovation, including researchers, research institutions and public entities, within and operating between the least developed countries, as well as with their counterparts in other countries. In addition, the Bank will promote and facilitate the identification and utilization of and access to appropriate technologies by the least developed countries, as well as the transfer of such technologies to them, while respecting intellectual property rights and fostering national and regional capacity among the least developed countries to use such technology effectively in order to bring about transformative change.

II. Overall orientation

6. The programme of work for 2022 will continue to be focused on in-country activities in the areas of science, technology and innovation organized along the programmatic activities below:

- (a) Technology needs assessment;
- (b) Technology transfer;
- (c) Enhancing science, technology and innovation capacities in least developed countries;
- (d) Partnerships and coordination.

7. 2022 will be the first year of implementation of the new three-year strategic plan of the Technology Bank. The new plan contains two complementary strategic outcome areas with linked outputs and activities: (a) strengthened science, technology and innovation knowledge and capacity in least developed countries, including the knowledge and capacity to identify, absorb, integrate and scale up the deployment of technologies (outcome 1); and (b) improved ecosystems of science, technology and innovation in least developed countries (outcome 2). Within each outcome is embedded a commitment to inclusivity and diversity at all levels.

8. To enhance the result-based management practice of the Technology Bank, the new strategic plan includes a strategic framework and a results matrix to enable monitoring, evaluation and learning. Similarly, four institutional enablers are identified as management objectives for the Bank staff members to pursue and deliver results.

9. The implementation of the 2022 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, building and leveraging partnerships in support of science, technology and innovation deployment, maintaining agility and responsiveness to new challenges and opportunities, strengthened comparative capacities and commitment to gender equity in science, technology and innovation.

10. Taking into account the disruption to the activities of the Technology Bank caused by the current COVID-19 pandemic and resulting restrictions in 2021, the programme of work for 2022 will be to a great extent a continuation of the programmes initiated in 2021, in particular in the key areas of technology needs assessments, the establishment and strengthening of academies of science and the enhancement of science, technology and innovation capacities. The resources for activities partially completed in 2021 that are carried over into 2022 are included in the proposed budget.

11. In addition, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the programme of work of the Technology Bank for 2022 will include a new public health technologies transfer initiative, based on the experience of the Technology Access Partnership introduced in 2020 to support the manufacture of critical COVID-19-related medical equipment in least developed countries. This new initiative is being implemented as part of the Bank's Technology Transfer programme. It is a strategic partnership between the Bank and leading health technology companies and non-profit organizations active in that field.

12. In 2022, the Bank will also launch its technology transfer digital platform, based on the Global Innovation Exchange platform transferred to the Bank, to facilitate technology and knowledge transfer and development that will contribute to the accelerated adaptation, adoption and deployment of technology solutions by connecting technology providers with technology seekers, funders and other supporting service providers. The platform is funded by the United States Agency for International Development and the Results for Development Institute and is in line with the stated objective of establishing a digital technology transfer platform to assist least developed countries in technology scouting, identification and review of appropriate technology solutions to address their needs in order to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, and as part of the Technology Transfer programme in 2022, the Bank, through a new partnership programme with the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey and the University and Industry Collaborations Centre Platform, will launch an institutional capacity-building programme for least developed countries, and the Gambia has been selected as the pilot country for a model technology transfer office. The objective of the programme is to enhance the institutional capacity of least developed countries to identify, adapt and deploy new technologies and assist the technology commercialization activities of universities through the establishment of national technology transfer offices.

13. Under the partnerships and coordination programme that oversees the Bank's engagement with key stakeholders, including United Nations system entities and the private sector, engagement with prospective partners will continue, including with regional economic communities, private technology companies, academic institutions and other relevant stakeholder partners. The participation of the Bank in the forthcoming Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries will be coordinated under that programme, and a series of side events are being planned, to include the first high-level political event for the Technology Bank and the launch of its flagship report on the state of science, technology and innovation in least developed countries.

14. Furthermore, building on the partnerships and coordination programme for 2021, the Technology Bank will continue in 2022 its collaboration with regional entities, such as the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. In addition, the 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, including the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, to ensure coordinated approaches to science, technology and innovation development. as well as enhanced synergies for interventions in least developed countries.

15. Under the same programme, the Bank will also launch its programme-level monitoring and evaluation strategy in 2022 and enhance internal capacity in consultation with the relevant United Nations system entities.

16. In 2022, under the Technology Needs Assessment programme, assessments will be undertaken in the 10 following countries: Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Togo and Tuvalu. The Bank will also design and launch a technology implementation plan template, which will serve as a framework for implementing priorities identified by countries under the technology needs assessment process.

17. Under the programme on enhancing science, technology and innovation capacities in least developed countries, the activity of enhancing research capacity in least developed countries introduced in 2020 will continue to provide online training in 2022 through a newly developed substantial online course. This new delivery modality will facilitate a significant increase in country and participant coverage, while being less resource-intensive. The objective for 2022 is to increase the number of participants significantly and to reach all least developed countries. Under the same programme, the Technology Bank, in partnership with the Office for Outer Space Affairs, will continue to offer specialized training to experts and officials in least developed countries on the use of satellite technology for climate change mitigation and disaster management. In addition, the Bank has partnered with the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology and launched a new programme that offers fellowships to early-stage researchers from least developed countries for periods of up to six months. Fifteen fellowships have been awarded under that programme in 2021, and a joint resource mobilization effort between the Bank and the International Centre will be undertaken to mobilize resources for the next cohort of fellowships in 2022. The Bank will also launch its first activity under a new science diplomacy initiative, in partnership with The World Academy of Sciences for the advancement of science in developing countries.

18. Furthermore, in line with the directive adopted by the Council at its third session, the programme on enhancing innovation capacity in Least Developed Countries is now being implemented as a subprogramme of the programme on enhancing science, technology and innovation capacities in the least developed countries. The goal is still of developing national and regional innovation ecosystems that can attract technology and generate home-grown research and innovation. The Bank is currently consulting with prospective partner countries to fund the proposed global innovation hub for least developed countries, as a stand-alone programme. This proposed innovation hub will also have two regional hubs, one for Africa and another for Asia and the Pacific.

19. In addition, the Technology Bank, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme office in Turkey, will continue to participate in the Sustainable Development Goal impact accelerator project funded by Turkey. To date, two start-ups in Bangladesh and three in Uganda have been selected and will receive a total of \$420,000 to fund their concepts.

20. In 2019, to further enhance the institutional infrastructure and capacity in least developed countries, the Technology Bank launched a programme on academies of science. Such academies can play an important role in enhancing coordination in the regional and national science, technology and innovation agenda and serve as key

interlocutors for the Bank. Following four regional consultations held in Eastern, Western, Southern and Northern Africa, respectively, new academies of science were launched in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lesotho and Malawi. In 2022, more will be launched in Chad, the Niger, and Sierra Leone. In 2022, the Bank, in partnership with the Network of African Science Academies, will also launch a resource mobilization drive to fund the programme.

21. In 2022, the Bank will continue to prioritize the establishment of a strong science, technology and innovation research programme as a follow-up to its first initiative in 2020, through which it collaborated with the International Development Research Centre to launch its first research activity, which focused on access to finance for women-led micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises in technology industries in least developed countries. As a follow-up to its flagship report on the state of science, technology and innovation in least developed countries scheduled to be launched at the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, in 2022, the Bank will issue a second flagship report on innovation in least developed countries, which will explore and highlight the potential for innovation to drive sustainable productivity growth. In addition, the Bank will start to issue quarterly thematic briefs to build up momentum towards the release of the annual flagship report.

22. The budget and programme of work for 2022 will be implemented under the new three-year strategic plan and will reflect the Bank's experience of delivering support to the least developed countries over the past three years, since its operationalization.

23. In 2022, the Bank will also continue to consolidate its institutional capacity through the engagement of additional professional and administrative staff. Since April 2021, the Bank has increased the number of administrative functions performed in-house, thereby reducing expenditure on service providers. This trend will continue as resources for the engagement of additional programme and administration staff increase.

24. In 2022, the Bank will also continue to prioritize resource mobilization through the implementation of its resource mobilization strategy finalized in December 2020. The high-level political side event conference in January 2022 planned on the margins of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries will be a key event in that regard. In addition, the Bank will continue to actively seek out new strategic partnerships in the public and private sectors to fund and support technology deployment and capacity-building in the least developed countries.

III. Overview of budget estimates and available resources

25. In accordance with its Charter, the Technology Bank is to be financed through voluntary contributions from Member States and other stakeholders, including the private sector and private foundations. The resources of the Bank are kept in a separate trust fund and subject to the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, including auditing by the oversight bodies of the Organization.

26. Given the vast needs of the least developed countries in terms of science, technology and innovation, and on the basis of the Technology Bank's three-year indicative budget, which was prepared in December 2016 by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, it is estimated that the Bank would require an annual budget of \$35 million to \$40 million in order to effectively undertake activities in all of the least developed countries, address the full range of objectives set out in

its Charter and make the expected transformational impact in all of the least developed countries.

27. It will be noted that the budget approved for 2021 was \$5,615,966, including \$646,085 for programme support, of which \$4,523,252, or 81 per cent, is expected to be spent in 2021. Those resources allowed the robust implementation of the workplan for 2021, despite the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, as elaborated in the report of the Secretary-General on the review of the first three years of the Technology Bank ([A/76/272](#) and [A/76/272/Corr.1](#)). The momentum to carry out its programme of work in order to achieve the objectives articulated in the report of the Secretary-General and in the new strategic plan (2022–2024) is compromised by the lack of reliable funding. The proposed budget and programme of work for 2022 are constrained by the current status of contributions.

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

29. For the programme of work for 2022, the Technology Bank will be able to rely on a contribution of \$1.9 million, of which \$200,000 is earmarked, from the host country, in accordance with the agreement on financial and in-kind support for the Bank for 2022–2026 to be signed with the Government of Turkey on 9 December 2021. In addition, it is estimated that there will be unspent resources in the amount of \$2,268,077 at the end of 2021 (see table 1). Total available resources in 2022 are therefore projected to be \$4,168,077.

30. The host country will continue to provide the same sort of in-kind support, that is, office space and all facility services (security, cleaning, maintenance, utilities) at no cost to the Technology Bank. Moreover, the Bank is expecting in-kind contributions from the World Eco-Design Conference, Medtronic, the Global Foundation for Children with Hearing Loss, the United States Agency for International Development and the Commonwealth.

31. The overall budget requirements for 2022 amount to \$4,037,236, which covers the costs of Council support, executive direction and management and operational support, the programme of work and 13 per cent programme support costs (see table 2). Their respective share is as follows: Council support (1.4 per cent), executive direction and management and operational support (29.5 per cent) and programme of work (69.1 per cent). The Technology Bank endeavours to meet the Council's recommendation to maintain a budget allocation of 20 per cent for operational costs while building and strengthening its in-house capacity.

32. To strengthen the in-house capacity, the number of posts proposed in 2022 is 18. In addition to 17 continuing posts approved in 2021, one new P-2 Special Assistant post and 1 G-5 post are proposed to be established in 2022 under executive direction and management and operational support. This will be offset by the abolition of the Executive Administrative Assistant post at the G-7 level approved in 2021. The P-3 Public Information Officer post is proposed to be redeployed from executive direction and management and operational support to partnerships and coordination, since its functions mainly relate to communicating about the substantive activities of the Bank. This is elaborated in more detail in section III.B below.

33. General temporary assistance and resources under the Junior Professional Officers programme are also proposed. The P-5 position under the General Temporary Assistance programme is specifically focused on supporting resources mobilization activities, in particular partnerships with the private sector. It is a 12-month engagement to be reviewed on the basis of results. The Junior Professional Officers programme has been extended by the Government of Italy, and additional efforts are under way to secure additional Junior Professional Officer positions financed by other

Member States. In addition, two P-2 experts under the General Temporary Assistance programme will support the development of the industrial design programme activities of the Technology Bank to build capacity in industrial design and technology in least developed countries.

34. The changes in resource requirements by object of expenditure from 2021 to 2022 are shown in table 4 below. The 28.1 per cent decrease of \$1,578,730 in total resource requirements, from \$5,615,966 in 2021 to \$4,037,236 in 2022, is the result of:

(a) Increased requirements of \$705,365 for posts and general temporary assistance;

(b) Reduced requirements totalling \$2,102,471, as follows: consultants and experts (\$677,000); travel (\$868,206), grants and fellowships (\$145,140), contractual services (\$388,225), equipment and vehicle (\$4,900) and general operating expenses (\$19,000);

(c) Reduced requirements of \$181,624 for programme support costs, which are assumed at 13 per cent, pending the Controller's approval of a reduced rate of 11 per cent.

Table 1
Status of contributions

(United States dollars)

	<i>Amount</i>
Fund balance, 1 January 2020	4 310 699
Voluntary contributions received in 2020	3 092 733
Interest income in 2020	73 984
Subtotal	7 477 416
Expenditure in 2020	(2 950 367)
Subtotal	(2 950 367)
Fund balance, 31 December 2020	4 527 050
Voluntary contribution received in 2021	2 000 000
Interest income, January–June 2021	14 280
Voluntary contribution expected	250 000
Subtotal	6 791 329
Expenditure, January–June 2021	(1 453 396)
Projected expenditure, July–December 2021	(3 069 856)
Subtotal	(4 523 252)
Projected fund balance, 31 December 2021	2 268 077

Table 2
Financial resources by component

(United States dollars)

<i>Component</i>	<i>2020 expenditure</i>	<i>2021 appropriation</i>	<i>Variance</i>	<i>2022 estimate</i>
Council support	6 086	49 495	–	49 495
Executive direction and management and operational support	837 613	1 142 075	(87 575)	1 054 500
Programme of work	1 814 272	3 778 311	(1 309 531)	2 468 780
Subtotal	2 657 971	4 969 881	(1 397 106)	3 572 775
Programme support costs ^a	292 395	646 085	(181 624)	464 461
Total	2 950 367	5 615 966	(15 787 330)	4 037 236

^a Programme support costs for the trust fund in 2022 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>2020</i>	<i>2021 appropriation</i>	<i>Variance</i>	<i>2022 estimate</i>
Professional and higher categories	5	7	1	8
General Service and related categories	5	10	0	10
Total	10	17	1	18

Note: The organizational structure and post distribution for 2022 is shown in annex I.

Table 4
Resource requirements by object of expenditure

(United States dollars)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>2020 expenditure</i>	<i>2021 appropriation</i>	<i>Variance</i>	<i>2022 estimate</i>
Staff and other personnel costs				
1. International staff	551 945	1 258 400	264 095	1 522 495
2. Local staff	124 823	237 500	44 152	281 652
3. General temporary assistance	–	–	397 118	397 118
4. Consultants and experts	934 807	1 130 680	(677 000)	453 680
Subtotal, staff and other personnel costs	1 611 574	2 626 580	28 365	2 654 945
Hospitality	–	4 200	–	4 200
Travel				
1. Travel of Council members	6 086	44 095	–	44 095
2. Travel of staff	40 989	790 368	(509 712)	280 656
3. Travel of participants to meetings and workshops	51 410	–	–	–

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>2020 expenditure</i>	<i>2021 appropriation</i>	<i>Variance</i>	<i>2022 estimate</i>
4. Travel of consultants, resource persons and panellists	137 839	375 308	(358 494)	16 814
Subtotal, travel	236 324	1 209 771	(868 206)	341 565
Grant and fellowships	–	290 280	(145 140)	145 140
Contractual services	336 322	511 650	(388 225)	123 425
Equipment and vehicle	56 453	9 800	(4 900)	4 900
Supplies	2 494	10 000	–	10 000
General operating expenses	414 804	307 600	(19 000)	288 600
Total	2 657 971	4 969 881	(1 397 106)	3 572 775
Programme support costs	292 395	646 085	(181 624)	464 461
Grand total	2 950 367	5 615 966	(1 578 730)	4 037 236

A. Council support

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

Table 5
Resource requirements for Council support
(United States dollars)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>2020 expenditure</i>	<i>2021 appropriation</i>	<i>Variance</i>	<i>2022 estimate</i>
Travel	6 086	44 095	–	44 095
Hospitality	–	4 200	–	4 200
Contractual services	–	1 200	–	1 200
Total	6 086	49 495	–	49 495

36. The amount of \$49,495, at maintenance level, will provide for the travel of Council members (\$44,095), accommodations for up to eight observers (\$1,200) for one two-day Council session, expected to be held in 2022, and hospitality services for the Council session (\$4,200). The Council's subcommittee on resource mobilization plans is to hold two virtual meetings in 2022.

B. Executive direction and management and operational support

37. The programme of work of the Technology Bank will continue to be overseen by the Managing Director (D-2).

38. The launch of the Technology Bank internship programme was delayed owing to coronavirus disease (COVID-19)-related restrictions and has been launched in 2021. It offers students from diverse academic backgrounds a professional experience through practical work assignments within the international environment of the United Nations, while offering the Bank the assistance of qualified students specializing in various professional fields. Resources are provided for a transportation stipend for interns.

39. 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 between 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 Bank on quarterly basis. The calculation of costs is based on the number of transactions processed for the Bank multiplied by the standard prices. The cost of services provided by the United Nations Office at Geneva amounted to \$29,600 at the end of June 2021. 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 Bank's needs. It is expected that the volume of transactions will increase in the second half of 2021, owing to a larger number of Bank staff members being administered by the United Nations Office at Geneva and to additional services (procurement, payments), which is in line with the preparation for phasing out operational services from the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and transferring them to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

40. 2021 is a transition year during which UNOPS is still providing some services to the Technology Bank, mainly in the areas of contracting consultants and individual contractors and of procurement. Internal capacity is still being built in the Bank so that, going forward, those areas will be processed by the Bank and facilitated by the United Nations Office at Geneva. The Bank has been facing challenges in recruiting General Service staff, hence the delay in taking over some of the processes from UNOPS.

41. Given the importance of the information technology infrastructure of the Technology Bank, annual security assessments will continue to be conducted to safeguard the integrity of the Bank's infrastructure. Migration to a cloud-based information management system will continue throughout 2022 in accordance with relevant United Nations information and communications technology regulations and standards.

42. Resource mobilization will remain a key priority of the Technology Bank in 2022 and, to that end, the Bank's new resource mobilization strategy will continue to be fully operationalized. The Bank will convene a high-level political forum on the margins of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries conference to showcase its successful programmes and activities over the past three years and to mobilize additional resources, both financial and in kind. Furthermore, the Bank will engage further with private sector partners on innovative resource mobilization programmes, including co-funding activities.

43. A P-2 post for a Special Assistant and a G-5 post are also proposed to be established to assist in the management of the Office of the Managing Director, and the G-7 Administrative Assistant post approved in 2021 is proposed to be abolished. Within the United Nations, the head of entity is normally supported by a dedicated front office to help with routine functions and managing the entity. The Managing Director does not currently have a dedicated office to support him. The two new posts will therefore directly assist him in the efficient delivery of his functions. To implement the communications strategy of the Bank effectively, the P-3 post of Public Information Officer approved in 2021 is proposed to be moved to the partnerships and coordination programme. As most of the work of the Public Information Officer is to support partnerships, coordination messaging and communication with stakeholders, it will be more efficient for the post to be moved to that programme.

44. 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>2020 expenditure</i>	<i>2021 appropriation</i>	<i>Variance</i>	<i>2022 estimate</i>
A. Staff and other personnel costs				
1. International staff	254 227	547 400	62 474	609 874
2. Local staff	124 823	170 300	(4 896)	165 404
3. Consultants and experts	61 001	60 000	(60 000)	–
Subtotal A, staff and other personnel costs	440 050	777 700	(2 422)	775 278
B. Operational costs				
1. Travel of staff	29 018	50 575	(44 253)	6 322
2. Contractual services	16 628	50 000	(15 000)	35 000
3. Equipment and vehicle	36 453	9 800	(4 900)	4 900
4. Supplies	2 494	10 000	–	10 000
5. General operating expenses	312 970	244 000	(21 000)	223 000
Subtotal B, operational costs	397 563	364 375	(65 153)	279 222
Total	837 613	1 142 075	(67 575)	1 054 500

1. Staff and other personnel costs

45. The amount of \$775,278, reflecting a decrease of \$2,422, will provide for the funding of nine posts for executive direction and management, as follows:

(a) \$609,874 for three international staff: continuation of the Managing Director post at the D-2 level and the Administrative Officer post at the P-3 level, and proposed establishment of one new Special Assistant post at the P-2 level. The P-3 Public Information Officer post will be redeployed to the partnerships and coordination programme;

(b) \$165,404 for six local General Service staff: continuation of five posts (one Information Technology Assistant at the G-6 level, one Finance and Budget Assistant at the G-5 level, one Administrative Assistant at the G-5 level, one Team Assistant at the G-4 level and one Driver at the G-2 level), proposed abolition of one Administrative Assistant at the G-7 level and proposed establishment of one new Administrative Assistant post at the G-5 level;

(c) Reduction of \$60,000 for consultants for communications, as consultants would no longer be required with the recruitment of a P-3 Public Information Officer.

2. Operational costs

46. The amount of \$279,222, reflecting a decrease of \$65,153, will provide for operational costs, such as travel of staff; contractual services (website development, maintenance and administration, translation and printing of documents and other contractual services); office equipment and vehicle maintenance; supplies; and general operating expenses (information technology support services and licences,

internal translation and printing of documents, hospitality, internship programme and implementation direct costs). The reduced requirements for operational costs are due to reductions in travel of staff for capacity development, with a greater reliance on online training; reduced requirements for contractual services related to website development; reduced general operating expenses, as the rental of a sub-office in Istanbul is no longer required; and reduced requirements for vehicle maintenance.

IV. Programme of work

A. Technology Needs Assessment programme

1. Background and rationale

47. Technology needs assessments provide a blueprint for the capacity-building programmes that each country may include as part of its national development strategy in order to accelerate efforts towards the implementation of the priorities contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action and to promote the achievement of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals. Such assessments provide a set of science, technology and innovation capacity-building priorities that should provide a valuable guide to bilateral donors, multilateral and regional development banks, foundations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. They also cover technology needs and enable technology developers and innovators to develop technologies that suit the needs of the least developed countries. In that respect, they will expedite and facilitate the adoption, adaptation and implementation of technologies.

48. Science, technology and innovation-related policies, the innovation ecosystem and the technology commercialization capacity of the least developed countries are assessed, and gaps and appropriate interventions are identified. Technology needs assessments promote collaboration at the regional level and among groups of least developed countries sharing common characteristics and challenges, thereby allowing them to explore synergies and complementarities.

49. The beneficiaries of the assessment activity include the scientific community, government officials with responsibility for science, technology and innovation issues (i.e. ministries of science, industry, technology, education, agriculture and planning), entrepreneurs, educational institutions and civil society.

2. Relationship to the strategic plan of the Technology Bank

50. The Technology Needs Assessment programme is linked to outcome 1 (see para. 7), under the outputs Priority needs of least developed countries are identified and Knowledge and evidence to support science, technology and innovation learning produced.

3. Objectives

51. The objective of the programme is to perform technology needs assessments. Each assessment provides critical insights into the functioning of the national innovation capabilities, presents an overview of the national science, technology and innovation and technological deployment ecosystems and provides an understanding of the impact of the national policy framework for science, technology and innovation on national sustainable development. The objectives of the reviews are as follows:

(a) To identify the core areas of focus for the least developed country under review and specific initiatives to maximize the impact of technology as an instrument to foster structural transformation, reduce poverty and promote sustainable development;

(b) To identify opportunities to strengthen science, technology and innovation-related capabilities and research and development infrastructure, and to improve the utilization of existing capacity-building programmes;

(c) To identify opportunities for collaboration at the national and regional levels and among clusters of countries that share common characteristics and challenges, thereby allowing them to explore synergies and complementarities;

(d) To assist the least developed countries in identifying the technology solutions appropriate for their needs;

(e) To support the efforts of the least developed countries in identifying, prioritizing and formulating their technology needs.

4. Expected accomplishments

52. The expected accomplishments under the programme are as follows:

(a) Dialogue among stakeholders involved in science, technology and innovation is enhanced;

(b) Science, technology and innovation needs in least developed countries are identified, prioritized and formulated;

(c) Policy, science, technology and innovation gaps are identified;

(d) Policies, regulations and an enabling environment for technology transfer are reviewed;

(e) The national capacity of the least developed countries to adopt, adapt and implement technologies is identified;

(f) At least 15 technology needs assessments are completed and validated by Member States;

(g) Technology implementation plans for facilitating the operationalization of science, technology and innovation initiatives for sustainable development are developed.

5. Indicators of achievement

53. The indicators of achievement under the programme are as follows:

(a) The number of dialogue sessions on science, technology and innovation involving policymakers and other stakeholders held;

(b) The number and type of technologies prioritized for either adoption, adaptation or scaling up;

(c) A change in proposed expenditure and investment in science, technology, and innovation;

(d) The number of technology needs assessments completed;

(e) The number of technology implementation plans completed and endorsed by Member States.

6. Main activities

54. The main activities under the programme are as follows:

(a) Building consensus on methodology in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders for identifying, formulating and prioritizing technology needs;

- (b) Conducting an initial technical fact-finding visit in order to interact with government officials and other key science, technology and innovation stakeholders from academia, the private sector and civil society and collect information and data, with the aim of mapping the science, technology and innovation landscape, policies, legal frameworks, institutions and operational instruments;
- (c) Establishing national working groups with representatives of the main national entities in the field of science, technology and innovation designated by their Governments to perform an analysis of existing national capacities;
- (d) Having contracted experts, together with members of the national working group, conduct interviews with the most relevant science, technology and innovation stakeholders (various ministries and major organizations) in the country to collect information on policies and policy instruments for the evaluation of the research and innovation landscape;
- (e) Preparing a draft technology needs assessment on the basis of the information collated from the inventories, other statistical material and desk-based research by the contracted experts; and distributing a draft report to the national working group members and other stakeholders;
- (f) Holding a validation workshop with national working group members and other key technical experts to verify collectively technology needs assessment findings, further build consensus on priorities and finalize the report;
- (g) Submitting the final report to high-level ministerial officials of the respective countries, including a list of possible policy options, initiatives and capacity-building priorities, based on the empirical evidence collected during the technology needs assessment exercise;
- (h) Preparing booklets for selected least developed countries summarizing the technology needs assessment findings, with a focus on key science, technology and innovation gaps and agreed priorities;
- (i) Developing an implementation plan to ensure the immediate operationalization of the technology needs assessment priority actions and recommendations.

7. Country coverage

55. In 2019 and 2020, the Technology Bank carried out the first round of technology needs assessments in five countries, namely, Bhutan, the Gambia, Guinea, Timor-Leste and Uganda. The reviews were carried out in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant organizations. By the end of 2021, technology needs assessments will have been completed in 17 countries, namely, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Djibouti, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kiribati, Liberia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, in collaboration with the Commonwealth and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa. In 2022, additional assessments will be conducted in another 10 countries, namely, Angola, Burundi, Chad, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Solomon Islands, Togo and Tuvalu. For countries where technology needs assessment reports have been completed and validated, technology implementation plans will be developed in the first five countries for which assessments were completed, that is, Bhutan, the Gambia, Guinea, Timor-Leste and Uganda.

B. Technology Transfer programme

1. Background and rationale

56. A technology gap exists between the least developed countries and the rest of the world, representing the differences in technological and innovation capabilities between developing and developed nations. As a result of inadequate incentive structures and institutional and policy weaknesses, technology is inaccessible to the least developed countries.

57. Bridging the technology and knowledge gaps is a necessary condition to accelerate convergence in terms of growth, income and productivity levels and thus foster development. New policies and mechanisms are necessary to reduce those gaps. In this respect, three steps necessary to close the gaps are acquiring, absorbing and implementing technology.

58. One of the core mandates of the Technology Bank is to assist the least developed countries in closing the gaps by supporting the development of new science, technology and innovation mechanisms and building the capacity to implement those mechanisms.

59. In that regard, in its resolution [71/251](#), the General Assembly reaffirmed the importance of improving the least developed countries' scientific research and innovation base, promoting networking among researchers and research institutions and helping the least developed countries to access and utilize critical and appropriate technologies, building upon bilateral initiatives and coordinated support by multilateral institutions, including the relevant entities of the United Nations system, such as the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, and the private sector.

60. Furthermore, the Charter of the Technology Bank has, as one of its objectives, to promote and facilitate 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, while respecting intellectual property rights and fostering the national and regional capacity of the least developed countries for the effective utilization of technology to bring about transformative change.

2. Relationship to the strategic plan of the Technology Bank

61. The programme is part of the strategic plan of the Technology Bank and the technology transfer activities come under outcome 1 of the strategic plan (see para. 7). The outcome refers to the technology projects and activities that are undertaken and implemented by the Bank, which will help least developed countries to build science, technology and innovation capacities, ecosystems and regulatory frameworks that can harness the benefits of developing, accessing, acquiring, absorbing and implementing technologies.

3. Objectives

62. To build capacity in least developed countries in order to attract outside technologies and facilitate technology transfer on voluntary and mutually agreed terms and conditions, the objectives are:

(a) To build capacity in institutions and mechanisms, including at the regional level, that can facilitate technology transfer;

(b) To facilitate negotiations to ensure efficient, effective and result-based technology transfer;

(c) To facilitate cost-effective access to customized information on available technologies;

(d) To assist the universities, research institutes, scientists and private businesses in least developed countries in obtaining access to and using available technical knowledge for conducting developmental research and adapting technologies to local use;

(e) 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;

(f) To support the emergence of new entrepreneurs and attract existing entrepreneurs from inside and outside the country to initiate new ventures based on technologies that are new to the country;

(g) To develop mechanisms to facilitate joint research and development programmes involving the least developed countries and their development partners for the development of technologies in the prioritized sectors;

(h) To assist in designing financing mechanisms that enable innovation, customization and the successful application of transferred technologies in least developed countries;

(i) To enhance the awareness of key stakeholders in least developed countries that, to be effective, the transfer of technology from developed countries to least developed ones must be absorbed and adapted to reflect the realities and priorities of the recipient countries.

4. Expected accomplishments

63. The expected accomplishments under the programme are as follows:

(a) A successful model and a work and activity plan are developed for a technology transfer office to build capacity for technology transfer and research that can be applied to the least developed countries;

(b) A digital technology transfer platform is acquired, and functions suited to the needs of the Technology Bank, the least developed countries and users are developed;

(c) Solutions are developed for meeting the challenges identified in least developed countries, through the Sustainable Development Goal impact accelerator and the building of the capacity of the least developed countries to develop, adopt and implement technologies;

(d) A study is conducted to identify the technology transfer programmes focusing on the least developed countries on a global level in order to understand the gaps and develop programmes to address them.

5. Indicators of achievement

64. The indicators of achievement under the programme are as follows:

(a) The establishment and operationalization of a model technology transfer office in a least developed country;

(b) The publication of a study on global technology transfer activities directed to the least developed countries and gaps in the system that can be filled by the programmes of the Technology Bank;

(c) The widespread use of the digital technology transfer platform, as measured by the number of registered least developed country users and the number of connections facilitated through the platform;

(d) The widespread use of technical, legal and policy guidelines developed by the programme for technology seekers, as measured by the number of requests and downloads from the website.

6. Main activities

65. The activities will be aimed at creating tailor-made policies and procedures for the pilot host institution in a turnkey format, and template policy and procedural documents that can be adapted by all interested parties in the hosting least developed country. The main activities under the programme are as follows:

(a) Developing and launching the technology transfer office and announcing a one-year workplan for the office;

(b) Developing a highly intensive mentoring and coaching programme;

(c) Developing a personalized project plan for the transfer office for the following one-year period. During that phase, activities will be undertaken to mentor and train the trainers;

(d) Engaging an expert consultant to support the Technology Bank in identifying the gaps in the global technology transfer programmes and activities for addressing the challenges faced by the least developed countries;

(e) Publishing a study on global technology transfer practices to guide the programmes of the Technology Bank on technology on technology transfer;

(f) Designing the technology transfer capacity-building activities of the Technology Bank;

(g) Developing information technology and business functions for digital technology aimed at facilitating access to information on technology, intellectual property and technological services;

(h) Completing the implementation phase for the Sustainable Development Goal impact accelerator in Bangladesh and Uganda and initiating a second phase of the impact accelerator in three additional least developed countries.

7. Country coverage

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

C. Programme on enhancing science, technology and innovation capacities in the least developed countries

1. Background and rationale

67. Science, technology, and innovation are regarded as significant contributors to socioeconomic and political development and form the building blocks of sustainable development. Capacity development is an integral part of the global partnership for sustainable development. Investment in science, technology and innovation is essential for economic development and social progress. Research and development can also foster sustainable development by building greener, more inclusive societies. However, in many least developed countries, investment in science, technology and innovation and research and development is very low, leaving large parts of the

population without access to the Internet, and the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the significant economic and social impact of not being connected to the Internet on the least developed countries.

68. Building human and institutional capacity is critical for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Target 17.9 of Goal 17 calls for enhanced international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Goals. Leveraging science, technology and innovation as an enabler for development requires enhancing the capacity and digital skills in least developed countries to adapt to the new digital environment.

69. Through its programme on enhancing science, technology and innovation capacities in the least developed countries, the Technology Bank can assist those countries with acquiring scientific knowledge, technical skills and regulatory capacity that will support strategic, managerial and policymaking skills to integrate science, technology and innovation into public policies, regulate them and promote effective means of governing backed by scientific evidence.

70. Academies of sciences, with their independence and competencies, are unique institutions that provide evidence-based advice to Governments to formulate national policies in response to national, regional and global scientific challenges. These academies serve the very important purpose of advising Governments by providing authoritative and organized guidance on issues related to science and technology, thus benefiting both the economy and society. As such, they should play a major role in the development of national science and technology, as well as in the drafting of sustainable development policies. Informed scientists, diplomats and policymakers with scientific evidence will strengthen the link between science and foreign policy in addressing regional and global challenges. The Technology Bank will work with other partners, such as The World Academy of Sciences for the advancement of science in developing countries, to engage and foster networks of scientists and diplomats from least developed countries with networks of academies of sciences, international scientific organizations and scientific communities in order to build consensus in integrating science in multilateral agreements. The implementation of the programme will be aligned with the resource mobilization strategy of the Bank, which integrates joint funding, financial and in-kind contributions for the different initiatives.

2. Relationship to the strategic plan of the Technology Bank

71. The programme is linked to outcomes 1 and 2 (see para. 7) of the strategic plan. To achieve the outcomes, the following outputs will be delivered:

- (a) Including thematic areas, such as climate change, gender-inclusivity and youth capacity-building, in science, technology and innovation programme design for least developed countries;
- (b) Promoting access to capacity-building and joint research opportunities for science, technology and innovation professionals from least developed countries;
- (c) Strengthening the interface between science, diplomacy and policymaking in least developed countries.

3. Objectives

72. The overall objective is to enhance science, technology and innovation capacities across different stakeholders in least developed countries, from policy development, academia, private sector and civil society, to ensure that there is a critical mass of expertise in science, technology and innovation.

73. The specific objectives of the programme are:

(a) To increase the awareness and knowledge of all stakeholders in least developed countries with regard to available scientific resources in order to enhance capacity to research, acquire, communicate, educate and make use of scientific and technical journals and tools, such as the Research4Life platform;

(b) To enhance policy formulation in least developed countries by collaborating and partnering with national, regional and international institutions to provide targeted training to least developed country experts and policymakers for formulating and implementing science, technology and innovation policies and leading policy reform;

(c) To strengthen the capacities of experts, policymakers and institutions to plan and develop effective science, technology and innovation policies and legislation, related strategies and plans based on informed decision-making processes and evidence-based advice;

(d) To continue building capacity in eco-design and technology education in least developed countries by strengthening the partnership with the World Eco-Design Conference;

(e) To facilitate access to environmentally friendly industrial technology and industrial design solutions through training, workshops, scholarships and collaboration between tertiary institutions in China and in the least developed countries;

(f) To empower the research and innovation capabilities of biotechnology scientists in least developed countries and increase the capabilities of regulators and policymakers in beneficiary countries in relation to biotechnology policy and regulatory requirements;

(g) To enhance the capacity of experts and decision makers in least developed countries to use all types of space-based information to support the full disaster management cycle, to use space infrastructure, data, applications and services to combat global health challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, and to improve understanding of the ways in which stakeholders use space-based solutions to support sustainable development and thus identify priority areas to accelerate sustainable development in the region through the enhanced use of space-based solutions;

(h) To transfer technology and knowledge to front-line health workers on screening technologies and the fitting of hearing aids to address hearing loss in children, in collaboration with Medtronic Labs;

(i) To develop an implementation framework in least developed countries on science diplomacy by collaborating with The World Academy of Sciences for the advancement of science in developing countries to strengthen the interface between science, diplomacy and policymaking.

4. Expected accomplishments

74. The expected accomplishments under the programme are as follows:

(a) Access to and the use of scientific and technical journals through the research4Life platform increase, and a larger number of professionals are trained in research skills, technologies and methodology;

(b) Experts and policymakers are trained on policy formulation;

(c) A platform is established for regular dialogue between policymakers and scientists to ensure the involvement of academies of science in national policy debates

and national commitments to supporting national policy formulation, implementation and overall monitoring under the 2030 Agenda;

(d) Scholarships are awarded and cooperation agreements on industrial design education are put in place between tertiary institutions in China and least developed countries;

(e) End users are trained on how to access, use and apply satellite data and information to support the full disaster management cycle, and raise the awareness of policymakers on role of satellite technologies in addressing disaster risk management;

(f) The capacities of early-stage researchers in biotechnology and biotechnology regulatory institutions are strengthened in least developed countries;

(g) Health workers are trained on how to use screening technologies and fit hearing aids to children;

(h) There is an increased interaction between scientists, diplomats and policymakers on science diplomacy.

5. Indicators of achievement

75. The indicators of achievement under the programme are as follows:

(a) The number of participants in each training programme, with a detailed breakdown of participants by sector, institution, discipline, profession and gender;

(b) The number of workshops for experts and policymakers on science, technology and innovation policy formulation;

(c) The number of newly constituted academies of sciences and of networking events of such academies;

(d) The number of students awarded scholarships and of memorandums of understanding signed between tertiary institutions in China and in least developed countries;

(e) The number of early-career biotechnology researchers awarded fellowships and number of workshops held for regulatory institutions;

(f) The number of training workshops, events and conferences on satellite technology delivered and the increased use of satellite information in national disaster preparedness manuals;

(g) The number of health workers trained in fitting hearing aids and the number of children screened for hearing loss and fitted with those aids;

(h) The number of participants in science diplomacy workshops.

6. Main activities

76. The main activities under the programme are as follows:

(a) Delivering substantial online courses on Research4Life platform in English and French to equip existing and potential users of the Research4Life programmes with the knowledge and skills required to gain access to and use the information effectively and efficiently;

(b) Delivering training workshops and online courses in collaboration with the United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals;

(c) Organizing capacity development activities in line with priorities for existing academies, and identifying opportunities for South-South exchanges and mentorships between academies;

(d) Mobilizing the award of scholarships on industrial design and increasing the number of tertiary institutions to establish industrial design programmes in least developed countries;

(e) Facilitating the recruitment and award of early-career researchers fellowships from least developed countries for the North-South and South-South programme and facilitating capacity development workshops on biotechnology policy for regulators, governmental risk assessors and relevant technical experts in least developed countries who address biosafety regulations;

(f) Delivering training workshops, events and conferences on the use of satellite technologies in least developed countries;

(g) Developing and implementing hearing loss programmes in three least developed countries;

(h) Establishing a science diplomacy programme to enhance effective partnership and collaboration among scientists, policymakers and diplomats from least developed countries.

7. Country coverage

77. The programme will be open to participants from all 46 least developed countries.

D. Partnerships and coordination programme

1. Background and rationale

78. Given the vast needs of the least developed countries in terms of science, technology and innovation and the need for addressing the full range of objectives set out in its Charter to make the expected transformational impact in all least developed countries, the Technology Bank relies on core strategic partnerships within and outside the United Nations system and with non-State actors. Coordinating those partnerships, developing key instruments and conducting research to underpin programmes are therefore critical. The partnership and coordination programme will oversee the Bank's activities and programmes in that regard.

79. To achieve the Technology Bank's objectives and improve its operations, an appropriate system for monitoring and evaluation will be put in place. The system will be comprehensive, transparent and evidence-based, with a strong focus on the assessment of outputs and impacts. The comprehensive monitoring and evaluation strategy will ensure the appropriate and systematic evaluation coverage of all Bank activities and projects and define a detailed timetable for specific evaluation work, to operationalize the Bank's resource mobilization strategy.

80. At the centre of the Technology Bank monitoring and evaluation policy will be a focus on data gathering to provide a strong evidence-based assessment of the progress made towards objectives, quality, output and the impact of projects and activities, but in a manner that does not overburden beneficiary countries and stakeholders. Evaluation activities will be supported by independent evaluation experts and involve users with a view to providing expert advice and strategic guidance on the further development of the Bank.

2. Relationship to the strategic plan of the Technology Bank

81. The programme is linked to the Charter and operational guidelines of the Technology Bank outlined in the 2022–2024 strategic plan.

3. Objectives

82. The objectives of the programme are:

- (a) To develop and pursue strategic relationships;
- (b) To follow up on the feedback from Member States on the report of the Secretary-General on the first three years of operations of the Technology Bank, which will involve an in-depth analysis of feedback in relation to the Bank's programmes, including the Bank's rationale for its activities, the results of their implementation during the first three years and the impact of activities and projects (significantly, the focus will be on implementing recommendations arising from the report); to monitor and review continuously all Bank activities and projects; and to provide programme managers and key stakeholders with regular feedback on the consistency of performance with set outputs and outcomes, as well as an indication of external and internal factors that may affect the delivery of projects and activities;
- (c) To launch the Technology Bank 2021 flagship report on the state of science, technology and innovation in least developed countries at the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and to publish the 2022 flagship report;
- (d) To continuously implement innovative strategies for resource mobilization.

4. Expected accomplishments

83. The expected accomplishments under the programme are as follows:

- (a) An extensive network of strategic partnerships is developed for programme development and delivery;
- (b) There is a pipeline of fully developed joint projects with partners for implementation;
- (c) A programme-level monitoring and evaluation is undertaken with the support of the Office of Internal Oversight Services;
- (d) The level of resource mobilization activities increases, including for financial and in-kind support;
- (e) The first flagship report of the Technology Bank on the state of science, technology and innovation in least developed countries is published.

5. Indicators of achievement

84. The indicators of achievement under the programme are as follows:

- (a) Increased participation in global networks and initiatives;
- (b) The development of an overall system of evaluation and monitoring for the Technology Bank programmes and activities;
- (c) The development of a data-gathering methodology to provide a strong evidence-based assessment of progress towards the objectives, quality, output and impact of projects and activities;

(d) The formulation and adoption of common templates, methodologies and indicators to promote comparability and coherence and to facilitate an aggregated overview of the impact of projects and activities across beneficiary countries;

(e) The development of a framework for linkages and collaboration between the Technology Bank and the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and its United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as with the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, as appropriate;

(f) The launch of the 2022 flagship report.

6. Main activities

85. The main activities under the programme are as follows:

(a) Participating actively in the work of the Technology Facilitation Mechanism activities;

(b) Designing and developing strategic documents, tools, processes and programmes in correspondence with the objectives and expected achievements;

(c) Conducting a continuous comprehensive internal review of the Technology Bank and its activities and projects;

(d) Conducting a continuous monitoring and review of all the Technology Bank activities and projects to provide managers and key stakeholders with regular feedback on the consistency of performance, with set outputs and outcomes, as well as an indication of external and internal factors that may affect the delivery of projects and activities;

(e) Holding a global event for the launch of the flagship report on the state of science, technology and innovation in least developed countries on the occasion of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, scheduled for January 2022;

(f) Holding a high-level political event on the margins of Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to mobilize increased financial support for the Bank.

7. Country coverage

86. In 2022, country coverage will include all programmes of the Technology Bank that are implemented in least developed countries.

Table 7

Resource requirements for programme of work

(United States dollars)

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>2020 expenditure</i>	<i>2021 appropriation</i>	<i>Variance</i>	<i>2022 estimate</i>
Staff and other personnel costs				
1. International staff	297 718	711 000	201 621	912 621
2. Local staff	–	67 200	49 048	116 248
3. General temporary assistance	–	–	397 118	397 118
4. Consultants and experts	873 806	1 070 680	(617 000)	453 680
Subtotal, staff and other personnel costs	1 171 524	1 848 880	30 787	1 879 667

<i>Object of expenditure</i>	<i>2020 expenditure</i>	<i>2021 appropriation</i>	<i>Variance</i>	<i>2022 estimate</i>
Travel				
1. Travel of staff	11 972	739 793	(465 459)	274 334
2. Travel of participants to meetings and workshops	51 410	–	–	–
3. Travel of consultants, resource persons and panellists	137 839	375 308	(358 494)	16 814
Subtotal, travel	201 221	1 115 101	(823 953)	291 148
Grant and fellowships	–	290 280	(145 140)	145 140
Contractual services	319 694	460 450	(373 225)	87 225
General operating expenses	101 834	63 600	2 000	65 600
Furniture and equipment	20 000	–	–	–
Total	1 814 272	3 778 311	(1 309 531)	2 468 780

8. Staff and other personnel costs

87. The amount of \$1,879,667, reflecting an increase of \$30,787, will provide for the following:

(a) \$1,028,869 for posts, reflecting an increase of \$250,669: \$912,621 for five international staff, with the continuation of four Programme Management Officer posts (P-4) and the redeployment of one Communications Officer post (P-3) from executive direction and management; and \$116,248 for the continuation of four Programme Assistant staff at the G-5 level;

(b) \$397,118 for general temporary assistance: one P-5 position (\$176,118) and two experts at the P-2 level (\$221,000). The P-5 incumbent will mainly engage in resource mobilization, while the P-2 experts will support the development of the industrial design programme activities of the Technology Bank to build capacity in industrial design and technology in least developed countries, and support the Technology Transfer programme;

(c) \$453,680, reflecting a reduction of \$617,000, for the engagement of consultants and experts for the four programmes, including on a technology needs assessment, the development of the business and functions concept for digital technology, the development of information technology-related functions, a technology transfer office model, the development of workshops on the transfer of technology, the review of draft charters for new academies of science, training on biotechnology policy and the regulatory science group, geospatial technologies, innovation capacity development, flagship report development and monitoring and evaluation strategy;

88. In addition, in 2022, the Bank will continue to benefit from the support of an Associate Programme Management Officer at the P-2 level, to be provided by Italy under the Junior Professional Officers programme.

9. Travel

89. An amount of \$291,148, reflecting a reduction of \$823,953, will provide for the travel of staff, consultants, resource persons and panellists, their substantive and programmatic support and their participation in local consultations, workshops and training courses. The decrease is mainly due to a greater focus placed on online

training through a newly developed substantial open online course, resulting in reduced requirements for the travel of participants to attend meetings and workshops.

10. Grants and fellowships

90. An amount of \$145,140, reflecting a 50 per cent reduction, will fund South-North and South-South visits of scientist fellows and collaborative research programmes.

11. Contractual services

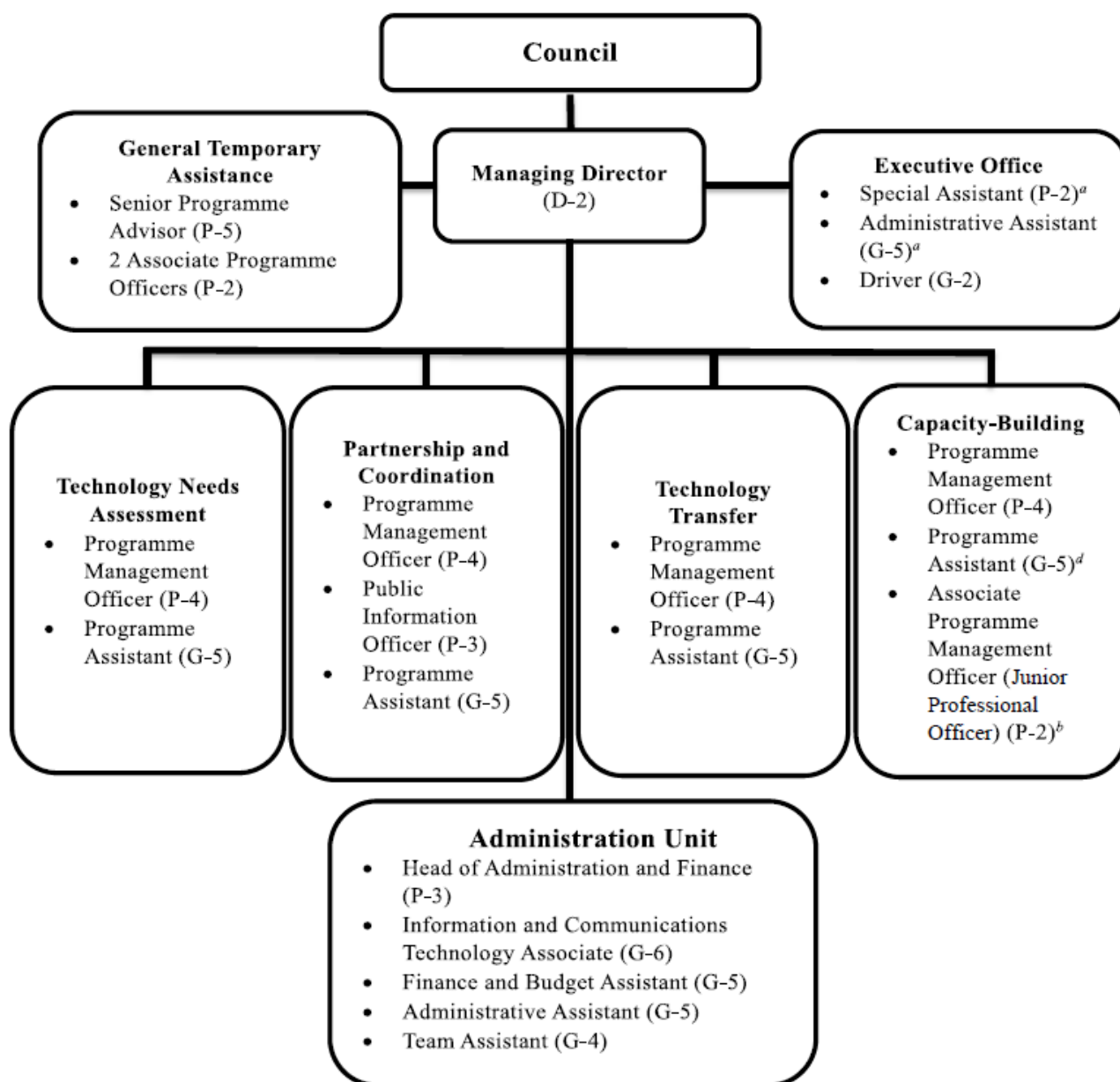
91. An amount of \$87,225, reflecting a reduction of \$373,225, will provide for the cost of venues and other related services for workshops, side events and meetings, as well as for translation, printing and layout services for the related reports. The decrease is mainly due to the reduced number of planned events and to host countries covering the costs of venues for workshops and other related costs, such as printing.

12. General operating expenses

92. An amount of \$65,600, reflecting an increase of \$2,000, will provide for the costs of research projects incurred by the hosting laboratories in the South-North and South-South exchanges, such as for reagents, services, fieldwork and other expenses associated with the scientific visits. The increase of \$2,000 will provide for the costs of one regional workshop on the establishment of academies of science.

Annex I

Technology Bank organizational chart

^a New position.^b The position is separately funded and not part of the budget of the Technology Bank.^c Vacant, under recruitment.^d Recruitment completed, onboarding on 1 November 2021.

Annex II

Summary of follow-up actions taken to implement relevant recommendations of the oversight bodies

<i>Recommendations of oversight bodies</i>	<i>Status/action taken to implement the recommendation</i>	<i>Reference document</i>
General Assembly		
<i>Establishment of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries (resolution 71/251)</i>		
<i>Requests</i> the Secretary-General to prepare a report, within existing resources, to inform the General Assembly about the results achieved by the Technology Bank after the first three years of operation, and decides to review, as appropriate, the arrangements required for the effective functioning of the Technology Bank on that basis (para. 6)	A full-scale, external evaluation will be commissioned in 2021 to coincide with the end of the three-year strategic planning cycle. The evaluation will include an in-depth analysis of the rationale for the effort, the results of its implementation to date and the impact of activities and projects. The findings of this evaluation will be taken into account in the formulation of the second three-year strategic plan (TBLDC/2020/5 , para. 73 (b))	Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the first three years of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries (A/76/272 and A/76/272/Corr.1)
Council of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries		
<i>Report of the Council of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries on the work of its fourth session (TBLDC/2020/8)</i>		
The Council requested that future reports to the Assembly be more informative and comprehensive (para. 8)	The report for 2021 will be more detailed, as requested	
The Council further recommended the inclusion of local innovation, communities, and organizations in the work of the Technology Bank (para. 10)	\$420,000 will be provided through the Sustainable Development Goal impact accelerator towards start-ups in Bangladesh and Uganda	
The Council took note of the significant constraints facing the Technology Access Partnership and recommended the redoubling of efforts to implement the resource mobilization strategy developed in 2020, and pledged its support to contributing to these efforts (para. 12)	The Global Innovation Exchange Platform is being operationalized with the financial support of the United States Agency for International Development, and the Technology Bank and Medtronic are supporting local capacity-building on technology transfer under the hearing loss programme	

<i>Recommendations of oversight bodies</i>	<i>Status/action taken to implement the recommendation</i>	<i>Reference document</i>
In the context of monitoring and evaluation, the Council recommended that the Technology Bank also consider, as reflected in its charter (A/71/363), an independent evaluation of the activities of the Bank (para. 17)	This will be operationalized in 2022	
The Council recalled its recommendation to maintain a budget allocation of 20 per cent for operational costs. While acknowledging the need to strengthen the Technology Bank's capacity, the Council expressed caution with regard to increasing the number of staff in the event of limited commitments for 2022 (para. 18)	Executive direction and management and operational support represents 29.5 per cent of the 2022 budget	
<i>Report of the Council of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries on the work of its third session (TBLDC/2020/4)</i>		
[The Council] proposed merging the programme on enhancing innovation capacity in the least developed countries with the programme on enhancing science, technology and innovation capacity in such countries (para. 11)	The programme on enhancing innovation capacity in the least developed countries is now a subprogramme under programme C, on enhancing science, technology and innovation capacities in the least developed countries	
<i>Decision 2020/1</i>		
In connection with the annual performance review of the Managing Director of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries, the Council recalls that the Managing Director is appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the Council, and decides that the representative of the Secretary-General shall conduct the annual performance review of the Managing Director in consultation with the Council members (annex III)	The Technology Bank has engaged the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance to provide guidance and clarity on performance management of heads of entities. A policy brief is being prepared by the Office of the Secretary-General to provide clarity and a uniform procedure across the United Nations system. In addition, the Department has proposed that performance review be aligned with the programme year of the Bank	
Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions		
Noting the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Advisory Committee is of the view that the expenditure projected for the remainder of 2020 may not be realistic. The Committee reiterates that future budgets of the Technology Bank should reflect projected expenditure and annual requirements more accurately (para. 7)	The forecasted expenditure in the second half of 2021 are higher than the costs incurred in the first half because of timing difference in recording the implementation costs of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS); lower staff costs, as not all posts	

<i>Recommendations of oversight bodies</i>	<i>Status/action taken to implement the recommendation</i>	<i>Reference document</i>
	were encumbered in the first six months; and forecasted payment to start-ups as part of the Sustainable Development Goal impact accelerator	
The Advisory Committee reiterates that the recruitment process for the international staff of the Technology Bank should continue to be conducted in accordance with the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations (para. 13)	The United Nations Office at Geneva conducts recruitment in line with the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, and the Technology Bank has not changed that	
The Advisory Committee looks forward to an update on the phasing out of UNOPS services, and related cost implications, in the next report of the Technology Bank (para. 14)	See sect. III. B, para. 39	
The Advisory Committee notes with concern that the report of the Technology Bank did not include detailed information on the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee as requested. The Committee expects that this information will be included systematically in future reports (para. 15)	A summary of follow-up action taken to implement relevant recommendations of the oversight bodies, including the Advisory Committee, is now an integral part as annex II to the report on the budget and programme of work of the Technology Bank	