

STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE to be delivered at the 52th Session of the Industrial Development Board (25-27 November 2024)

Agenda Item 10: UNIDO activities in support of the least developed countries

In the face of ever-growing challenges, international solidarity is essential.

Since 1971, the United Nations identifies the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), as those facing the most significant development challenges within the international community.

Nearly three-quarters of LDCs (33 out of 45) are located in Africa.

Supporting the sustainable development efforts of vulnerable countries, particularly the LDCs, is a foreign policy priority for Türkiye.

Türkiye is the host (in Gebze) and the main donor of the UN Technology Bank for LDCs (UNTBLDC).

As a subsidiary organ of the UN General Assembly, the UN Technology Bank aims to strengthen the science, technology and innovation (STI) capacity of the LDCs.

The UNTBLDC is the only UN entity solely and concretely focused on fostering technology transfer, innovation, and capacity building in LDCs.

The operationalization of the UNTBLDC in 2018 marked the first of the Sustainable Development Goals target (SDG17.8), to be implemented well ahead of 2030.

The Bank conducts demand-driven Technology Needs Assessments (TNAs), designs low-cost and high-impact projects, and forges partnerships for STI.

The Bank's role has become highly relevant due to the widened digital gap between the developed countries and the LDCs.

We would like to express our thanks to the Secretariat for circulating, at our request, a brochure on the UNTBLDC to Member States. We hope this will contribute to raising greater awareness of the Bank's important work.

The Doha Programme of Action (DPoA) (2022-2031) recognized the UNTBLDC as a focal point for LDCs to strengthen their STI capacity towards building sustainable productive capacities and promoting structural economic transformation.

In addition, the Doha Programme of Action invited the UN Member States to provide voluntary financial and in-kind resources to the Bank to enhance its capacity and effectiveness.

The Ministerial Declaration adopted at The Tenth Ministerial Conference, held here in Vienna one year ago, reiterated this call for support, inviting especially donor countries and other development partners to make substantive contributions to the UN Technology Bank for its effective functioning as a focal point for the LDCs.

Today we would like to reiterate this call.

Furthermore, recently (21 October 2024), the report of the UN Secretary-General on the work of the UNTBLDC was presented to the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly.

In his report, the UN Secretary-General called upon Member States and the international community to collaborate with and support the UNTBLDC, including through provision of financial and human resources.

The budget of the UNTBLDC relies on voluntary contributions.

Despite the financial support provided by the Government of Türkiye, the resources currently available to the UNTBLDC are limited, especially when compared with its ambitious mandate.

We strongly encourage development partners to contribute voluntary financial and in-kind resources as well as personnel and know-how enabling the Bank to fully deliver on its mandate.

We strongly encourage our colleagues in LDCs to explore potential areas of collaboration with the UNTBLDC and benefit from the services and projects provided by the Bank.

UNIDO's Operational Strategy for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) 2022–2031 was endorsed via the Ministerial Declaration of the 10th Ministerial Conference of the LDCs, and the said strategy was further welcomed by the twentieth session of the General Conference of UNIDO.

This strategy constitutes a tangible commitment for UNIDO to enhance its efforts in bridging the digital divide through partnerships with specialized United Nations entities, such as the United Nations Technology Bank for the LDCs.

Hence, we believe that the development of an action plan with regards to this Operational Strategy will provide an opportunity to strengthen the mutual engagement of UNIDO and the United Nations Technology Bank towards Least Developed Countries

Thank you