



## **Background**

**therefore, appealed to member States and development partners to provide resources to the Technology Bank to continue contributing to the enhancement of Science, Technology and Innovation in LDCs**

**Prof. Hasan Mandal, President of The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey, on behalf of the government of Turkey noted that priority in international development and cooperation should be given to LDCs through empowerment based on research and development (R&D) and innovation. He further noted that the impact of COVID-19 pandemic will require stronger support from science, technology and innovation through technology-based collaboration and co-production for sustainable and inclusive clean and renewable solutions. Prof. Mandal noted that Turkey has increased support to LDCs during the COVID-19 pandemic with bilateral scientific and technological cooperation with Afghanistan, Burundi, Ethiopia, Sudan and Sierra Leone. He highlighted the importance of enhancing research and development ecosystem to attain sustainable development. He further noted that Turkey provides financial support to the**

**Dr. Solomon Berru, Director General for Science and Research Affairs Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MSHE), Ethiopia highlighted the importance of access to knowledge, culture and research. He further noted that collaboration with the Technology Bank has contributed to the review of the STI Policy in Ethiopia including engagement with the private sector. Dr Berru indicated that Ethiopia has prioritized agriculture, manufacturing and tourism towards the achievement of the national development goals in line with African Union Agenda 2063. He expressed appreciation for the role of Technology Bank in open science and supporting the Ethiopian Academy of Science. On key lessons he noted the importance of prioritizing integration of ICT in national development programme and increasing access to technologies.**

**Dr. Victor Konde, Scientific Affairs Officer, UN Economic Commission for Africa provided an overview of the role of partnerships and the role of STI in Agenda 2063 by transforming economies in manufacturing, industrialization, value addition and modern agriculture. Dr Konde highlighted the need for increased investment in R&D and strengthening of intellectual property rights across the continent as knowledge is exported from Africa without protection. He noted that COVID19 pandemic amplified the role of science, technology and innovation and the importance of partnerships and collaboration between the centres of excellence across the African Continent. On the lesson learned, he emphasized that LDCs should focus on partnerships amongst countries and institutions such as academies of sciences to promote STI and be sustainable and resilient to inform**



## **Policy messages**

- 1 Science Technology and Innovation is critical for development and achievement of sustainable development**
- 2 Capacity development is critical for building productive capacities and structural transformation**
- 3 Enhance research and development capacity in LDCs to facilitate commercialization of innovations**
- 4 STI should be integrated in national development plans and through partnerships and coordination across the ecosystem**
- 5 Sustainable development requires R&D and innovation from basic sciences to engineering as well as in the social sciences and humanities**
- 6 Digital transformation and ICT connectivity are critical to stimulate competitiveness and facilitate export of value added products from LDCs**
- 7 Increase investment in STI and R&D through collaboration between private sector and academia to enhance innovation and competitiveness**
- 8 Facilitate technology transfer to LDCs and promote awareness of intellectual property**