LDC FUTURE FORUM

5–6 March 2024
Helsinki, Finland

INNOVATION FOR STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION IN LDCS

FIRESIDE CHAT

THE ROLE OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES IN FOSTERING EDUCATION, INNOVATION, AND PRODUCTIVITY IN LDCS – WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
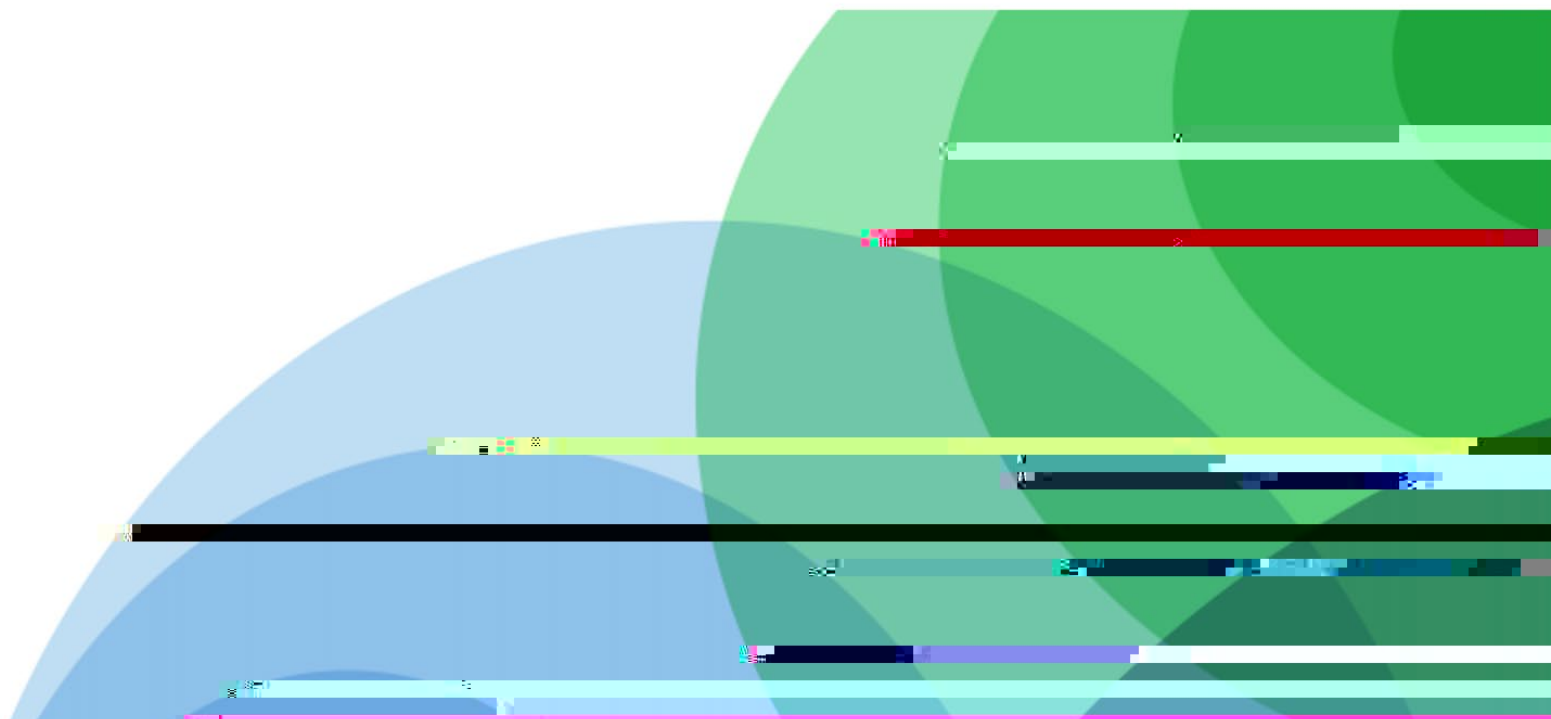
Background

This fireside chat among well-known researchers and practitioners will discuss how LDCs, with their specific vulnerabilities can harness the benefits of advanced technologies while managing the associated risks.

The Doha Programme of Action recognize that LDCs face significant gaps in STI infrastructure, human and institutional capacity. According to the global innovation index of the 32 least developed countries on the list, 21 are in the bottom quartile. This reflects least developed countries continued lagging in innovation, adoption of new technologies and implementation of policies and approaches for the growth and expansion of STI; due to limited infrastructure, lack of resources (financial and technical), and inadequate investment in education, skills and STI research and development (R&D).

As late latecomers to development, least developed countries have the advantage to choose, pick and utilize the technologies and technical know-how that they need to promote sustainable economic development. However, LDCs also need to manage the risks associated with new technologies, including job displacements, the risk to increase inequalities and gaps with respect to access to technologies. The spread of AI poses risks of increasing discrimination, disinformation, cybersecurity etc. Which can hamper socio-economic development of LDCs.

- How can LDCs close the digital divide and enhance access to new technologies?
- What policies need to be put in place for LDCs to maximise benefits from AI and ensure that people can tailor it to their needs?
- How can AI help overcome traditional barriers?
- What innovations in the field of education have the potential to be game changing in LDCs?
- How can LDCs leverage innovation for large productivity gains and job creation?
- How can investment in new technologies in LDCs be incentivized?
- How can LDCs effectively manage the risks associated with AI deployments and ensure responsible and beneficial outcomes for the workforce and society at large?