



PRESS RELEASE

UN launches a dedicated facility for technology transfer for the landlocked developing countries

31 October 2013 - The United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS) and United Nations Office for South-South cooperation (UNOSSC) today launched a joint South-South Technology Transfer Facility for Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) during the fourth day of the Global South-South Development Expo in Nairobi, Kenya.

The facility is designed to facilitate South-South transfer of viable, sector-specific technologies aimed at developing and strengthening capacities and production in LLDCs, in areas such as sustainable agriculture, dairy and agro-food processing, water management, global health, climate change adaptation and renewable energy.

Six landlocked developing countries have been selected to pilot the initiative by initially establishing or strengthening national centres that will identify technology local needs, source viable projects and facilitate the negotiations of the technology transfers. The actual technology transfer and matching of potential technology providers with the demand in LLDCs will be executed through the South-South Global Assets Technology Exchange (SS-Gate), a global transactions and services platform established by the UNOSSC, that facilitates end-to-end market-driven exchanges of technology, assets, services and financing among public/private sectors and civil society.

The facility is being developed as a concrete deliverable to the Second UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries that will be held next year. The session was introduced by Mr. Yiping Zhou, Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. Introducing the initiative itself, Under Secretary-General and High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS Mr. Gyan Acharya said, "We are developing this facility with the aim to make it possible for LLDCs to address some of their development challenges through the adoption of affordable new technologies from the South."

The event was also addressed by Mr. Zsolt Hetesy, the Vice President of the UN General Assembly High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation, who

highlighted that the implementation of such initiatives will only be adequate if special attention is paid to the vulnerable and marginalized.

Dr. Martin Kimani, Kenya's ambassador to the UN in Nairobi, highlighted the efforts of the government of Kenya in working with LLDCs in the region in developing transport and logistical infrastructure.

High-level speakers from the LLDCs, namely Uganda, Zambia and Nepal underscored the challenges faced by their countries and efforts in areas such as transport, energy and agriculture and in achieving overall sustained economic growth. They noted the crucial importance and the role of South-South cooperation in facilitating technology transfer and contributing to the development efforts of the most vulnerable countries in the world.

The speakers called for a strong buy-in by all the stakeholders and for support from the development partners, both emerging and traditional, to support this initiative, through financial support, in-kind contributions, as well as sharing of knowledge, best practices and transfer of suitable and affordable technologies to the LLDCs.

The event was attended by more than 80 participants, ranging from the UN system, governments and the private sector.

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