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Launch of the STI Park Development Project in Mongolia

Concept note

Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes that Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) are key drivers enabling and accelerating the global transformation towards prosperous, inclusive and environmentally sustainable economies in developing and developed countries alike. Well-developed and dynamic STI parks play an important role in increasing knowledge and technology flows, supporting technology diffusion and promoting innovation. STI are also critical for countries to recover fully from Covid-19 pandemics and build a better future.

STI parks have been operationalized in a wide variety of economic and development contexts to stimulate innovation growth and increase competitiveness. As outlined in UNCTAD's Technology and Innovation report 2018, many parks have experienced a disappointing outcome. While many projects in this area achieve some level of success as commercial ventures, their results are often more limited in terms of their main developmental objectives. Many developing countries are seeking advice on how to develop their own range of STI parks, incubators and accelerators. However, often they face serious capacity bottlenecks in terms of policy formulation and policy implementation as evidenced in the STIP reviews undertaken with assistance from UNCTAD. The UNCTAD project *Science, Technology and Innovation Parks for sustainable development: building expertise in policy and practice in selected Asian and African countries*, funded by 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund will provide practical and hands-on opportunities for successful STI park operators in developing countries to share with their peers in other developing countries their experiences and insights about policies for the creation and management of STI parks and similar initiatives such as incubators and accelerators. It aims at building expertise and enhancing the capacity to formulate coherent and integrated policies and institutional frameworks in four beneficiary countries by providing them with opportunities for South-South collaboration to learn from other developing countries that have used STI parks, incubators and accelerators successfully. The beneficiary countries are expected to improve capacity to design and implement policies to develop STI parks and to manage them in respect of policy coherence, financial sustainability, outreach, tenant-related matters, incubation, assessment of innovation outcomes, and so on.

The project will be delivered mostly in-person in the form of on-site training exchanges and workshops from April 2023 to April 2026. UNCTAD is implementing the project in collaboration with the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology.

Objectives

The main objective of this meeting is to launch the implementation of the project in Mongolia, and reach a clear understanding of the project's objectives, outputs, and activities to be delivered, and reassure commitment and support from the stakeholders for the project's success.

Participation

The launch meeting will include the project team from UNCTAD, the representative(s) from the Mongolia mission to the United Nations, the coordinating team in Mongolia, and other stakeholders from the beneficiary country. Target stakeholders include policymakers in government mandated or related with STI Policy making or implementation (e.g. Ministry of finance, Ministry of ICT or Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Education), public entities in managing STI or industrial Parks, partners, and collaborators.

Issues for discussion

- What are the project's objectives?
- What are the outputs or outcomes?
- What expectations does Mongolia have in participating in this project?
- What resources are available in Mongolia to implement the project, such as personnel to engage in the project implementation, meeting venues, or facilities?
- What needs to be prepared by Mongolia?
- What is the roadmap for the country to implement the project?

Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions, raise comments, and seek clarification on the project and its implementation.