Launch Event

**Harnessing Intellectual Property Rights for Innovation, Development and Economic Transformation in LDCs**

29 January 2024, 11:00 - 12:00 (Geneva time)

The world’s least developed countries (LDCs) face severe structural constraints and development challenges, many of which have been compounded by the multiple crises besetting the global economy. Innovation and technological upgrading can play a central role in accelerating the economic growth and structural transformation necessary to tackle these challenges in LDCs, but they first need to build critical minimum levels of productive capacity and technological capabilities.

This webinar will officially launch a joint report by the Commonwealth Secretariat and UNCTAD that explores how LDCs can use intellectual property protection strategically to stimulate innovation and development, and craft regimes and systems for intellectual property rights that help to build productive capacities, enable technological upgrading, boost trade and investment and drive economic transformation.

**Agenda**

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<th>Item</th>
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| Welcome (4 minutes) | Paul Akiwumi (moderator)  
Director, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD |
| Harnessing Intellectual Property Rights for Innovation, Development and Economic Transformation in LDCs: Reflections and highlights from the Commonwealth-UNCTAD joint report (20 minutes) | The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC  
Secretary-General of the Commonwealth  
Rebeca Grynspan  
Secretary-General of UNCTAD |
| Discussant (7 minutes) | Daren Tang  
Director General, WIPO |
| Q&A (25 minutes) | Interactive discussion |