

## **57<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.**

### **Youth Leadership and Entrepreneurship as Key to addressing Inequalities and Challenges of Social inclusion**

#### Concept Note

Youth Leadership and Entrepreneurship can be said to be key to addressing inequalities and challenges of social inclusion. The definition of “youth” is complex and can be defined in different ways.

The UN definition of youth is people aged between 15 and 24 years. The African Youth Charter defines youth as people aged between 15 and 35 years. The Swedish government has defined young people as 13–25 years old. Another definition of a youth is therefore “a phase when a person moves from a time of dependence to independence”. Furthermore, According to a UN report, there are 1.8 billion young people in the world between the ages of 10 and 24. Interestingly, 9 in 10 of the world's young population live in less developed countries.

Therefore, it is clear that the youth is a heterogeneous population and an important population for achieving the sustainable development goals. Particularly, the youth population varies quite broadly in values, experiences and opportunities. The development and empowerment of the youth is hugely fundamental to the growth of any society.

The side event is to highlight how youth leadership and entrepreneurship are the sure ways to achieve Sustainable Development Goals by addressing Inequalities and Challenges of Social inclusion.

The event will provide a platform for the convergence of talented, motivated and world-changing youths from different regions of the world, who are committed to developing innovative pathways to achieving sustainable development. The session will support efforts to engage young people in the realization of the SDGs both through strategic opportunities and through their existing initiatives, platforms and networks.

The presentations will demonstrate how challenges can be transformed into untapped opportunities if youths are given the right support and mentorship.

Finally, we will be examining the role development partners play or can play in addressing inequalities and challenges of social inclusion among the youths.