



LDC5  
5TH UNITED NATIONS  
CONFERENCE ON THE  
LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

# Concept Note

## LDC5 Intergenerational Dialogue

*Young People, Keyholders of Sustainable Development in the  
Least Developed Countries*

Monday 6 March 2023, 14.00 – 15.30pm

*Auditorium 3 - QNCC (Qatar National Convention Centre)*

***“Young people are...leading the way in the fight against climate change, standing up for racial justice and gender equality...holding leaders to account...[and] are at the forefront of our efforts to secure a more inclusive, peaceful, and prosperous future for all”***

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres

### Background

The leaders of the world's Least Developed Countries are coming together at the 5<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) in Doha (Qatar) from 4 to 9 March 2023. At LDC5 they will shape a pathway to deliver the Doha Programme of Action and achieve a better, more sustainable future for all in LDCs. This will have an impact on the lives of millions of young people, and it is their right to have a say and share their ideas, hopes and commitments.

In LDCs, roughly 60% of the population are under 25 years old. The number of adolescents and youth aged 15 to 24 years is projected to grow from 207 million in 2019 to 336 million in 2050. However, many LDCs are facing high youth unemployment and illiteracy rate, aggravating inequality and social discontent.

The 5<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) will provide a platform for dialogue among LDCs, development partners and the global community on youth development in LDCs and create space for engagement with youth in LDCs on policies to empower young population in LDCs and enhance their role in implementing the Doha Programme of Action as well as the 2030 Agenda.

As part of the programme of the 5<sup>th</sup> United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, OHRLLS will host an intergenerational dialogue bringing together young people from the world's LDCs, with world leaders, heads of state and government, decision-makers, senior UN officials and senior diplomats. The Intergenerational Dialogue will take place in Auditorium 3 at the QNCC, from 14.00am to 15.30pm on Monday, 6 March 2023.

The dialogue will be a place for an alternated, head-to-head, discussion among Member States, representatives of the United Nations, Private Sector and Civil Society, together with young people. Youth representatives will be encouraged to share their action, ideas, best practices, and criticisms on the

realisation of the Doha Programme of Action, while Member States are asked to share commitments on the inclusion of youth in the national development of the PoA. Other stakeholders will share how they will facilitate the inclusion of young people in the national, regional and global level delivery of the new PoA.

All delegates are strongly encouraged not to read prepared statements, in favour of an organic and frank discussion. Invited participants and speakers will be selected to ensure inter-generational representation with as much cross-over as possible in their roles as youth participants, government, diplomatic and United Nations officials, civil society and private sector representatives.

In preparation for the Youth Forum, the International Committee Meeting of Youth Organisations (ICMYO) and the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) - facilitated by UN-OHRLS and the members of the LDC5 Youth Engagement Group<sup>1</sup> - consulted with young people to develop a declaration in support of youth development in LDCs. This Youth Declaration aims at (1) ensuring young people are engaged in the LDC5 decision-making process, (2) that the Doha Programme of Action for LDCs addresses the development needs of young people in LDCs in the face of emerging challenges, and (3) to empower youth in furthering progress towards targets and goals of the Doha Programme of Action. The Youth Declaration depicts young people's vision for a better future, asserts young people's commitment to contributing to the Doha programme of action and includes thorough thematic commitments. The above Youth Declaration - titled "For All Generations" - will have been adopted on 22 January 2022 during the LDC5 Youth Forum. At the closing of the Dialogue, youth representatives will hand over the declaration to the President of the General Assembly as a symbol of their commitment to contribute to the new Programme of Action.

## Objectives

- 1) Provide a safe space for constructive dialogue among young people and decision-makers to provide young people's perspective and find common space for a way forward for the Doha Programme of Action - including young people.
- 2) Empower young people as key stakeholders in the realization of the new Programme of Action.
- 3) Establish a partnership among young changemakers and decision-makers who will leave Doha with a clear common vision.
- 4) Hand over the Youth Declaration to LDC5, #ForAllGenerations.