



LDC5  
5TH UNITED NATIONS  
CONFERENCE ON THE  
LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

## Concept Note

# LDC5 Youth Forum

Saturday 4 March 2023, 2pm – 5pm

*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.

The main event for young people at LDC5 will be the LDC5 Youth Forum, which will take place in Auditorium 3 at the QNCC, from 2 to 5pm on Saturday, 4 March 2023. The LDC5 Youth Forum is a safe space for young people from the world's Least Developed Countries and discuss development issues that affect them – including educational and skills capacity building, health, employment, climate change, peace and security, human rights and migration. The Forum will also be an opportunity for young people to share their solutions, actions and impact.

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-OHRLLS and the members of the LDC5 Youth Engagement Group<sup>1</sup> - consulted with young people to form 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 outcome of the Youth Forum will be the adoption of the Youth Declaration, titled "For All Generations".

## Objectives

- 1) Provide a safe space exclusive to youth, where young people can discuss the issues they face, and share opportunities and solutions.
- 2) Empower young people as key stakeholders in the realization of the Doha Programme of Action.
- 3) Establish a group of motivated young changemakers who will leave Doha with a clear role in realizing the Doha Programme of Action in their countries and regions.
- 4) Adopt the Youth Declaration to LDC5, #ForAllGenerations.

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<sup>1</sup> The LDC5 Youth Engagement Group is an inter-agency taskforce coordinated by UN-OHRLLS and composed by ICMYO, MGCY, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, ITU, ITC, ILO, UNESCO, UNDESA, UNCDF, and the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth.