

UNESCO's Contribution to the Zero Draft Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries

UNESCO expresses its sincere thanks to the Co-Chairs of the LDC5 Conference for the opportunity of contributing to the Zero Draft of the Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries. UNESCO submits the following comments and proposals for further editing:

General comment:

UNESCO would like to underline that, as acknowledged by the UN GA in A/RES/74/198, cultural and creative industries are one of the most dynamic and fastest-growing sectors of the world economy employing more people aged 15–29 than any other sector. Moreover, cultural and natural heritage are important assets for sustainable economic development, which attract investments and ensure green and locally-based jobs. Furthermore, promoting respect for cultural diversity is fundamental to preventing violent extremism, and culture can foster reconciliation and social cohesion in post-conflict and post-disaster situations. UNESCO is therefore of the view that the Doha Outcome document should *include specific commitments and targets towards the strengthening of inclusive cultural and creative industries; the promotion of culture and cultural diversity; and the protection and promotion of cultural and natural heritage, as key factors for advancing the 2030 Agenda and build back better after the pandemic in the LDCs.*

UNESCO would like to submit the following comments (*in italics*) and language related proposals (*in blue*) on the following specific paragraphs of the Zero Draft:

Para 4. The LDCs saw their economies significantly shrink in 2020, amidst a severe global recession caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; external debt burden and debt service obligations are rising exponentially, gains made over the last decade in poverty reduction were wiped out; and already fragile health systems saw resources shifted away from maternal health and other life-saving treatments. *Disrupted education may have lasting negative impact on countries' recovery and development.* Global inequalities are growing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. While advanced economies deployed massive fiscal stimulus to cushion the pandemic's impact, and have seen successful mass vaccinations, the policy response in LDCs was much more limited, due to weak fiscal conditions, major logistical challenges, poor resilience capacity and dwindling global support. For them, adequate access to vaccines remains many months, if not years away, casting shadow over their urgent and much-needed growth and development prospects.

Para 7. We recognize that, despite many challenges and constraints, the LDCs represent an enormous human, *cultural* and natural resource *that are both resilient and diverse, with a potential for world-economic growth, welfare, prosperity and food and energy security.*[...]

Para 8. We also recognize that many LDCs continue to face multiple structural challenges and constraints, including narrow production and export bases, stagnant trade and investment flows, diminishing productivity growth, smallness, isolation and remoteness from major markets with almost half being landlocked and small island countries, weak land and natural resource base, and widespread poverty, hunger and malnutrition, [and poor, or lack of, quality education and underdeveloped human capital](#). These long-standing challenges are compounded by new and emerging challenges, such as climate change, increased incidences of natural disasters and public health emergencies, [protracted](#) conflicts, fluctuating commodity prices and rising capital outflows. Without a structural transformation that tackles institutional and capacity constraints, the least developed countries will remain vulnerable to various socio-economic, health and environmental shocks.

Para 12. We further note with concern that progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in the LDCs has been uneven and is not on pace to achieve the goals and targets by 2030. The number of people living in extreme poverty remained at around 32 percent and those suffering from hunger is on the rise; the inequalities between LDCs and the rest of the world as well as within LDCs are rising; infant and maternal mortality is exorbitantly high; access to energy and broadband connectivity is moving at a slower pace; structural transformation is not taking hold; infrastructure building is lagging far behind the actual needs; productive capacity and export competitiveness are weak; [unemployment, in particular of youth, is rampant; development aid spent on culture and recreation is the lowest it has been for over ten years](#); climate change is occurring much faster than anticipated, as evidenced by, inter alia, the devastating impacts on oceans and seas, the loss of vulnerable ecosystems, land degradation, the retreat of mountain glaciers and continued rise in global temperature. Biodiversity loss, deforestation, water stress, as well as global pollution from chemicals and waste, remain major global challenges, while desertification and coastal erosion continues to increase.

Para 13. The Programme of Action for the decade 2022-2031 is a new generation of renewed and strengthened commitments by the LDCs and their development partners grounded on the overarching goals of achieving rapid recovery from the pandemic, building resilience against future shocks, eradicating extreme poverty, enabling graduation from the LDC category, addressing inequalities within and among countries, leveraging the power of science, technology and innovation (STI), [unlocking the power of the creative economy and cultural heritage in promoting livelihoods and fostering social cohesion](#), bringing structural transformation and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), through a reinvigorated global partnerships for sustainable development based on scaled up and ambitious means of implementation and diverse support to the LDCs forging the widest possible coalition of multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Para 20. We will undertake actions to leverage the opportunities offered by the 226 million youth population in LDCs, who can be a real agent of change for structural transformation through productive capacity building in agricultural, manufacturing, [cultural and creative industries](#) and services sectors; building and maintaining resilient infrastructure to improve movement of goods and services; expanding energy access and broadband connectivity; tapping into emerging technologies; harnessing the economic and health gains that come with educating and employing girls and women at levels equal to boys and men; setting up social care systems

that relieve women of the unpaid care work burden, supporting policies and actions that foster youth employability in the creative economy, thus enhancing community livelihoods, inclusive growth, sustainable social and economic development.

Para 21. We are committed to building a stronger and multifaceted resilience system in the LDCs. With the support of the international community, LDCs need to design systems, including infrastructure in transportation and communications, energy and ICT, supply chains, economic, financial and public health systems, cultural infrastructure, arts and creative hubs that are dynamic, smart and resilient. Such actions have the potential to make the national economic system stronger and more resilient against any future shocks and ensure sustainable and irreversible graduation as well as achievement of the SDGs.

Para 22. We affirm that the multidimensional nature of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals requires the involvement of all stakeholders at all levels – local, national, international – with solutions that are context-appropriate, respond to the needs and rights of populations, in particular those furthest behind, and tap into the full diversity of existing knowledge and experience, including harnessing the rich cultural diversity of LDCs as a source for resilience and development. It is, in fact, encouraging that national and local governments, civil society, academia and other stakeholders have engaged with the Sustainable Development Goals process and are developing innovative approaches and practices. International financial institutions and several central and national development banks have started to better reflect the Goals as a whole in their strategies and policies.

Para 26. The Program of Action will have six key focus areas for Action as follows:

- I. Investing in people in LDCs: Eradicating poverty and building capacity to leave no one behind
- II. Leveraging the power of science, culture, technology, and innovation to fight against multidimensional vulnerabilities and to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals
- III. Structural transformation as a driver of prosperity
- IV. Enhancing International trade of least developed countries and regional integration,
- V. Addressing climate change, recovering from COVID-19 pandemic, and building resilience against future shocks
- VI. Mobilizing international solidarity, reinvigorated global partnerships and innovative tools for risk-informed sustainable development - A march towards sustainable graduation

Para 30. We are guided by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and will ensure everyone's human rights and fundamental freedoms. We recognize that good governance at all levels, strong institutions, democracy, the rule of law, transparency and accountability along with a healthy, universal respect for human dignity, justice, equality and non-discrimination; of respect for race, ethnicity and cultural diversity; and of equal opportunity permitting the full realization of human potential and contributing to shared prosperity and well-educated population, with the knowledge and skills needed for productive capacity building and full participation in the decision making process are crucial to achieving sustainable development. However, LDCs still face challenges in ensuring universal access to quality inclusive education and health care and their vulnerabilities and limited capacities exacerbate the impact of external shocks such as COVID-19, natural disasters and

the impacts of climate change. Jobless young people are vulnerable to enrollment in violent movements particularly in non-democratic and high rate of misinformation context accentuated by social networks development.

Achieving universal access to quality education

[Comment: This section on education could be framed as the contribution of education to poverty eradication and sustainable development, which are key challenges for LDCs. See for reference: [UNESCO building human capacities in least developed countries to promote poverty eradication and sustainable development - UNESCO Digital Library](#)]

Para 39. [...] Lack of economic opportunities along with poor basic facilities and infrastructure, such as the lack of computers and access to safe drinking water or electricity, along with insufficient trained teachers *[Comment: This is true for all levels of education. Improving teacher quality should be targeted beginning from pre-primary levels]* and the limited or lack of adequate learning and teaching materials, seriously affect the quality of education in LDCs.

Para 40. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on schooling is a generational catastrophe. School closures brought by the pandemic have had devastating consequences for children's learning and wellbeing. Millions of children and youth are falling behind in their learning, which will have long-term impacts. More than a year and a half into the COVID-19 crisis, almost all students in LDCs are affected by full school closures, and without access to schools, learners have not benefitted from school meals and other vital school health services. Unable to access remote learning, these students, in particular girls, are at an increased risk of never returning to school or of being behind if they do return, of gender-based violence, or of being forced into child marriage or child labor and young girls experiencing early pregnancies. They are equally at risk of enrolment by violent groups.

General comments on Para 41:

- (i) 'Achieve universal access to education' cannot be ensured for ALL levels of education, as universal access to higher education is not feasible;
- (ii) UNESCO suggests that commitment towards the achievement of all SDG 4 targets be included: a) Universal, free, equitable primary and secondary education; b) Early childhood care and education and pre-primary education; c) TVET and lifelong learning; d) ICT skills, literacy, numeracy; e) Quality teachers at all levels of education, etc.
- (iii) (iii) to build back better after the pandemic, there is the need to enhance efforts to ensure all students return to school, in particular those at-risk of not returning, vulnerable, marginalized, and those who were out-of-school before the pandemic. There is also the need to support students' mental health and wellbeing that could have been negatively impacted due to school closures, which in turn will affect learning success. This is missing in the targets and should be included for building resilience in the face of future shocks.
- (iv) (iv) A specific commitment on reforming of the national teacher education system, including increasing financing for initial teacher education and not relying solely on donor-funded in-service or CPD provision would be important for achieving the defined targets.

- (v) (v) – also in relation to **para 47**: UNESCO is of the opinion that the ‘creation of an online University for LDCs’ is an interesting initiative, but would suggest that a careful assessment of the appropriateness, relevance, and feasibility from equity, inclusion and quality perspectives be made. Issues of legitimacy and accreditation would also need to be taken into account. It also should be noted that ‘one online university’ for ‘all LDCs’ may not solve the problem(s) of both access and quality of tertiary/Higher Education in LDCs. The priority should probably be on supporting the strengthening of national universities in LDCs, especially in STEM fields. Perhaps a virtual network of LDC universities for research collaboration, exchange, sharing of resources, researchers, etc. would be the needed support?

Para 41.Target: Achieve universal access to education [see comment (i) above]: eliminate the gender gap in enrolment and **completion and increase– improve** the quality of education **at all levels** for all in LDCs;

- Substantially expand globally the scholarships for students of LDCs in the higher education institutions of developed and developing countries,
- **Develop policies for alternative and flexible learning pathways for enrolment in tertiary learning,**
- Achieve 100 per cent access to internet, electricity and gender sensitive, **school meals and other vital school health services, including safe and clean** sanitation facilities in all primary, secondary and tertiary schools in LDCs by 2030
- Establish an online university for LDCs [see comment (v) above].

Para 42. We commit to supporting LDCs in strengthening national education systems, including through better curricula [Comment: Curricula would also need to be enhanced for improving teaching/learning of global citizenship and sustainable development skills/knowledge] that respond to the dynamic nature of education and training, **local contexts, including country-specific challenges and local cultural contents,** financing, teacher development, retention and deployment, especially in rural areas and improvement in basic infrastructure and providing adequate supplies.

Para 43. We also commit to supporting LDCs in increasing enrolment and decreasing dropout rates through measures such as abolishing school fees and providing school meals **and other school health services.** We commit to eliminating gender disparities in education and ensuring equal access to **and completion in** all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situation.

Para 44. We commit to ensuring 100 per cent access to internet, electricity and gender sensitive, **school health services, including safe and clean** sanitation facilities in all academic institutions in LDCs and providing ICT-based [Comment: Or ‘ICT-supported’? Learning systems cannot totally be replaced by ICTs] lifelong and dynamic learning systems and human capital development by 2030.

Para 45. We commit to supporting the LDCs to access digital equipment, including low-cost laptops or other devices, as well as educational radio and television programmes and the distribution of equipment such as radios and textbooks to the poorest and marginalized

households, especially for girls. *[Comment: under this formulation, standards seem to be lowered for the most marginalized; it is suggested to committing that connectivity and laptops are prioritized for the most marginalized and vulnerable.]* We further commit to supporting large-scale national efforts to utilize **all forms of distance learning, including** technology in support of remote learning and online education, **as well as training for educators on how to ensure distance learning is effective for all learners.** *[Comment: It would be important to include reference to supporting open/free content and educational resources, and reducing costs of data for connectivity, in addition to low cost devices]*

Para 46. [...] We will significantly increase the number of scholarships to LDCs and invite, higher education institutions to allocate places and scholarships for students and trainees from LDCs, in particular in the fields of science, technology, engineering, medicines We will enhance interaction, collaboration and exchange programmes of students as well as share scientific studies and research papers between academic institutions of LDCs and the rest of the world. We will significantly increase the number of scholarships to LDCs and invite, higher education institutes to allocate places and scholarships for students and trainees from LDCs, in particular in the fields of science, technology, engineering, medicines, **heritage and cultural management**, and business administration in developed countries and other developing countries.

46 BIS. Recognizing the critical role of school health and nutrition, we will ensure that all children and young people are healthy and able to learn, and that all school children have access to school health and nutrition, including school meals, water and sanitation facilities, vaccinations, as well as access to sexual and reproductive health education and services to enable young people to make healthier choices, and to enable girls to avoid early and unintended pregnancy and realize their right to education.

46 BIS BIS Recognizing the importance of education for sustainable development (ESD) and global citizenship education (GCED) in helping countries to build back better after COVID, we will strengthen ESD and GCED in the period 2021-2030.

Para 47. We will establish an online university for LDCs *[UNESCO: see comment (v) on para 41 above]* with high academic excellence and international standard and global recognition of its certification *[UNESCO Comment: The issue of 'global recognition of its certification' would be problematic, it is proposed to replace it by 'and fully accredited at national levels']* primarily dedicated to teaching graduate and post-graduate studies on STEM for citizens of LDCs and graduated countries. In this regard, we invite the development partners to host this university *[UNESCO Comment: Would the university be hosted by the development partners only and are they supposed to host it jointly? It would be important to define who will be responsible for its programme delivery, and address the legitimacy and accreditation related issues]* provide predictable financing to fully cover tuition fees and other expenses of the students related to their digital access and reading materials ensuring 50-50 gender balance and we request the Secretary-General to submit a report in full consultation with LDCs and their development partners as well relevant UN entities to the General-Assembly for its consideration at its 77th Session in outlining the modalities, terms of references and its sustainable funding sources.

Para 48. Women and girls continue to face barriers such as lack of access to education, particularly at secondary and tertiary levels, [where they may face high levels of early and unintended pregnancy, and lack of access to education, commodities and facilities to enable them to enjoy menstrual health.](#) They are also more vulnerable to harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage; and gender-based violence. [...]

Para 49. Targets: Achieve women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, [cultural](#) and public life

- a. Achieve women's equal opportunities in businesses, [cultural and creative industries, skills development](#), entrepreneurship and decent jobs; [increase women teachers in under-represented domains \(inter alia, increase male teachers in underrepresented domains\)](#);
- b. Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.
- c. Achieve access to sexual and reproductive health and education for all women and girls.

Para 50. We commit to establishing policies and programmes to expand women's entrepreneurship, job opportunities and economic opportunities and ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic, [cultural](#) and public life, including through institutional reforms.

Para 51. We commit to eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including [within and outside school, as well as](#) trafficking, sexual and other types of exploitation as well as all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

Para 56. Target: Ensure universal health coverage, including [the availability of good quality school health and nutrition, as well as](#) financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all at an affordable cost

- Eliminate preventable maternal, infant and child deaths and provide access to quality health services at an affordable cost.
- Ensure birth registration to all newborns in LDCs

Para 60. In 2020, 66.9 per cent of the population was below 30 years old. By 2030 one in five of the youth in the world will be born in the LDCs. In 2019, more than one in five of the world's youth were not in employment, education or training (NEET), almost unchanged since 2005. Since young women were already twice as likely to be jobless and not in education nor training than young men, and as women have been disproportionately pushed into inactivity during the pandemic, the COVID-19 crisis is likely to worsen the NEET gender gap among youth. [Notably, more investment could be placed in the cultural and creative sectors, which represents to date 30 million jobs worldwide and employ more people aged 15-29 than any other sector.](#)

Para 61. Targets: Ensure, by 2030, that all youth achieve literacy and numeracy

- Ensure access to lifelong digital learning opportunities for skills development,

including those skills needed for the cultural and creative sectors.

- Increased youth participation in consultation and decision making processes as well as opportunities for skills development through cooperation mechanisms as provided by north-south and south-south cooperation.
- Access to decent employment opportunities, knowledge and skills for all youth in the LDCs,
- Promote entrepreneurial training to youth including through financial and technical assistance covering fast growing domains such as the cultural and creative industries that have the highest employability rates for youth

Para 62. Targets: Ensure, by 2030, that all youth achieve literacy and numeracy [*Comment: In light of the rapid expansion of advanced technology and changing ways of learning and work, literacy and numeracy must be seen from a lifelong perspective. Literacy and numeracy are not stand-alone skills to be learnt within a set timeframe but a continuum of proficiency levels that require sustained learning and updating already acquired skills. It is proposed that a specific ‘target’ for LDCs, with a clear definition/understanding about the expected achievements in terms of literacy and numeracy be defined.*]

- Ensure access to lifelong digital learning opportunities for skills development
- Increased youth participation in decision making process as well as opportunities for skills development through cooperation mechanisms as provided by north-south and south-south cooperation.
- Access to decent employment opportunities, knowledge and skills for all youth in the LDCs
- Promote entrepreneurial training to youth including through financial and technical assistance.

Para 63. We will adopt an inclusive results-based and employment-generating approach to development planning and implementation in accordance with national priorities and legislation. We commit to ensuring digital fluency, life-long-learning opportunities, appropriate training including vocational training, creativity and entrepreneurship skills, and best opportunities for full employment and decent work for all people, especially youth in the LDCs. We commit to supporting the LDCs to reform and strengthen education systems to allow for the development of skills and talents that are consistent with the demands of the national and global job markets, which include preparing young people for frontier technologies and the new digital age.

Para 70. We reaffirm our commitment to provide financial and technical support to LDCs to strengthen government housing agencies, including at the local level and improve access to land, as per national legislation, affordable housing and basic services, and upgraded slums, and sustainable transport and communication systems for all taking into account the special needs for reconstruction of LDCs devastated by natural and man-made disasters and conflict and introducing/strengthening a culture of prevention (DRR).

Para 71. We commit to supporting LDCs, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable, culturally sensitive, and resilient housing utilizing local materials, resource efficient and increasing affordable housing, including by leveraging public-private partnerships and sharing good practices among LDCs.

Migration and mobility

Para 72. We recognize that migrants make positive contributions to inclusive growth and sustainable development in their countries of origin, transit, and destination, and to the response and recovery to the crisis caused by COVID-19. *At the same time, we duly acknowledge that when they are forced to migrate or voluntarily move to seek better life opportunities, they face significant barriers to safe and secure movement and livelihoods, which in turn exposes them to negative coping mechanisms.*

72 BIS. We further recognize the importance of the free movement of artists and cultural professionals from LDCs, which is crucial to maintaining a heterogeneous world of ideas, values and worldviews, as well as to the promoting the diversity of cultural expressions.

Para 73. Target: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

- Enhance the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development
- Invest in skills development of migrants and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences.
- *Ensure inclusive access to basic social (education, nutrition, health) and protection services particularly for vulnerable migrant and refugee children and youth.*

74.BIS. *We commit to ensuring inclusive access to basic social and protection services particularly for vulnerable migrant and refugee children and youth. We recognize that migration, whether forced or voluntarily, can expose migrants and refugees to harm and exploitation, and negatively impact the well-being of host communities and countries of transit or destination. Therefore, we will coordinate and cooperate at all levels to provide vital services, especially education, not only as a fundamental human right but also as critical to equipping them with the necessary life-saving and -enhancing knowledge and skills.*

77 BIS. We encourage the design and implementation of policies and measures supporting the outward and inward mobility of artists and cultural professionals from/to LDCs, including South-South mobility, as a key enabler for vibrant and dynamic cultural and creative industries.

Para 82. We commit to strengthening good governance, democracy, and the rule of law by strengthening transparent and accountable governance and strengthened and independent judicial institutions, human rights, *an enhanced role of media in the transparent and peaceful election processes*, gender equality and the empowerment of women, the poor and marginalized groups, democratic participation, preventing corruption and enhancing institutional capacity at all levels. We will also strengthen efforts to fight corruption, bribery and money- laundering, the illegal transfer of funds and other illicit activities by strengthening anti-corruption laws and regulations and their effective application.

86 BIS. We acknowledge that peace is more than the absence of war, it is living together with our differences – of sex, race, language, religion or culture – while furthering universal

respect for justice and human rights on which such coexistence depends. Heritage and creativity, as expressions of identity and repositories of memory and knowledge, are an essential source of support for communities in crisis – whether in times of conflict, disaster or emergency. Promoting respect for cultural diversity is fundamental to preventing violent extremism, while the significance of culture in the lives of communities makes its continuity essential for recovery and resilience in the wake of disasters. As a visible expression of common ground between communities, culture can also foster reconciliation and social cohesion in post-conflict and post-disaster situations.

Para 91. We will build peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to information, justice and that are based on respect for human rights, cultural diversity and pluralism, including the right to development, on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions.

91 BIS. In this respect, we commit to pay particular attention to the role of transformative, relevant and quality education in creating the conditions for long-lasting peace and sustainable development.

Science, Culture, Technology, and Innovation for development and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and building resilience against emerging challenges

Para 107. We acknowledge that STI and culture offer an opportunity for LDCs to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, build back better and resilient to future systemic shocks and crises and emerging challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the pressing need for LDCs to elevate the application of science, culture, technology, and innovation at both policy and Operational levels.

Para 109. We commit to bridging the STI and culture divide and provide financial and technical support and technology transfer to LDCs including through south-south and triangular cooperation to ensure that all LDCs can engage effectively in low emission and climate resilient development that will also protect the lives of our populations, economies and systems.

Para 110. We commit to increasing investment in education and culture, including digital skills and e-education learning, and to improving education and training, including lifelong learning endeavors in LDCs, especially in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to close the digital divide in rural and urban areas, as well as between women and men and increase human capacity and labor productivity. [...]

Para 112. We agree to enhance the capacity of and providing financial and in-kind resources to the United Nations Technology Bank as well as collaboration among Government, the private sector and academia to advance STI and culture, research and development, bridging the digital divide by facilitating technology transfer and contributing to COVID-19 response.

Para 115. We commit to enhancing multi-stakeholder support to strengthen digital capacity-building for LDCs to fully harness digital technologies, while developing robust and effective regulatory framework and policies to promote digital infrastructure and services, digital

capacity-building, and digital transformation, including a responsible and ethical use of ICTs and the opportunities offered by digitalization, to prevent these technological assets from becoming factors of social instability.

Leveraging culture to build economic resilience and foster inclusion

Para 117 BIS. As we celebrate 2021 as the International Year of the Creative Economy for Sustainable Development, we recognize the untapped potential of LDCs' creative industries—one of the fastest growing sectors of the world economy not just in terms of income generation but also for job creation and export earnings – to create full and productive employment and decent work, support entrepreneurship and innovation, encouraging the formalisation and growth of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises promote social inclusion and reduce poverty,

We agree to take the following actions:

- Protect and promote the status of the artists and cultural professionals through evidence-informed legislation, measures and policies; and encourage artists' inclusion in the digital ecosystem, including through appropriate intellectual property frameworks.
- Negotiate or design preferential treatment measures in trade agreements to support the mobility of artists and cultural professionals as well as the flow of cultural goods and services from LDCs.
- Further integrate culture in LDCs' National Sustainable Development Strategies, support youth education on heritage as well as youth engagement in cultural programming and services in order to boost employment, livelihoods and social cohesion.
- Design and implement proactive governance reforms of the culture sector to unlock the potential of the creative economy, involving local communities, private sector and trade negotiators.

Para 123. We commit to promoting and supporting the formulation of national strategies aimed at increasing diversification, value addition, efficiency, and competitiveness in the manufacturing, agriculture, the cultural and creative industries and other services sectors; and call for enhancing financial and technical support from development partners, international organizations, and multilateral development banks to facilitating the implementation of these strategies.

Para 125. We encourage innovative solutions, creativity and entrepreneurship, and the use of modern, cost- effective, and locally adapted technologies, with an emphasis on the manufacturing, agriculture, the cultural and creative industries and other services sectors, including sustainable tourism, information and communications, and finance, and call for sharing

of scientific knowledge and innovative technologies.

157 BIS. We acknowledge that the share of total global exports of cultural goods from LDCs did not grow during the past decades. Both in 2005 and 2014, they only accounted for a 0.5% share of total global exports of cultural goods. The marginalization of LDCs in the trade of goods depends on many factors intrinsic to international trade. The potential of the cultural and creative sector to enhance LDCs participation in and benefit from new opportunities for dynamic growth in world trade remains largely untapped.

Special and Differential treatment

Para 195. We call for the full implementation of the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular LDCs, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements, as well as for preferential treatment for artists and other cultural professionals and practitioners, as well as cultural goods and services from developing countries, in particular LDCs, in the spirit of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. We welcome the establishment of the monitoring mechanism to analyze and review all aspects of the implementation of special and differential treatment provisions, as agreed in Bali, with a view to strengthening them and making them more precise, effective and operational as well as facilitating integration of developing and least-developed World Trade Organization members into the multilateral trading system.

195 BIS. Target: Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreement and the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

Para 200. We will grant preferential tariffs to imports cultural goods and services from LDCs in order to reduce their trade costs, allowing cultural products to enter the markets in developed economies at competitive costs; increase Aid for Trade support for LDCs, in order to improve their technical, financial and administrative capacity to export cultural goods and services as well as their capacity to diversify exports strategies to include creative goods and services, which is an important avenue to expand ‘non-traditional destinations’.

Para 204. We are deeply concerned that the limited fiscal space and resilience capacity in LDCs seriously constrains their ability to tackle the pandemic and foster sustainable recovery. The investments in climate change adaptation and disaster risk management in LDCs have fallen far short of meeting the needs. We are also concerned that climate change impacts are becoming more acute. Food insecurity, water scarcity, land degradation, melting of glaciers, ocean acidification, coastal erosion, damage to infrastructure and assets, pressures on pastures, displacement of populations, threats to cultural heritage, disruption of indigenous and traditional lifestyles and knowledge systems, and threats to livelihoods are severely disrupting economic and socio-cultural development. Changes in water resources are disrupting hydroelectric generation and putting industrial production and basic services at increased risk.

204.BIS. We are concerned that the unprecedented crisis arising from the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 has had, and continues to have, major impacts on World Heritage properties globally and thus on local communities, especially from the loss of revenue due to

large reductions in visitors to World Heritage sites and serious issues related to the monitoring of the state of conservation of these sites.

218. BIS We commit to strengthen Action for Climate Empowerment in LDCs through the development and implementation of training programmes focused on climate change education at all levels (placing particular attention to the importance of communities and concrete modalities for engaging with communities, targeting women and youth), the development of Action for Climate Empowerment programmes to include activities that effectively translate climate change action in TVET-based fields of action and occupations, and strengthening national education TTIs/skills development institutions to deliver climate change learning action.

Para 219. We agree to enhance technical assistance to LDCs to develop operational national risk indices and related products that support policy and decision-making by all stakeholders, including national and local governments, private sector business operations, [cultural heritage managers and bearers](#), real estate and land planning, insurance industry, [local communities](#) and others.

220 BIS. We recognize the contribution of local communities and indigenous peoples, through their cultural heritage and traditional knowledge transmitted over generations, to disaster risk reduction and encourage the integration of traditional, indigenous and local knowledge and practices, as appropriate, into plans and policies for disaster risk reduction, disaster recovery and climate change adaptation.

Para 223. We commit to enhancing international cooperation and technical assistance and support to LDCs to take urgent and significant actions to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, [prevent the deterioration of cultural heritage and of the diversity of cultural expressions](#), halt biodiversity loss and prevent extinction of threatened species that are essential for sustainable development.

Para 296. Development partners should support agreed objectives and policies designed by LDCs on the basis of the Programme of Action, [including encompassing relevant dimensions, such as education, culture and sciences](#), that are integrated into existing national development and cooperation frameworks. They should monitor the delivery of their commitments and consider appropriate measures to overcome shortfalls or shortcomings, if any.