

### **My contributions as a lead discussant**

Referring to the statistics showing that 90% of the population in the LDC region are young people, this resonates an utmost priority of engaging them and making them not only a mission field but also a mission force in accelerating the implementation of SDGs

- The first variable of the Doha Program of Action (DPoA) explains 'Investing in people in the least developed countries: eradicating poverty and building capacity to leave no one behind' and among the commitments is to Investing in young people.

- Essential areas to invest in young people are through quality education, meaningful participation, capacity building to entrepreneurship and professional training and access to decent jobs (particularly green and sustainable livelihoods)

- When in Doha for the LDC5 Summit, we committed that what happened there won't stay there. Transiting from aspirations to actions was the bottom line of the conversations.

- The nine thematic areas of the Youth Declaration, which is instrumental in supporting the DPoA, are;

- Investment in youth
- Youth Participation
- Human rights
- Tackle climate change
- Combat & Recover from COVID-19 and build resilience
- Gender equality
- Food Security & Nutrition
- Refugees and internally displaced migrants
- Digital inclusion

- It is difficult to deal with these matters one after one without the existence of a mechanism or institutional leadership structure embodied by youth to raise their concerns and hold those in power accountable.

- This asserts my clear suggestion of having an LDC Youth Constituency that will amplify the voices of more than 1.8 billion people. We want to see action, and it has been possible for other constituencies. I hope it will also be considered to ensure the resourceful youth in LDCs are never left behind for the remaining seven years of the UN 2030 Agenda and the ten years of DPoA.