

**ISTANBULDECLARATION
OF THE YOUTH FORUM OF THE
UNITED NATIONS 4th LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES CONFERENCE**

We, the participants of the "Youth Forum" of the UN 4th LDC Conference,

Gathered in Istanbul, the Republic of Turkey, in May 2011, to be a voice of youth of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and we believe that enriching the event by delivering the message of youth – the owners and representatives of the future;

Aimed at achieving progress towards the global goals of the LDC conferences as well as Millennium Development Goals;

Expressing appreciation to the role of Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYF-DC) for organization and partnership of the forum;

Bearing in mind the importance of the role of youth in promoting social and cultural harmony in LDCs and between LDCs as well as other countries towards contribution to social development;

Being desirous of further support and assistance to youth of the LDCs to be represented in the international civil society actions, networking and alliance-building process at national, regional and global levels;

Expressing hope for the attention of international community as well as governmental representatives of the LDCs to the youth voice and sensitivities;

Expressing appreciation towards the support of Turkish government for organization of the conference and generous hospitality;

Guided by the principles of the Millennium Declaration and previous LDC Conferences;

Declare:

We, the participants of the "Youth Forum" of the UN 4th LDC Conference,

1. **Believe** that contribution of young people in development of civil societies will serve as considerable contribution for building a better future for the youth of the LDCs as well as development and prosperity of LDCs;
2. **Stress** the necessity of implementation of the Millennium Development Goals envisaging also the development of LDCs and would like to underline that MDGs are crucial to eradicate the major problems in LDCs such as poverty, hunger, education and human rights among others;

3. **Emphasize** the importance of participation of LDCs youth in civil society activities in all levels as they are owners and leaders of the future and their contribution will serve to mobilizing practices of development policies in a effective way;
4. **Believe** that enhancing entrepreneurship opportunities and business skills of the youth will contribute to the economic development of LDCs and **call upon** the related stakeholders to initiate and support such a opportunities thatwill cause more integration of LDCs to the world and give chance to young citizens to take part in the economic progress and development of their respective countries;
5. **Welcome** establishment of the Islamic Conference Young Entrepreneurs Network (ICYEN), subsidiary organ to the ICYF-DC as a vehicle for promotion of youth entrepreneurship by providing a meeting ground for young entrepreneurs and accomplished businessmen ofthe OIC countries, professionals in global environment and innovatorsand being an important tool to decrease youth unemployment in the OIC countries (partly covering the LDCs as well);
6. **Strongly recommend** to both governmental and private organizations to make concrete steps in providing entrepreneurship opportunities and enhancing necessary youth services to this end; monitoring entrepreneurship programs, investing in IT especially in rural areas, providing access to loans, introducing and popularizing entrepreneurial education;
7. **Are committed** to the role of youth in a prospective Istanbul Program of Action thatwill contribute to the improvement of socio-economic conditions of LDCs since young peoplecompose high proportion of the population of the LDCs and their involvement in practical implementation of socio-economic agenda is crucial;
8. **Underline** the importance ofyouth participation in various international gatherings such as summits and conferences that discuss the problems of LDCs and allow youth to share their problems and views with stake-holders; also **stress** the importance of building a sustainable cooperation of young people and their organizations to serve the regional development through regional platforms;
9. **Highlight** the signficance ofimprovement of welfare and life standards of the people in LDCs which is required for stable development; **express our dedication** to achieve the goals and objectives of Rio declaration, Brussels Programme of Action as well asprospective Istanbul Programme of Action.