



Centre de défense des Droits de l'Homme et Démocratie

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## Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries

### CDHD Contribution to the Zero Draft

The *Centre de Défence des Droits de l'Homme et Démocratie* (CDHD) is a non-governmental organization operating in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It has been granted special accreditation by the United Nations for the LDC5 conference and other preparatory processes.

#### COMMENTS

##### Introduction -- 'From Istanbul Priorities to Doha Commitments'

Paragraph 1:

- **Fifty** years ago in September **1981**....**Correction:** Forty years ago in in September *1981*

General comments:

The Zero draft should mention the various efforts made to improve socio-economic conditions in LDCs since its inception in 1981. The Zero Draft should provide an assessment of these initiatives in order to perceive the level of the UN's contribution to the development of LDCs over forty years.

##### **Achieving universal access to quality education**

Primary and secondary education should be made **free** and **compulsory** in LDCs. In this regard, funding should be provided by direct foreign aid and multilateral assistance. LDCs should be encouraged to invest more in higher education and foreign institutions should offer scholarships with fewer restrictions to students from LDCs; this commitment will improve the quality of higher education and address the problem of skills shortages

## **Empowerment of women, girls and youth to address inequality and drive economic growth**

The international community should ensure that LDCs adopt specific legislations that promote gender equality and express the minimum representation of women in public and private institutions. They should also provide more opportunities for women in education and skills development.

## **Good and effective governance at all levels**

The international community should recognise that dictatorship restricts civil liberties, is the cause of most civil conflicts in low-income countries, and is a threat to human development. They should also pledge not to support a regime that takes power through a coup d'état or by avoiding elections or holding fraudulent elections. They should therefore commit to not supporting any dictatorial regime.

The international community should recognise that corruption is one of the most important causes of impoverishment in LDCs. Appropriate measures, such as capacity building of judges, establishment of an anti-corruption institutions, prosecution of corrupt officials... should be presented as means to fight corruption.

The Zero Draft does not comment sufficiently on the undemocratic regimes in low-income countries that actually prevent them from taking off and cause civil wars. The parties should commit to taking appropriate actions against LDCs leaders who act against democracy.

Lubumbashi August 8<sup>th</sup> 2021

