



مجلس الشورى
The Shura Council
State of Qatar • دولة قطر



Parliamentary Forum at the 5th United Nations Conference for the Least Developed Countries

Geneva, 5 December 2022

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

We are pleased to inform you that the Parliamentary Forum at the 5th United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) will take place on 4 March, 2023, on the eve of the main conference (5-9 March), in Doha, Qatar. As you may recall, both events were postponed this year due to the Covid pandemic.

The Least Developed Countries, 46 in total, are home to 40% of the world's poor and remain far behind the rest of the world in terms of human development and economic prospects. Only a handful of countries have graduated from the LDC category over the past twelve years. Today's concurrent food, energy and financial crises are obstructing further their development path.

We are very concerned that without more determined efforts by the global community of governments, parliaments, civil society, and international organizations, progress in these countries will proceed too slowly. This in turn will push the Sustainable Development Goals further off track.

The Parliamentary Forum is being jointly organized by the IPU and the Shura Council of Qatar to help galvanize parliaments in support of a new 10-year [Programme of Action](#) for the LDCs that the UN General Assembly adopted in March 2022. All members of parliament participating in the LDC5 conference as part of national (governmental) delegations are invited.

We encourage you to coordinate with your government focal points to ensure that the parliament is appropriately represented in the national delegation to the LDC5 conference. All participating parliamentarians must be accredited through their national delegations. The travel and accommodation of one Member of Parliament from each of the 46 LDCs will be covered by the national delegation with funding generously provided by Qatar.

The draft programme of the Parliamentary Forum and other information will be posted in the next few weeks to the [event's page](#) on the IPU website.

Regular updates on the LDC5 conference and its preparatory process are available at www.un.org/ldc5 . Inquiries about the Parliamentary Forum can be sent to ldc5@ipu.org.

We look forward to your parliament's robust contribution and participation in this important process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Martin Chungong', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Martin Chungong
Secretary General of the Inter-Parliamentary
Union

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Hassan bin Abdullah Al-Ghanim', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hassan bin Abdullah Al-Ghanim
Speaker of the Shura Council