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#### INFORMATION NOTE

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From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Council

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Subject: World Conference of Ministers responsible for Youth 2019 and Youth  
Forum Lisboa +21 (Lisbon, 22 and 23 June 2019)  
*- Information from the Portuguese delegation*

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Delegations will find attached an information note from the Portuguese delegation on the above subject, which has been placed under 'Any other business' on the agenda for the next Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council meeting on 22 and 23 May 2019.

**World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth and the Youth Forum**

**“Lisboa +21” – Lisbon, 22 & 23 June 2019**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2015, is the international community’s ambitious response to today’s most pressing global development challenges and will guide our development priorities for an entire generation. Young people played a key role in shaping this agenda and experience first-hand many of the issues it seeks to address: “The future of humanity and of our planet lies in our hands. It lies also in the hands of today's younger generation who will pass the torch to future generations.”<sup>1</sup> Acknowledging the importance of Youth for an effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, launched a new UN Strategy on Youth “Youth2030”, to engage, but especially to empower, young people.

Recent decades have witnessed significant advances in terms of human development, but deep challenges remain. Progress has been uneven, with many young people across the globe still experiencing interlocked forms of discrimination, political exclusion, high incidence of poverty, limited access to health and educational systems, and significant decent work deficits.

In 1995, the UN General Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth which contains the internationally agreed resolutions and provides a policy framework and practical guidelines for national action and international support to improve the situation of young people around the world, covering fifteen youth priority areas and comprising proposals for action in each of these areas.

In August 1998, on the eve of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, several commitments on those policy fields were stated in the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, as part of the outcome of the I World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, organized by the Portuguese Government in collaboration with UN-System partners.

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<sup>1</sup> UN General Assembly, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 21 October 2015, A/RES/70/1, paragraph 53

21 years after the I World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, Portugal will host the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth and the Youth Forum “Lisboa +21”, which will take place in Lisbon, from Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> of June, to Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2019 (<http://www.lisboa21.gov.pt/>).

The World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth and the Youth Forum “Lisboa +21”, organised by the Portuguese Government and the Portuguese National Youth Council with the endorsement of the United Nations Office of the Secretary-General’s Youth Envoy, ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNFPA will:

1. Provide a space for States and young people to report on national efforts on making the 1998 Lisbon Declaration commitments a reality for young people, built upon the World Programme of Action for Youth, as well as the renewed commitments of the 2014 First Global Forum on Youth Policies (Baku) and the aims and vision of the “Youth2030” UN Strategy on Youth;
2. Facilitate a dialogue around innovative and operational strategies and initiatives – at policy and programmatic levels – that are advancing Youth mainstreaming in policy making and in the young people’s engagement in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at national, regional and global levels;
3. Enable the exchange of knowledge and experiences in the achievement of the SDGs, including information on effective practices in implementing, monitoring, following-up and reviewing of Youth policies along with Youth participation, as well as to discuss multi-stakeholder alliances and initiatives advancing Youth issues in support of the 2030 Agenda;
4. Trigger discussions around emerging Youth issues and means to effectively assist and engage Youth in overcoming the challenges resulting from a changing world;
5. Agree on a renewed ministerial commitment towards and with young people through effective, innovative and evidence-based policies and programmes.

Participants of the World Conference and of the Youth Forum will be Ministers Responsible for Youth and high-level government officials and Youth Representatives, respectively.

National delegations with up to three members will be given access to the Conference. In order to make the Youth Forum possible, one of the three members should be a Youth representative under 30 years old.

Representatives and participants from international organizations (both governmental and non-governmental) and from civil society may be observers, namely from the European Union, Council of Europe, Community of Portuguese Language Countries, International Youth Organization for Iberoamerica, International Organization for Migration, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, UN country Youth delegates, National Youth Councils, Youth-led and Youth-focused organizations, National Youth Institutes, Permanent Missions of Member States to the UN, as well as experts and private sector stakeholders.

The Conference and the Youth Forum will take place over two days, on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of June, and will include opening and closing sessions, which all participants and observers may attend.

It will provide space for ministerial and Youth representatives' roundtables to discuss progress of Youth in achieving the SDGs and ensuring Youth mainstreaming in its implementation. An interactive roundtable between Ministers and Youth Representatives will be promoted in order to feed the "Lisboa+21 Declaration project", that will be discussed and approved on the last day of the Conference and Youth Forum.

Side-events promoted by participants and observers and open to Youth representatives will also take place.

The outcome of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth and Youth Forum "Lisboa+21" will be a renewed Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes (Lisboa+21) in the framework of the 2030 Agenda that will take account of the World Programme of Action for Youth, as well as of the Baku Commitment to Youth Policies, and will capture the key conclusions from the discussions.