



This was the clear message delivered during the launch of the [Least Developed Countries Report](#). The Least Developed Countries (LDCs) face a stark demographic challenge, as their population is projected to double to 1.7 billion by 2050.

The report, focusing on the theme "Growth with employment for inclusive and sustainable development", very clearly underlines the urgent need for job creation.

Many of the LDCs have seen an economic growth of 5 to 6 per cent per year, which is high by the standards of industrialized countries, but under the 7 per cent target deemed necessary to enable poor nations to make substantial reductions in poverty, according to Mr Igor Paunovic, co-author of the report and Economic Affairs Officer at the LDC Section at UNCTAD.

The LDC youth population (aged 15 to 24 years) is expected to soar from 168 million in 2010 to 300 million by 2050, when as many as one in four youths worldwide will live in an LDC, said Mr Paunovic during the report launch at UNRIC in Brussels.

