



## CONCEPT NOTE

### VIRTUAL LDCs/SIDS TRUST FUND WORKSHOP FOR THE ASIA REGION

(as of 17 November 2021)

Malé, Republic of the Maldives

24 and 25 November 2021 & 1 December 2021



### **Organization**

Secretariat of the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the Work of the Human Rights Council, Human Rights Council Branch, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner For Human Rights.

### **Host**

- The Republic of the Maldives

### **Guests of Honor**

***His Excellency Mr. Abdulla Shahid, President of the United Nations General Assembly***

***Her Excellency Ms. Nazhat Shameem Khan (Fiji), President of the Human Rights Council, 15th cycle (2021)***

### **Participants**

#### **Projected Participants: 40**

- Former Beneficiary Delegates and Fellows of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund from the Asia region (15 out of the 24 delegates and Fellows supported by the Trust Fund from September 2014 to the present: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao, Nepal, Maldives, Timor Leste and Yemen).
- Former Beneficiary Delegates from the Africa region that fall under the mandate of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund

- Former Beneficiary Delegates from the Pacific region that fall under the mandate of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund
- 
- Former Beneficiary Delegates from the Caribbean region that fall under the mandate of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund
- Former Rapporteurs general of the 3 previous Trust Fund regional workshops
- Focal Point appointed by the President of the Human Rights Council in charge of addressing challenges faced by delegations from small and developing countries, in particular the SIDS and LDCs, and the follow up on the implementation of the measures on the use of modern technology”
- Representatives of The Commonwealth/Commonwealth Small States Office (CSSO)
- Representatives of NGO and Think Tanks (Universal Rights Group, UPR INFO)
- Donors of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund (only for the Opening and Closing ceremonies, 24 November and 1st December 2021, respectively) .[List of Donors](#)

### **Modalities**

- *Dates and time:* 3 days : 3 hours per day from
- *Platform:* Microsoft Team managed by International Computing Center (ICC)
- *Working language of the Workshop :* English

### **Background and Mandate**

The Workshop is organized pursuant to Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution [34/40](#) adopted on 24 March 2017. This resolution encouraged the Trust Fund to hold a series of workshops prior to its tenth anniversary in March 2022, in the three geographical regions that the Trust Fund supports, namely Africa, Asia and the Pacific and the Caribbean. The objectives of the workshops include:

- **Reflecting on its achievements;**
- **Identifying where further improvements might be made; and**
- **Assessing the value of its activities in fulfilling its training and capacity-building in support of the engagement of LDCs and SIDS in the work of the HRC and its mechanisms."**

This Workshop for LDCs/SIDS for the Asia region represents the fourth and last workshops. The Workshop for the [Africa](#), [Caribbean](#) and the [Pacific](#) regions were held in 2021, 2019 and 2018 respectively.

### **Context**

The Workshop, the second to be held virtually, brings together, for the first time, most of the beneficiary Delegates/ Fellows of the Asia region that participated in the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund's Programmes. It therefore presents us with a unique opportunity for interaction and the exchange of information, experiences and ideas.

In addition, it will also allow the participants to identify and document good practices that can further enhance and strengthen the effective participation of your respective countries in the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, both nationally and regionally.

### **Objectives**

The three half-days' Workshop aims to:

- Assess the contribution of the Trust Fund in building the capacity of LDCs/SIDS for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asia a region, including by providing Member States with opportunities to share their collective expertise, experience and good practices among themselves and with States from other regions that can in turn be shared with the HRC and its mechanisms;
- Identify practical actions that Beneficiary Delegates of the Trust Fund can recommend to the OHCHR (LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Secretariat) for implementation, assess the impact these courses of action are likely to have and determine the relevance of the experience of Beneficiary Delegates/ Fellows to this implementation at the national and regional levels;
- Serve as a unique forum for open and interactive dialogue regarding approaches and procedures for ensuring that human rights challenges of concern to SIDS are placed and remain on the HRC's agenda and that opportunities are identified to address them; and
- **Make specific recommendations to further strengthen the participation of LDCs/SIDS in the work of the HRC and its mechanisms (UPR, special procedures) when the Council is meeting in person and when the Council is meeting virtually due to the Covid.**

### **General outcome**

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner has been tasked with drafting a report to evaluate the activities of the Trust Fund in implementing its training and capacity-building mandate.

This report will be presented to the HRC at its forty-ninth session (February/March 2022). The commentary and conclusions on training and capacity-building emanating from this Workshop will serve as the Asia region’s contribution to the report.

**Main outcome**

To develop and agree upon a final declaration, “**Malé Declaration Towards 2022**” which will set out action points aimed at ensuring that LDCs/SIDS in the Asia region continue to be actively engaged in and participate in the work of the HRC and its mechanisms in the period leading up to 2022 (the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Trust Fund).

The “Malé Declaration Towards 2022” will be finalized and adopted at the end of the Workshop, on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

**Methodology**

The three half-days’ Workshop will be organized between plenary sessions and group sessions.

[List of suggested topics/themes](#) to be discussed during the group sessions.

**Speaking time limit:**

<b>Speakers</b>	<b>Session and date Approximate time when you should be connected to be connected Geneva time</b>	<b>Time limits Maximum Thank you for your kind cooperation !</b>
<b>His Excellency Mr. Abdulla Shahid, President of the General Assembly (TBC</b>	<b>video</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Mahamane Gouro Cissé, Director, Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division, OHCHR</b>	<b>Opening 24 November 2 :00 PM</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>His Excellency Ahmed Khaleel, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Republic of the Maldives</b>	<b>Opening 24 November  2 :00 PM</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Her Excellency Ms. Nazhat Shameem Khan President of the HRC, 2021</b>	<b>Opening 24 November  2 :00 PM</b>	<b>7</b>

<b>Fatou Camara Houel, Coordinator LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund,</b>	<b>Plenary I 24 November  2:30</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Testimonials former Beneficiary delegates from ASIA (max 12)</b>	<b>2: 40 24 November</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Former Rapporteurs General of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Workshops Ambassador Sherman Peter (Workshop for the Caribbean region) Mr. Fred Sarufa (Pacific region) Mary Namono (Africa region)</b>	<b>24 November  3:00</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Testimonials former Beneficiary delegates/fellows from the Caribbean, Africa and the Pacific (Max 5)</b>	<b>24 November  3:15</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Eric Tistounet, Chief, Human Rights Council Branch, OHCHR Trends in the HRC in 2021</b>	<b>Plenary Session II 24 November  4:00</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Marc Limon, Executive Director, Universal Rights Group</b>	<b>Plenary Session II 24 November  4:00</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Jonathan Chan, Singapore: FOSS and Co Focal Points</b>	<b>Plenary Session III 24 November  4:05</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Dr. Shavana Haythornthwaite Commonwealth, Head of Human Rights Unit</b>	<b>Plenary Session III 24 November  4:10</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Mona M'Beki , Excutive Director, UPR info</b>	<b>Plenary Session III 24 November  4:15</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Eric Tistounet ,Chief, Human Rights Council Branch, OHCHR</b>	<b>Closing session 1<sup>st</sup> December 2:00 PM</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Fatou Camara Houel, Closing remarks</b>	<b>Closing session 1<sup>st</sup> December 2:00 PM</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>His Excellency Dr. Asim Ahmed, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Maldives to UNOG</b>	<b>Closing session 1<sup>st</sup> December 2:00 PM</b>	<b>10</b>

as of 17 November 2021