

Biographies of **LDCs/SIDS** Beneficiary delegates

of Voluntary Technical Assistance **Trust Fund** to support
the participation of **LDCs/SIDS** in the work of the Human Rights Council
attending HRC40 (25 February - 22 March 2019)



- 1. Bangladesh**
(Member of the HRC)

Mr. Md. Rafiqul Allam Molla



- 2. Lesotho**

Ms. Nthabiseng Lelisa



- 3. Marshall Islands**
(without a Permanent Mission in Geneva)

Ms. Sally Ann de Brum



- 4. Myanmar**

Ms. Deborah Nyi



- 5. Samoa**
(without a Permanent Mission in Geneva)

Ms. Marissa Toomata



- 6. Timor Leste**

Mr. Flaviano Moniz Leão



- 7. Trinidad and Tobago**

Ms. Kristi-Ann Baggan

Bangladesh



Mr. Rafiqul Alam Molla

Senior Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Md Rafiqul Alam Molla, a career diplomat, currently serving as Senior

Assistant Secretary of the Protocol Wing at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since August 2016. He is responsible for taking care of state protocol issues which include the visits of the Hon'ble President and Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh to abroad. Besides, he also looks after the visits of foreign dignitaries to Bangladesh. Prior to his current assignment, Mr. Molla was engaged with versatile field of diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign affairs.

He dealt with Bangladesh's bilateral relations with East Asian and Pacific countries and multilateral engagements of Bangladesh with Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), The Commonwealth, The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), The Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) and The D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) as desk officer. He joined in Bangladesh Foreign Service on January 2013. Mr. Molla holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) and a Bachelor of Business (BBA) in Finance from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh. **This is his first time attending a regular session of the Human Rights Council.**

Lesotho



Ms. Nthabiseng Lelisa

Legal Officer- African Union and United Nations human rights systems, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International relations

Ms. Nthabiseng Lelisa works at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and

International Relations of the Kingdom of Lesotho. Since February 2009, she has been working as a Legal officer responsible for African Union and United Nations Human Rights Systems. She keeps track of the work of various International Organizations Institutions Conferences such as the African Commission on Human and People's Rights, and the Human Rights Council, and advice accordingly. She also keeps track of international and regional human rights agreements and advice the Government on which to become party to and the legal implications thereto. She also participates in the preparation of human rights periodic reports

to which Lesotho is a party to and negotiates bilateral and multilateral agreements, treaties on behalf of Lesotho Government to safeguard the Countries' interests. She is a deputy chairperson of the Inter-Sectoral Committee on Human Rights, an advocate of the High Court and Court of Appeal of Lesotho and a Chairperson of a Technical Committee on Diaspora Engagement. In connection with her State Party Reporting responsibilities, Ms. Lelisa benefited from the training organized by the UPR Branch of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which was held in Entebbe, Uganda in 2018. Ms. Nthabiseng Lelisa holds a Master of Laws in Human Rights from the University of Pretoria, South Africa.

Marshall Islands



Ms. Sally Ann de Brum

Associate Commissioner for Budget and Finance, Ministry of Education: Public School System

Ms. Sally Ann de Brum, currently serves as the Associate Commissioner

for Budget and Finance for the Public School System under the Ministry of Education since April 2017. She is responsible for all financial activities that involve the public schools in the Marshall Islands and projects with development partners. Prior to her current assignment, Ms. de Brum was the Director for School Accreditation and evaluation; ensuring schools are up to the Ministry's standards and benchmarks. She has been the focal point for Human

Rights for the Public School System for five years and an active member of the national working group on Human Rights. She was engaged in the preparation of the Marshall Islands 2nd reporting of the UPR in 2014. Ms. De Brum was also part of the Marshall Islands team to Geneva in 2018 to present the report to CEDAW. Ms. de Brum holds a Master of Education (MEd) from Drury University, Missouri and a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Hospitality Leadership from the University of Southern Missouri, also in Missouri. **This is her first time attending a regular session of the Human Rights Council.**

Myanmar



Ms. Deborah Nyi

Head of Branch for Human Rights, International Organizations and Economic Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Deborah Nyi is a desk officer for Human Rights at the

International Organizations and Economic Department. Ms. Nyi is mainly taking care of matters related to Human Rights Council, Third Committee under United Nations General Assembly and recent situations of human rights in Myanmar. Ms. Nyi works together with concerned ministries, international organizations and experts in working for pro-

motion and protection of human rights in Myanmar comparing to international standard. Previous to that, Ms. Nyi worked for women empowerment and promotion and protection of women rights as part of a local NGO. Ms. Nyi holds Bachelor Degrees in French from Yangon University of Foreign Languages and in Social Studies from Myanmar Institute of Theology. **This is her first time in Geneva and her first attending a regular session of the Human Rights Council.**

Samoa



Ms. Marissa Toomata

Foreign Service Officer, International Relations Division,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Ms. Toomata is a Foreign Service Officer of the International Relations Division covering various human rights conventions such as CEDAW, UNCAC, and UNCAT. She is also responsible for Migration-related conventions, supports the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-Ups (NMRF), and was part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) Team for the Presentation of Samoa's 6th Periodic Report at the 71st Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination. Prior to joining,

Ms. Toomata volunteered at NGOs based in Ningxia, and Beijing, China, the former focused on rural and migrant children, and the latter in renewable energy and infrastructure. Ms. Toomata holds a Master of Law in International Relations Degree from Peking University in Beijing, China; and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and International Relations with a Minor in History from the Victoria University of Wellington, in New Zealand. **This is her first time attending a regular session of the Human Rights Council.**

Timor Leste



Mr. Flaviano Moniz Leão

Director of the National Directorate of Human Rights and Citizenship at the Ministry of Justice.

Mr. Flaviano Moniz Leão is the Director of the National Directorate of Human Rights and Citizenship at the Ministry of Justice of Timor-Leste, since 2016. He joined the Ministry of Justice in 2014 and acted as the Head of Department of Treaties and Coordinator of the National Directive Commission for the Human Rights Action Plan. As the National Director, he prepares and elaborates the Timor-Leste's human rights treaty reports, collaborating with public and private national and foreign entities. In addition, he monitors the implementation, development and progress of

human rights in the country. Mr. Moniz Leão also provides legal opinions on the Government's legislative and policy measures in the fields of human rights. He was part of the delegation of Timor-Leste which presented UPR report in 2016 and the CAT report in 2017. Mr. Flaviano holds a bachelor's in international Relations from the University of Muhammadiyah Malang, Indonesia and a Master of Law from the University of Atma Jaya, Indonesia. **This is his first time attending a regular session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva.**

Trinidad and Tobago



Ms. Kristi-Ann Baggan

Legal Counsel at the International Law and Human Rights Unit, Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs

Ms. Kristi-Ann Baggan

is a Legal Counsel in the International Law and

Human Rights Unit in the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago since 2014. Her duties include preparation and submission to the United Nations of National Reports on treaty obligations for International Human Rights instruments which Trinidad and Tobago are party to. In addition, she prepares Ratification Briefs on International Human Rights Conventions and legal opinions for the Attorney General on all matters relating to international law and human rights issues. Ms. Baggan holds a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) received with Honours and a

Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Corporate and Commercial Law from the University of the West Indies.

Additionally, she has received training in several workshops on Treaty Body Reporting and International Human Rights instruments such as the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). Ms Baggan has been appointed under the nomination of the Attorney General as a governmental expert and focal point for the UNCAC Review Mechanism. **This is her first time in Geneva attending a regular session of the Human Rights Council.**