



Joint Statement delivered

by

**MELISSA MORGAN
COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA**

On behalf of the

Fifteen SIDS/LDCs beneficiary delegates of the United Nations Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) during the 41st session of the Human Rights Council namely **The Bahamas, Comoros, Djibouti, Fiji, The Gambia, Kiribati, Madagascar, Nauru, Nepal, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Somalia, Vanuatu**

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 41st Session
General debate on ITEM 6 – Universal Periodic Review**

Geneva, Switzerland

5th July 2019

Mr. President,

I am honored to deliver this statement on behalf of the 15 LDCs/SIDS beneficiary States: The Bahamas, Comoros, Djibouti, Dominica, Fiji, The Gambia, Kiribati, Madagascar, Nauru, Nepal, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Somalia, Vanuatu.

The UPR mechanism is a demonstrably successful example of States' human rights self-assessment and peer-review. We are pleased to note that the UPR cycles this far have enjoyed universal participation by all Member States since its establishment. The LDCs/SIDS States lend their full support to this mechanism and its underlying principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity, constructive international dialogue and cooperation. In particular, we appreciate the invaluable collaborative role of civil society and National Human Rights Institutions, which enriches the exchange of knowledge, best practices and sharing of experiences.

The UPR encourages States not only to deliver on their human rights obligations, but to share real examples of national legislation, policies and measures for the protection and promotion of human rights. Many States have shared tangible progress and challenges in achieving their human rights obligations and have amended laws and policies in line with the recommendations received from the UPR Working Group.

Mr. President

While we are fully committed to making the most of the UPR process, challenges to full and effective engagement remain due to the disproportionate burden the review, reporting and implementation process places on States with limited technical and financial resources. In this regard, we welcome the support received thus far from UN and other international human rights bodies, including the OHCHR, Trust Funds for UPR participation and implementation, and the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund.

We invite States and international human rights bodies and mechanisms to continue, and where possible, enhance support to advance universal and meaningful participation of States, especially LDCs and SIDS.

We strongly believe that the work of the Council should remain a platform for all States, regardless of their size and wealth.

I thank you Mr. President