



Joint Statement delivered by

Mark Eldad Mulwambo

**On behalf of the 7 LDCs/SIDS Beneficiary Delegates of the Voluntary
Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least
Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States in the work
of the Human Rights during the 35th Session of the United Nations Human
Rights Council**

GENERAL DEBATE ON ITEM # 06

Geneva, 16 June 2017

Mr. President,

I am honored to speak on behalf of the seven delegates from **Dominica, The Gambia, Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, the Republic of Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.**

We have come to have our voices heard in this Council and to participate actively in its work and on issues that matter the most, our rights: our human rights.

We are thankful to the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund and its donor friends for their generous contributions which enables our active participation in the work of the Council to ensure that our governments engage openly with the council's mechanisms, in particular: the Universal Periodic Review and the follow up to the implementation of the accepted recommendations.

Our participation in this session has revealed that the challenges the Council faces are real; and the pertinent issues related to the promotion and protection of human rights cannot be ignored by all nations; big and small. This is our world; we live in it together, and we are destined to tackle the many challenges we face together.

The vision and values of the Trust Fund cannot be underrated, that; humanity and mankind are the key pillars which add value to the work of the Council in the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide, especially in LDCs and SIDS. In that breath, we call upon all developed and willing nations, to actively support and contribute to the work of the Trust Fund to ensure that it fully implement the mandate entrusted to it by the Council in its resolution 34/40.

Thank you Mr. President