

JOINT STATEMENT DELIVERED BY

SHEARLYN JOSEPH

ON BEHALF OF SEVEN LDC/SIDS BENEFICIARY DELEGATES OF THE VOLUNTARY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TRUST FUND TO SUPPORT THE PARTICIPATION OF LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES DURING THE  35th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

GENERAL DEBATE ON AGENDA ITEM # 10

GENEVA

JUNE 21,2017

Mr President,

I speak on behalf of seven (7) LDC/SIDS Countries, Gambia, Uganda, Republic of Tanzania, Seychelles, Sao Tome and Principe , Guinea and my island the Commonwealth of Dominica which are being represented at this 35th session of the Human Rights Council made possible through the generous contributions of donor countries to the LDC/SIDS Trust Fund for participation in the work of the Council.

As LDC/SIDS, we are all committed to the protection and promotion of human rights in our respective countries and through participation at this session we have been able to identify priority areas for our respective countries.

In order to address the numerous recommendations made as a result of the UPR, Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures, technical cooperation assistance is greatly needed. We do however express sincerest thanks to donor countries because it is as a result of their generous contributions that the seven of us could participate fully in this session of the council. Thus far 77 delegates have been able to attend the session though the Trust Fund.

We strongly believe that technical cooperation should be strengthened in particular in the area of NHRI’s and that the OHCHR fellowship should be made accessible to us LDC/SIDS interested in setting up our own NHRI/ombudsman and would gladly welcome invitations to the fellowship.

Mr President, The reality in our countries is that there are challenges which require financial and human resources as well as capacity to deal with Human Rights reporting. The continued training of Government officials and other stakeholders are critical to building human rights capacity.

We therefore call on the International community to continue to assist us in this endeavor.

I thank you Mr President.