



37<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Geneva, 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2018

JOINT STATEMENT DELIVERED

BY

Ms. MAUREEN HYMAN  
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Re: Agenda Item 10 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

On behalf of the 2018 beneficiary delegates of the LCDs/SIDS Trust Fund;  
**Antigua and Barbuda, Afghanistan The Bahamas, Bangladesh, Burundi,  
The Democratic Republic of Congo Haiti, Mozambique, Nepal, South  
Sudan, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Yemen**

Mr. President,

It is with great pride and gratitude that I address this august body on behalf of the beneficiary delegates of the LDC/SIDS trust fund.

We the beneficiaries from Afghanistan, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Mozambique, Nepal, South Sudan, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Yemen and my country Antigua and Barbuda, publicly express our thanks and appreciation for this opportunity, to observe and participate in the 37th session of the Human Rights Council.

We appreciate the donors of the Trust Fund for their continued and kind support to facilitate our participation in this programme, which allows us a unique opportunity to gain insight into the important work of the Council.

Technical assistance is hence critical to ensure that we implement our human rights agenda. The trust fund is a concrete tool that helps us to build our national capacities.

We will use the knowledge and information we acquire from this experience to develop awareness and implementation of human rights in our respective countries.

The Council has the important role of promoting and protecting human rights worldwide. It is therefore important that

LDCs/SIDS participate in the work of the Council especially those countries that do not have a permanent mission in Geneva. Without the trust fund, we would not be here and our voices would not be heard.

We would not have the opportunity to understand and make our contributions to the important debates and discussions. We believe that our voices add cultural diversity and true representation, which enriches the work of the Council and makes it more inclusive.

Our participation in the work of the Council, builds our understanding and human rights capacity, which will translate into better human rights strategies in our territories.

Mr. President,

We thank you for this opportunity and assure you that the knowledge and information we the beneficiaries gain and acquire from this experience will be used to develop awareness and build capacity to enhance knowledge and implementation of human rights in our respective countries.

We will return to our countries fortified with renewed vigour and passion to improve the human rights situations in our countries and to continue to promote respect for the principles of human rights.

I Thank you