



CONCEPT NOTE

LDCs/SIDS TRUST FUND WORKSHOP FOR THE AFRICA REGION

(as of 22 April 2021)

“Engaging with the UN Human Rights Council, during and after COVID 19 through the LDC/SIDS Trust Fund: achievements, challenges and lessons learned”

Ouagadougou - Port Louis

28-29 April 2021 & 6 May 2021



Organization

Secretariat of the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the Work of the Human Rights Council, Human Rights Council Branch, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner For Human Rights.

Host Countries

- Burkina Faso
- Republic of Mauritius

Guest of Honor

Her Excellency Ms. Nazhat Shameem Khan (Fiji), President of the Human Rights Council, 15th cycle (2021)

Participants

Projected Participants: 60

- Former Beneficiary Delegates and Fellows of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund from the Africa region (24 out of the 52 delegates and Fellows supported by the Trust Fund from September 2014 to the present)
- Former Beneficiary Delegates from the Asia & the Pacific region that fall under the mandate of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund
- Former Beneficiary Delegates from the Caribbean region that fall under the mandate of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund

- Representative of Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie
- Representative of The Commonwealth/Commonwealth Small States Office (CSSO)
- Representative of Singapore (representing Ambassador Umej Bhatia, Permanent Representative of Singapore, co-focal point in charge of addressing challenges faced by delegations from small and developing countries, in particular the SIDS and LDCs, and the follow up on the implementation of the measures on the use of modern technology”)
- Representative of Universal Rights Group (URG)
- Representative of UPR Info

Modalities

- *Dates and time:* 3 days : 3 hours per day from 1 P. M. to 4 P. M (Geneva time) (12 Noon Ouagadougou time / 3 P. M. Port-Louis)
- *Platform:* KUDO managed by International Computing Center (ICC) with simultaneous interpretation in French and English. There is the possibility to connect with a mobile device with the app KUDO Live for android and Iphone.
- *Working languages of the Workshop :* English and French

Background and Mandate

The Workshop is organized pursuant to Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution [34/40](#) adopted on 24 March 2017. This resolution encouraged the Trust Fund to hold a series of workshops prior to its tenth anniversary in March 2022, in the three geographical regions that the Trust Fund supports, namely Africa, Asia and the Pacific and the Caribbean. The objectives of the workshops include:

- **Reflecting on its achievements;**
- **Identifying where further improvements might be made; and**
- **Assessing the value of its activities in fulfilling its training and capacity-building in support of the engagement of LDCs and SIDS in the work of the HRC and its mechanisms."**

This Workshop for LDCs/SIDS for the Africa region represents the third of the fourth workshops. The Workshop for the [Caribbean](#) and the [Pacific](#) regions were held in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

Context

The Workshop, the first to be held virtually, brings together, for the first time, most of the beneficiary Delegates/ Fellows of the Africa region that participated in the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund's Programmes. It therefore presents us with a unique opportunity for interaction and the exchange of information, experiences and ideas.

In addition, it will also allow the participants to identify and document good practices that can further enhance and strengthen the effective participation of your respective countries in the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, both nationally and regionally.

Objectives

The three half-days' Workshop aims to:

- Assess the contribution of the Trust Fund in building the capacity of LDCs/SIDS for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Africa region, including by providing Member States with opportunities to share their collective expertise, experience and good practices among themselves and with States from other regions that can in turn be shared with the HRC and its mechanisms;
- Identify practical actions that Beneficiary Delegates of the Trust Fund can recommend to the OHCHR (LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Secretariat) for implementation, assess the impact these courses of action are likely to have and determine the relevance of the experience of Beneficiary Delegates/ Fellows to this implementation at the national and regional levels;
- Serve as a unique forum for open and interactive dialogue regarding approaches and procedures for ensuring that human rights challenges of concern to SIDS are placed and remain on the HRC's agenda and that opportunities are identified to address them; and
- **Make specific recommendations to further strengthen the participation of LDCs/SIDS in the work of the HRC and its mechanisms (UPR, special procedures) when the Council is meeting in person and when the Council is meeting virtually due to the Covid.**

General outcome

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner has been tasked with drafting a report to evaluate the activities of the Trust Fund in implementing its training and capacity-building mandate.

This report will be presented to the HRC at its forty-ninth session (February/March 2022). The commentary and conclusions on training and capacity-building emanating from this Workshop will serve as the Africa region's contribution to the report.

Main outcome

To develop and agree upon a final declaration, “**Ouagadougou- Port Louis Declaration Towards 2022**” which will set out action points aimed at ensuring that LDCs/SIDS in the Africa region continue to be actively engaged in and participate in the work of the HRC and its mechanisms in the period leading up to 2022 (the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Trust Fund).

The “Ouagadougou- Port Louis Declaration Towards 2022” will be finalized and adopted at the end of the Workshop, on 6 May 2021.

Methodology

The three half-days Workshop will be organized between plenary sessions and group sessions.

The two groups will meet in parallel on 29 April 2021 from 13:20 – 14:45

GROUP 1

Moderators:

Ms. Mary Namono, Rapporteur General Workshop Africa, 2019 Fellow, Live from Kampala and Mr. Marc Limon, Executive Director, Universal Rights Group, Live from Geneva

Theme: In-person support and participation Assessing and Strengthening the training and capacity building mandate of the Trust Fund: (induction/training prior, during and after HRC Regular Session; intersessional activities; Special Sessions; how to bridge the gap between Geneva/New York (third Committee...etc.)

GROUP 2

Moderators:

Mr. Passida Pascal Gouba, Deputy Ambassador of Burkina Faso in Nigeria, Delegate 29th Session 2015 and Mr. Subhas Gujadhur, First Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Mauritius in China

Theme: Virtual support and participation Assessing and Strengthening the training and capacity building mandate of the Trust Fund: (induction/training prior, during and after HRC Regular Session; intersessional activities; Special Sessions; how to bridge the gap between Geneva/New York (third Committee...etc.)