



Background Information on the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund

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 (LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund)** is a financial mechanism administrated by OHCHR. The Trust Fund is designed to strengthen the institutional capacity to underpin the effective and informed participation of delegations from LDCs and SIDS in the consultative and decision-making processes, including negotiating sessions of the HRC.

The Trust Fund's mandate is detailed in 2 resolutions of the Human Rights Council

1. HRC resolution 19/26 of 23 March 2012

This resolution established the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund, which is managed by the Human Rights Council Branch of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), became **operational on 1st January 2014**, and provides funding for the following activities:

- a) Targeted training courses and capacity-building activities, including e-learning on the international human rights system, international human rights law, and the rules and procedures of the HRC and its mechanisms;
- b) Travel and accommodation for Government officials of LDCs/SIDS to participate in the sessions of the HRC;
- c) Fellowship Programmes for Government officials from LDCs/SIDS to undertake three-month work placements relating to the work of the HRC; and
- d) Induction training sessions for Government officials of LDCs/SIDS to provide them with information on the multilateral human rights system as well as focused, practical training relative to the working procedures of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms

2. HRC resolution 34/40 adopted 24 March 2017

This resolution, adopted without vote by the HRC, was entitled, "Promoting 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".

This resolution attracted a record number of co-sponsors, and had three other HRC 'first time' milestones, namely:

- *First time that all States without Permanent Missions in Geneva co-sponsored a HRC resolution;*
- *First time all Pacific States co-sponsored a HRC resolution; and*
- ***First time a resolution was co-sponsored by all 14 Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).***

The HRC decided by this resolution that:

- a) *the Fund should conduct at least one briefing a year in New York on the outcomes of the regular and special sessions of the Human Rights Council;*
- b) *the Fund should conduct workshops in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and the Caribbean, reflecting on its achievements, identifying where further improvements might be made, and assessing the value of its activities;*
- c) *the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights should prepare a report in which the Office evaluates the activities of the Trust Fund in meeting its training and capacity-building mandate, and to present the report to the Human Rights Council at its forty-ninth session (2022).*

Resolution 34/40 was sponsored /co-sponsored by 120 countries. As such, it was the second most sponsored resolution since the establishment of the Human Rights Council in 2006.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Since it became operational on 1st January 2014, the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund has supported:

- **110 Delegates and Fellows (65 women, 45 men)**
- **Coming from 69 LDCs/SIDS (33 from Africa, 22 from Asia & the Pacific, 14 from the Caribbean and Latin America)**

