



Office of the Permanent Observer
of the Caribbean Community
(CARICOM)
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**LDCs/SIDS TRUST FUND WORKSHOP FOR THE PACIFIC REGION
NADI, REPUBLIC OF FIJI
19-21 NOVEMBER 2019**

CLOSING CEREMONY

REMARKS BY

**H.E. MS. A. MISSOURI SHERMAN-PETER
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT OBSERVER
OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)
TO THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

ON BEHALF OF

REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE AFRICA REGION, PARTICIPATING INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS – THE ALLIANCE OF SMALL ISLAND STATES (AOSIS), THE FORUM OF SMALL STATES (FOSS), AND THE COMMONWEALTH, AND MY OWN ORGANIZATION, THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM) SECRETARIAT AND REGION, CARICOM) THAT WERE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE WITH THE STATES OF THE PACIFIC REGION IN THIS WORKSHOP.

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H.E. Mr. Coly Seck, President of the Human Rights Council (HRC), Mr. Solicitor General of Fiji, H.E. Ms. Nazhat Shameem Khan, Permanent Representative of Fiji in Geneva, Mr. Fred Sarufa, Rapporteur General of the Pacific Region Workshop, Mr. Eric Tistoune, Chief, Human Rights Council Branch, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Ms. Chitralkha Massey, Regional Representative, Regional Office for the Pacific Office of the OHCHR, Ms. Fatou Camara Houel, Coordinator, LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund, Excellencies, Colleagues, Friends:

I have the honour to speak at this Closing Ceremony of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Workshop for the Pacific Region on behalf of Representatives from the Africa Region, of participating inter-governmental organizations – the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), the Forum of Small States (FOSS), and the Commonwealth, and my own organization, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat and region, CARICOM) that were invited to participate with the States of the Pacific Region in this Workshop.

We welcomed the opportunity to share our perspectives, and to contribute to the dialogue deliberations of former Delegates and Fellow beneficiaries from the Pacific Region that have participated in the HRC with the support of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund, in the processes leading to the finalization and adoption of the outcome document of this Workshop, “***The Nadi Declaration Towards 2022 of the Former Beneficiaries of the LDC/SIDS Trust Fund***”.

We are mindful that the LDC/SIDS Trust Fund of the OHCHR, Convener of this Workshop, is a key strategic Partner of our LDCs/SIDS Member States, and of our organizations at the regional, inter-regional and international levels. We continue to demonstrate on many fronts, our availability and readiness to work together with the Trust Fund to assist LDCs/SIDS in their determination to effectively and constructively participate in the work of the HRC.

This Workshop has beneficially enabled us to share information, including on the support available to Pacific Island States in making their contributions to the HRC; to consolidate our partnership with the OHCHR, the Trust Fund and other regional organizations; and better understand the capacity building development and other requirements needed, as the voices of LDCs and SIDS are raised in the Human Rights Council, now raised by two SIDS Council Members, The Bahamas, the first CARICOM State to sit as a member of the Council, and Fiji, and beginning in 2020 a third SIDS, the Marshall Islands.

This Workshop will lead to increased collaboration with member states of the Pacific Region to facilitate their effective participation in the HRC and international human rights mechanism. Importantly, we expect that with the increased collaboration that was evident in this Workshop, will enhance the capacity of the Pacific Island states to effectively and constructively implement the priorities set out in the Declaration they adopted.

We look forward to continued cooperation, in the context of the deliberations that took place here at Nadi, in our cooperative efforts to uphold the value that all states have the right to be heard in the HRC on the promotion and protection of Human Rights, one of the critical pillars of the United Nations Charter.

We thank the Government and People of Fiji for the arrangements made for the Workshop, and for their gracious hospitality. We commend the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund, and particularly its Coordinator, Ms. Fatou Camara Houel, for the excellent organization of the Workshop and her outstanding leadership and skills, and look forward to continuing cooperation with the Trust Fund in the implementation of its mandate.

I thank you