



## CONCEPT NOTE

**(draft as of 1st November 2019, subject to change)**

# LDCs/SIDS TRUST FUND WORKSHOP FOR THE PACIFIC REGION

**“Engaging with the UN Human Rights Council through the  
LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund: Achievements, Challenges and Lessons  
Learned”**

*Nadi, Republic of Fiji, 19-21 November 2019*



UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL



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HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

## **Introduction**

The ***Workshop for the Pacific Region***, is organized by the 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 (LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund), administrated by the Human Rights Council Branch of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner For Human Rights (OHCHR Geneva), with the support of the Regional Office for the Pacific Region of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The OHCHR and the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund expresses appreciation to the Government of Fiji for agreeing to host the Workshop.

## **Workshop Composition**

**The High-Level Invitee of Workshop will be His Excellency Mr. Coly Seck (Senegal) President of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) Thirteenth Session (2019)**

It is projected that there will be 35 participants in the Workshop, 33 of which will be sponsored by the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund as follows:

- A total of 21 Former Beneficiary Delegates and Fellows of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund from the Pacific Region supported by the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund from September 2014 to date.
- Former Beneficiary Delegates from the other 2 regions within the mandate of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund – 1 from Africa (Seychelles); 2 from the Caribbean (CARICOM and Barbados)
- Forum of Small States (FOSS) - Representative of the current Chair (Singapore)
- Commonwealth Secretariat, London, UK - Representative of the Human Rights Unit of the Secretariat

## **Mandate of the Workshop**

The Workshop is organized pursuant to HRC resolution 34/40 adopted on 6 April 2017. That resolution encouraged the Trust Fund, before its tenth anniversary in March 2022, to support the conduct of a Workshop in Africa; Asia and the Pacific; and the Caribbean, the three areas supported by the Fund, to:

- **“Reflect on its achievements;**
- **Identify where further improvements might be made; and**
- **Assess 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 ”.**

The Workshop for LDCs/SIDS in the Pacific Region is the second in the series of 3 Workshops that will be organized before 2022, as mandated by the HRC in its resolution 34/40.

## **First LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Workshop: The Caribbean Region**

### *Outcome*

The Pacific Region Workshop follows on the organization by the Trust Fund Secretariat on 19-20 November 2018, in Georgetown, Guyana, of the first Regional Workshop, as mandated by the HRC resolution 34/40.

The Georgetown Workshop took place following the June 2017 milestone of the Caribbean Region becoming the first of the three eligible regions in which 100% of its Member States had received support from the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund to participate in the work of the HRC. On that date, each of the region’s 14 LDCs/SIDS states had received support from the Trust Fund at least once.

A brochure commemorating the 100% milestone is available at the following address:

[https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/LDCs\\_SIDS/BrochureTheCaribbean\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/LDCs_SIDS/BrochureTheCaribbean_EN.pdf)

The Georgetown Workshop marked the first official visit by a sitting HRC President (2018) to the Region. The two-day Workshop, organized with the support of the Government of Guyana and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, brought together 23 Delegates and Fellows (18 women and five men), including all former Beneficiary Delegates of the Trust Fund from the Caribbean region that had participated in a Regular Session of the HRC.

The Workshop was opened by H.E. Mr. Moses Nagamootoo, First Vice President of Guyana and Acting President. The Workshop participants adopted the **“Georgetown Declaration: Towards 2022”** aimed at enhancing participation of CARICOM SIDS in the HRC. **The Georgetown Declaration** sets out a series of recommendations and priorities



looking towards 2022, including making concerted efforts to enhance the functioning of the Trust Fund, and ensuring discussion of topics of particular interest to the Caribbean SIDS in the HRC. At the request of the 2018 HRC President, **The Georgetown Declaration** was circulated to all Permanent Missions in Geneva on 4 December 2018.

Further details of the Georgetown Workshop, including its programme, concept note, participants, statements and press releases are available here:

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/TrustFund/Pages/RegionalWorkshops.aspx>. The Georgetown Declaration: Towards 2022 is available here: <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/LDCs/SIDS/Workshops/CaribbeanRegion/GeorgetownDeclarationTowards2022.pdf>

*Follow up to the Georgetown Declaration Towards 2022 and Results*

-To date, more than 60% of the suggested action points proposals included in **The Georgetown Declaration** have been implemented.

-The Tenth General Meeting between the Institutions of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the United Nations System, took place in Georgetown, Guyana, 23-24 July 2019. The Meeting adopted a Joint Statement to carry forward the important organizational, administrative, project and other arrangements that would be cooperatively implemented during the biennium 2019 -2021,

Following the meeting, the Chair of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Caucus of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Courtenay Rattray of Jamaica, presented a technical update of General Assembly Resolution A/Res/71/329 entitled: **“Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community”** to the Seventy-Third Session of the Assembly, on behalf of the 14 Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). In presenting the resolution to the Assembly, Ambassador Rattray stated,

***“ The Georgetown Declaration Towards 2022” adopted at the closing of te 2018 LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Workshop for the Caribbean Region, sets out courses of action for continued engagement between CARICOM and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, through the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund and the Human Rights Council. CARICOM Looks forward to the operationalization of these initiatives to support our continued capacity building.”***

## **WORKSHOP FOR THE PACIFIC REGION**

### **BACKGROUND**

#### **Organization of Asia and Pacific Workshop**

HRC Resolution 34/40 provides for the organization of a Workshop for Asia and the Pacific Region. Due to logistical constraints required to bring in one place all beneficiary delegates from Asia and the Pacific, two Workshops including one for the Pacific Region and one for the Asian Region will be organized by the Secretariat of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund.

#### **Convening of the Workshop**

The Pacific Region Workshop follows on the June 2018 milestone when the region became the second of the three eligible regions in which 100% of its eligible Member States had received support from the LDC/SIDS Trust Fund to participate in the work of the HRC. On that date, each of the region's 12 LDCs/SIDS states had received support from the Trust Fund for HRC participation at least once.

*LDCs/SIDS of the Pacific Region eligible for Trust Fund Support are:*

Fiji; Kiribati; Marshall Islands; Micronesia (Federated States of); Nauru; Palau; Papua New Guinea; Samoa; Solomon Islands; Tonga; Tuvalu; and Vanuatu

Among the 12 Pacific Region LDCs/SIDS eligible for Trust Fund Support, only five, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, have a Permanent Mission in Geneva. It is worth noting that out of the 5 Permanent Missions, 3 were established between February 2018 (Vanuatu) and June 2019 (Marshall Islands and Nauru). Solomon Islands was the first Pacific Region SIDS/LDCs to establish a Permanent Mission in Geneva (2011), and the most recent was Nauru in May 2019.

#### **LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Support to Delegates from the Pacific Region**

Since it became operational and up to the 42<sup>nd</sup> session of the HRC, convened in September 2019, the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund has supported the participation of a total of 34 delegates, 28 women, 6 men, in the work of the HRC. Tuvalu was the first recipient in 2014 of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Fellowship Programme.

Over 95% of Pacific Region beneficiaries have been from their respective capitals, and were attending a regular session of the HRC for the first time.

On the occasion of its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the HRC convened a universal session on 13 June 2016. The support of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund for SIDS worldwide that did not have



Permanent Missions in Geneva , including those from the Pacific, contributed to making the convening of the HRC a Universal Session.

### **SIDS Membership in the Human Rights Council – 2019 a Turning Point for the Pacific Region**

Fiji's election to membership the HRC (2019-2021) as the first ever Pacific Region SIDS has created new momentum for Pacific Island States in the Council, marked by the region's increased engagement of in the work of the HRC.

As a Vice President of the 2019 Bureau, Fiji, together with the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, also the first English speaking Caribbean (CARICOM) SIDS elected to the HRC, played a leading role in the work of the HRC.

### **Workshop Overview**

The LDCs/SIDS Pacific Region Trust Fund Workshop brings together, for the first time, a majority of the 21 delegates of the Pacific Region that have participated either in a regular session of the HRC or in the Fellowship Programme with the support of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund.

The Workshop therefore presents a unique opportunity for interaction and the exchange of experience, information and ideas, and for the identification and documentation of best practices that would further enhance and strengthen their country's effective participation in the HRC and its mechanism, both nationally, regionally and multilaterally.

The convening of this Workshop is particularly timely, as for the first time, in 2020 , 2 SIDS from the Pacific Region – Fiji and Marshall Islands – will be members of the HRC. The provision of **The Georgetown Declaration** adopted at the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund for the Caribbean Region will also be implemented at the Pacific Region Workshop.

The 2019 sitting President of the HRC, the first to represent an LDC since the establishment of the HRC, has agreed to attend the Workshop and to conduct a Mission in Fiji. This Mission will be the first of a HRC President in the Pacific Region.

### **Objectives of the Workshop**

The three-day 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 Pacific Region, by providing the opportunity for Member States to benefit from the expertise and experience among themselves, including States from of other regions that have developed best practices to be shared in engaging with the HRC and its mechanisms;

-Identifying methodologies and approaches beneficiary delegates might use to identify practical courses of action to be recommended for implementation to their Governments following their participation in the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Programme;

-Assessing simultaneously the impact these courses of action are likely to have, and the relevance of the beneficiary delegate's experience to their implementation at the national and regional levels;

-Serving as a unique forum for an open and interactive dialogue on approaches and procedures to ensure that human rights challenges of concern to SIDS are placed and remain on the HRC's Agenda, and that best opportunities are identified to address them.

-Making specific recommendations regarding the further strengthening of participation of LDCs/SIDS in the work of the HRC and its Mechanisms (UPR, Special Procedures) and on provisions to ensure the inclusion and participation of LDCs/SIDS during the 2021 Review of the status of the HRC;

-Making additional focused recommendations on topics that are of primary importance to the Pacific Region, in particular:

- Climate change, the environment, and their impact human rights;
- Violence against women and children; and
- Human Rights and the SDGs, with a focus on countering Poverty and Inequalities.

### **General Outcome of the Workshop**

The OHCHR has been tasked with the drafting of a report to evaluate the activities of the LDCs/SIDS 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 commentaries and conclusions on training and capacity building emanating from the Workshop will serve as the Pacific Region's contribution to the Report of the OHCHR.

### **Principal Outcome of the Workshop**

To develop and agree on a final declaration, "**The Nadi Declaration Towards 2022**", setting out action points aiming at ensuring that LDCs/SIDS in the Pacific Region continue to participate and remain actively engaged in the work of the HRC and its Mechanisms for the period leading up to 2022, which will mark the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund.

The "**The Nadi Declaration Towards 2022**" will be finalized and adopted at the end of the Workshop.



## Workshop Methodology

The 3 day-Workshop will comprise a combination of **Plenary Sessions** and **Working Group Sessions**.

**The Rapporteur General of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Workshop for the Pacific Region will be Mr. Fred Sarufa**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea to the United Nations, New York, a former Beneficiary Delegate of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund.

DPR Sarufa, together with H.E. A. Missouri Sherman-Peter, Ambassador and Permanent Observer for the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to the United Nations, New York, Rapporteur General of the first of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Workshops, that for the Caribbean Region, and with the support of the Rapporteurs of the Workshop's two Working Groups and the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund of the OHCHR will present a Summary of Plenary and Working Group Sessions. This group will also prepare the draft of the "Nadi Declaration Towards 2020 for consideration and agreement of Workshop Participants. A very first draft will be shared with participants before the Workshop.

## Presentation in Plenary and Working Group Sessions

The agenda that contains the list of Speakers will be circulated to Workshop Participants shortly. With the exception of HRC President who will make the Keynote Address and Officials of the Government of Fiji, Speakers are kindly asked to ensure that their presentation **do not exceed 10 minutes (exception Keynote Address by the HRC President of the HRC)**.

Timekeepers will be designated.

**Speakers are kindly invited to send their presentations (even in draft form) to Ms. Fatou Camara Houel no later than 14 November 2019.**

## Focused Thematic Concept Notes

Brief notes providing contextual information and suggested questions to guide discussion in Plenary and Workshop Sessions on topics and issues on the Agenda will be circulated to all Participants.

## Working Language of the Workshop

The working language for the Workshop will be **English**. No interpretation will be provided.