



# “THE NADI DECLARATION TOWARDS 2022 OF THE FORMER BENEFICIARIES OF LDCS/SIDS TRUST FUND”

## OUTCOME DECLARATION OF THE LDCs/SIDS TRUST FUND WORKSHOP FOR THE PACIFIC REGION

19-21 November 2019, Nadi, Republic of Fiji



UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL



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HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

## I. INTRODUCTION

We, the Former Beneficiary Delegates and Fellows from the Pacific region 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 HRC (hereinafter LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund);

- (a) convened from 19 to 21 November 2019 in Nadi, Republic of Fiji to attend the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Workshop for the Pacific Region under the theme: *“Engaging with the UN Human Rights Council through the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund: Achievements, Challenges and Lessons Learnt”*.
- (b) **Agree** to adopt this Outcome Document to be known as **“The Nadi Declaration Towards 2022”**; and
- (c) **Reaffirm** our commitment to the goals and objectives set out for the convening of Regional Workshops in HRC Resolution 34/40 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 HRC, adopted by the HRC on 24 March 2017.

## II. BACKGROUND, MANDATE, AND OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

### Background

The Workshop was convened pursuant to HRC Resolution 34/40 of 24 March 2017, which encourages the conduct of workshops in Africa, the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific regions by the Secretariat of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund before the tenth anniversary of the Trust Fund in 2022. Due to logistical constraints; for the Asia and the Pacific region, two workshops would be organized one for the Pacific region and the other for the Asian region

### Objectives

The Workshop aims to:

1. Reflect on the Trust Funds achievements;
2. Identify where further improvements might be made; and

3. Assess the value of its activities in fulfilling its training and capacity-building mandate in support of the engagement of LDCs/SIDS in the work of HRC and its mechanisms.

### **III. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We, the Former Beneficiary Delegates and Fellows from the Pacific Region:

1. Express our profound gratitude to the Government and the people of the Republic of Fiji for successfully hosting this inaugural Human Rights Council Pacific region Workshop;
2. Express further appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Coly Seck, President of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) Thirteenth Cycle (2019) and the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, for his landmark visit to the Pacific region, the first HRC President from an LDC;
3. Convey also our sincere appreciation to the Secretariat of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); and the OHCHR Regional Office for the Pacific for providing all the necessary support for a successful outcome;
4. Commend the Secretariat of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund for ensuring the participation of all LDCs/SIDS, including particularly those without a Permanent Mission in Geneva at the First Universal session of the HRC on the occasion of its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary;
5. Convey also our gratitude to the delegates from the African and Caribbean regions, as former beneficiaries of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund, for their active participation in sharing their experiences, lessons learnt, opportunities and challenges and further welcome the positive contributions from LDCs/SIDS cross-regional interactions;
6. Acknowledge with profound appreciation and commendation to all donors to the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund and further encourage their continued support, and also call upon potential donors, including those from the beneficiary countries, to contribute to the LDCs/SIDS

Trust Fund's continuing efforts to build national capacity in the field of human rights; and

7. Express further appreciation to the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Forum of Small States (FOSS), the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) for their participation in the LDCs/SIDS Workshop for the Pacific Region.
8. Express appreciation for the briefings given by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), University of the South Pacific (USP) and Alliance for Future Generations (AFG).

#### **IV. THE LDCs/SIDS TRUST FUND**

We recognize the following, among the notable achievements of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund as mandated in HRC Resolution 34/40:

1. The convening of this Workshop for LDCs/SIDS in the Pacific Region constituted the second of a series of four (4) Workshops to be organized before 2022; enabling the participation of all LDCs/SIDS, particularly those without Missions in Geneva at the First Universal session of the HRC on the occasion of its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; and the Tenth Anniversary of the Fund;
2. This Workshop brought together, for the first time, delegates and fellows of the Pacific Region who have participated in a regular session of the HRC with the support of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund. We embraced this Workshop as a unique opportunity for the exchange of experience, information and ideas and for the documentation of best practices that would further enhance and strengthen the human rights capacity of our countries, at national, regional and international levels, including fostering effective participation in the work of the HRC and its mechanisms;
3. The milestone reached in the operations of the Trust Fund in June 2018, when the Pacific region became the second of the four (4) eligible regions to have received 100% support for all of its 12 Member

States to participate in the work of the HRC through the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund;

4. The creation of capacity building and supportive mechanisms including induction training, its work in different languages periodic briefing of LDCs/SIDS at United Nations Headquarters on the outcomes of regular and special sessions of the HRC, and the creation of an e-learning tool.

## **V. TOWARDS UNIVERSALITY OF THE HRC - LDCs/SIDS MEMBERSHIP**

We:

1. Welcome the successful election of two SIDS, namely; the Commonwealth of The Bahamas and the Republic of Fiji, on 12 October 2018 by the United Nations General Assembly, to the HRC for a three-year term from 2019-2021;
2. Further welcome the successful election of a second SIDS from the Pacific region, namely; the Republic of Marshall Islands, on 17 October 2019 by the United Nations General Assembly, to the HRC for a three-year term from 2020-2022, bringing to three the number of SIDS seating at the HRC<sup>1</sup>;
3. Welcome with profound appreciation the recent positive trend, where for the first time since the establishment of the HRC in 2006, three SIDS including 2 from the Pacific Region, were elected as members of the HRC and we encourage LDCs/SIDS to work in partnership with all other UN Members to sustain this momentum; and
4. Note with appreciation the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund's policies to encourage the participation of women and persons with disabilities in its programmes and activities, in accordance with the relevant HRC resolutions and in the interest of gender parity.

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<sup>1</sup> Bahamas

## **VI. PROPOSED ACTION POINTS FOR THE 2022 REVIEW OF THE MANDATE OF THE TRUST FUND**

After three days of intensive discussions, sharing of experiences, good practices, lessons learnt and opportunities explored, we, the Former Beneficiary Delegates and Fellows from the Pacific Region make the following recommendations for possible inclusion in OHCHR Report for presentation to the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of the HRC (February/March 2022 session):

### **THE WAY FORWARD – PRIORITIES**

We:

#### **1.Improving the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Programme**

- a) Propose that the Induction Programme be three days duration, to ensure the effective participation of the maximum number of beneficiaries;
- b) Note with appreciation the usefulness of the e-learning tool of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund that is cost-effective, interactive, accessible, gender-sensitive and available in the two working languages of the UN, designed for government officials from LDCs and SIDS, and recommend to update this unique tool, as necessary, to reflect possible new procedures at the HRC. It provides an example of a measure/tool that strengthens participation of beneficiary delegates and high-level officials in the HRC sessions as well as the outcome of the Workshop organized in different regions.
- c) Welcome with appreciation the added value of the inclusion of a session on HRC statements drafting in the Induction programme, conducted the week prior to the HRC session.
- d) Expand the capacity-building programme of the Trust Fund to include a Training Workshop on the preparation and presentation of draft of resolutions, and an annual “Train the Trainers” Workshop on the procedures and work of the HRC and its mechanisms, including the treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

- e) Suggest that the Trust Fund Secretariat conduct in country induction courses on the work of the HRC and its mechanisms at the request and cost of member States.
- f) Further encourages equal participation of countries in the Pacific region and strengthen cooperation between OHCHR LDCs/ SIDS Trust Fund Office with the OHCHR regional offices.

## **2. Ensuring Topics of Relevance to the SIDS are Discussed at the HRC**

- a) Encourage Pacific SIDS to engage with member States particularly members of the HRC, on issues of importance to SIDS that can be reflected in the agenda and its discussions.
- b) Note with appreciation the focus of this Workshop on four key themes that are of particular importance to the Pacific Region namely:
  - (i) Climate change crisis (noting that climate change affects fundamental human rights) – requesting the Council to:
    - a. continue to consider human rights and climate change on its agenda;
    - b. call for the creation of a Special Rapporteur on human rights and climate change with terms of reference taking into account the special case of SIDS; and
    - c. request a thematic report on human rights and climate change from the Secretary General;
  - (ii) Conservation, protection and sustainable use of our oceans and marine resources;
  - (iii) The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SAMOA Pathway; and
  - (iv) Gender equality and empowerment, including combating gender-based violence – by requesting the Council to:
    - a. increase technical support in implementing UPR recommendations on these issues;
    - b. encourage member States to collaborate with NGOs and civil society organizations in human rights activities; and

- c. support the country/regional sharing of good practices as well as country challenges in addressing gender-based violence.
- c) Encourage special procedures mandate holders to follow up on recommendations made.
- d) Continue to encourage high-level participation from SIDS in sessions of the HRC, which would allow Senior LDCs/SIDS officials to contribute to the discussion on issues of interest to the Pacific Region and bring their perspectives to the discourse in the Council.
- e) Continue to encourage the delivery of joint statements on behalf of SIDS, as necessary, including particularly on the occasion of Annual Thematic Days.
- f) Call on the Secretariat of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund to circulate in a timely manner the Programme of Work of the HRC to the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in New York and Geneva.

**3. *Develop the Capacities of SIDS/LDCs with no Geneva Permanent Missions to Participate Meaningfully at HRC Session***

- a) Urge the future Presidents of the HRC to meet with the SIDS in New York.
- b) Welcome and commend the initiative of the HRC Secretariat to set up in June 2019 a Help Desk aimed at ensuring that LDCs/SIDS have direct and concrete information on the functioning of the HRC prior, during and after the conduct of regular sessions of the HRC.
- c) Encourage the Trust Fund Secretariat to continue its briefing with New York-based LDCs/SIDS Missions after the convening of regular sessions of the HRC, in accordance with Resolution 34/40.
- d) Update the e-learning tool developed by the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund, raise awareness of its availability, and disseminate the tool to all SIDS.
- e) Encourage the full use of the information and communication technologies available to follow the work of the HRC.



- f) Deepen the relationship between the five Pacific LDCs/SIDS Permanent Missions in Geneva and the Pacific Island Forum Members in New York.
- g) Promote the development of regional and sub-regional capacity building initiatives in cooperation with key stakeholders.
- h) Continue to encourage visiting Commonwealth SIDS who participate in the HRC to make full use of the facilities available at the Commonwealth Small States Office in Geneva.
- i) Encourage LDCs/SIDS from the Pacific Region with Permanent Missions in Geneva to consider assisting other LDCs/SIDS from the Pacific having interest in attending a particular regular session of the Council.

**4. Strengthen the Capacities of SIDS/LDCS with Small Delegations in Geneva**

- a) Note that among the 12 Pacific Region LDCs/SIDS eligible for Trust Fund Support, only five, (Fiji, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu), have established a Permanent Mission in Geneva;
- b) Welcome with appreciation the opening of the new Permanent Missions of Vanuatu, the Republic of Marshall Islands and Nauru, as SIDS, between February 2018 and June 2019;
- c) Encourage other SIDS, if they are in position to do so, to open a mission in Geneva and to seek support from Switzerland as Host Country and or from the Commonwealth, through its Small States Office (CSSO), if applicable.
- d) Suggest for consideration that the five SIDS that have a Permanent Mission in Geneva to establish a caucus or a permanent forum to discuss human rights issues on a regular basis and to build on the experience and the functioning of the SIDS caucus in New York;
- e) Propose for consideration that the existing SIDS Permanent Missions in Geneva designate two members of the group to jointly co-chair a meeting in Geneva with the Group of Friends of the SIDS, donor countries and all interested stakeholders to debrief on the outcome of the Workshop for the Pacific Region, and to invite the 2019 HRC

President and the 2020 HRC President Designate (14<sup>th</sup> Cycle) to attend the meeting;

- f) Encourage the Trust Fund Secretariat to provide regular briefings to delegations in Geneva in order to improve information sharing and develop the capacities of LDCs/SIDS delegates;
- g) Facilitate the participation of Geneva-based SIDS delegates in relevant segments of the LDCs/SIDS induction programme or the fellowship programme.

**5. Enhancing the role of the OHCHR Regional Office for the Pacific region;**

- a) Note the mandate of the OHCHR Regional Office for the Pacific; and
- b) Urge the Office to increase its initiatives in particular with technical assistance towards the implementation of the Nadi Declaration; and
- c) Further encourage the OHCHR through its regional office in the Pacific to enhance their support for LDCs/SIDS participation in the work of the HRC.

**6. SIDS and LDCs membership on the HRC**

- a) Note the value of continuing membership of SIDS and LDCs on the HRC in particular from the Pacific region.

**7. Increasing the number of HRC Experts and information from the PSIDS**

- a) Encourage governments to continue to put forward and support the nomination of experts, particularly women, for the Special Procedures of the HRC;
- b) Encourage SIDS to establish a database of qualified experts, where possible candidates could be drawn from for nomination for election to fill vacant Special Procedures mandates and to participate in

relevant panel discussions that may be organized by the HRC in the future;

- c) Note and encourage the development of initiatives and tools for coordinating and monitoring implementation of human rights and the SDGs such as SADATA (Samoa Database) and encourage other Pacific SIDS to consider adopting a similar approach;
- d) Request the HRC Secretariat to strengthen its efforts to ensure that relevant information regarding appointments to HRC bodies is accessible and widely disseminated in a timely manner to LDCs/SIDS;

#### **8. LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Inter-regional and International Cooperation Networks**

- a) Welcome the assistance offered by interregional and international organisations and other partners to enhance their support for LDCs and SIDS participation in the work of the HRC.
- b) Encourage the Trust Fund Secretariat to continue to strengthen its collaboration with partners, particularly the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Forum of Small States (FOSS), the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community Regional Rights Resources Team (SPC-RRRT)

#### **9. Key Strategies for ensuring the sustainability of the Trust Fund: Increasing the Donor base**

- a) Welcome with profound appreciation to the increase in LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund contributions from donor partners in 2018, and in prior years;
- b) Commend the Secretariat of the Trust Fund for its leadership and supportive role, including for initiatives aimed at expanding the support from donor countries for LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund;

- c) Further encourage the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Secretariat and beneficiary governments to work towards increasing and broadening donor contributions by convening regular briefings for donors of the Trust Fund to highlight the achievements of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund;
- d) Request the Trust Fund Secretariat to organize, as appropriate, donor pledging activities, at Ambassadorial level, in Geneva and New York in the margins of its regular briefings as mandated by HRC 34/40, in collaboration with countries that are beneficiaries of the Trust Fund.;
- e) Take note of the meeting between the Trust Fund and the caucus of the Pacific SIDS in New York in May 2019;
- f) Welcome the accreditation of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) in Geneva to the Human Rights Council, and encourage the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund to brief the PIFS in the margins of its briefing in New York;
- g) Promote information sharing and raising of public awareness about the Trust Fund, through additional publications and public events centered around notable achievements of the Trust Fund, using various media, including social media;
- h) Encourage beneficiary LDCs and SIDS as well as, other interested stakeholders to promote the Trust Fund in various multilateral fora in order to increase the number of donors and contributions.

#### **10. Conduct of the Next Regional Workshops**

- a) Recommend to the Trust Fund Secretariat that forthcoming Regional Workshops in the Asia and Africa regions should be of three days duration, and that select former Beneficiary Delegates of two other regions should be invited to participate;
- b) Request the Trust Fund Secretariat and host of the Regional Workshops to brief the donors following the convening of each Workshop;

- c) Further request that as per the practice established following the Workshop for the Caribbean Region, that the Permanent Mission of Fiji to UNOG convey the Nadi Declaration to the President of the HRC (2019), requesting the President to circulate it for information to all Permanent Missions in Geneva;
  
- d) Request the Secretariat to consult broadly, including particularly the LDCs/SIDS on the scheduling of Workshops, to ensure that it does not conflict with other major international and regional meetings and to avoid additional burden for LDCs/SIDS given their limited capacities; and
  
- e) Encourage future HRC Presidents to participate in forthcoming Regional Workshops for the Asia and Africa regions.

### **11. Review of the Declarations of the Regional Workshops**

- a) Request the Trust Fund Secretariat to organize prior to the drafting of the OHCHR report a meeting with a cross-section of representatives that participated in the four LDCs/SIDS Regional Workshops to review the Declarations.
  
- b) Strongly recommend that a universal session of the HRC be convened on the occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of the establishment of the Trust Fund ( March 2022) and request a draft decision be tabled in this regard no later than the 2021 September regular session of the HRC.
  
- c) We recognised and expressed support for the action points included in “The Georgetown Declaration: Towards 2022” agreed by the Caribbean Region Workshop.

**Done in Nadi, Republic of Fiji , on Thursday 21 November 2019**