

Closing of LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Workshop
Closing Remarks by the Solicitor-General of the Republic of Fiji

The President of the Human Rights Council, His Excellency Ambassador Coly Seck;

The Chief of the Human Rights Council Branch, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva;

The Regional Representative of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Suva;

Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

Bula vinaka and good afternoon to you all,

1. This week has been a historic moment for Fiji and indeed the Pacific region in that we have been honored for the first time with the visit of the President of the Human Rights Council, His Excellency Mr Coly Seck.
2. This is indeed a unique privilege as the participants have had the opportunity to engage with the President directly through interactive discussions on the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund and share their experiences and challenges that impact their effective engagement with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms.
3. We know that issues with respect to technical capacity and resources are cross cutting for they are not exclusive to one particular country or region but also remain a concern for Fiji and the Pacific.

4. We note that discussions this week also centered on various priorities of LDCs/SIDS which may be brought before the Human Rights Council for consideration. In particular, there was some discussion on climate change and the environment.
5. As a small island developing State, we recognise the inextricable links between climate change, disaster resilience and human rights, vis-à-vis the special vulnerabilities of women, children and persons with disabilities in climate and disaster induced migration, and the value and intrinsic need for a human rights based approach when addressing issues with respect to human mobility due to climate change.
6. You will no doubt agree that we must enact robust legislative and policy framework not just in relation to a disaster response, but also to building strong and resilient communities to ensure the protection of basic human rights and freedoms and human dignity in the face of climate change and natural disasters.
7. In spite of our vulnerabilities and challenges, LDCs and SIDS have made significant strides in building a responsible culture of human rights; and we continue to be committed to the same.
8. This is why we acknowledge and support the work of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund as an important resource to strengthen our technical and institutional capacities to ensure our effective participation and engagement with the Human Rights Council.

9. We reaffirm the sentiments of the President in His Excellency's opening remarks – that the participation of every country, regardless of size or geographic situation, is crucial to the work of the Human Rights Council.

10. We also note and congratulate the participants on the adoption of the Nadi Declaration and we hope to continue to support the work of the Trust Fund.

11. Once again, on behalf of the Fijian Government we thank the Human Rights Council President His Excellency Mr Coly Seck for his leadership at the Human Rights Council. We also wish all the participants a safe travel back to your home countries and hope that you did get a chance to enjoy and experience the Fijian culture and hospitality besides our beautiful beaches. We also look forward to opportunities to strengthen LDCs and SIDs cooperation to ensure our effective participation the Human Rights Council.

Vinaka