



THE YEAR



IN REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BENEFICIARY DELEGATE OF THE TRUST FUND

On 22 June 2018, during a side event that was supported by Denmark, the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the work of the Human Rights Council (HRC) announced that its 100th Beneficiary Delegate, Ms. Elsie Pakiamala Fukofoka, is coming from the Kingdom of Tonga; one of the SIDS without a permanent mission in Geneva.



Credit: OHCHR/HRCB Danielle Kirby; Caption: Ms. Elsie Pakiamala Fukofoka, (Kingdom of Tonga), 100th beneficiary delegate of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund, June 2018

“I come from a small island that faces resource constraints, which makes it difficult for us to participate consistently in the Human Rights Council sessions in Geneva. It is critical for small island nations like Tonga to have our voices heard at the HRC. Being here allows us to speak directly to the global community about those resource constraints,” Ms. Fukofoka said. “On behalf of the 99 other Beneficiary Delegates who have benefited from this Trust Fund, I would like to thank all of those who have contributed to the Trust Fund.”

H.E. Ms. Eva Kjer Hansen, Danish Minister for Fisheries and Equal Opportunities and Minister for Nordic Cooperation, praised the efforts of the Trust Fund to support the ongoing representation of LDCs and SIDS at Human Rights Council sessions. *“We are celebrating the work of this special Trust Fund, which promotes and makes it possible for delegates from the LDCs and SIDS to come and participate in the work of the Human Rights Council. This is important because universal participation in the Human Rights Council is crucial, irrespective of a country’s size, wealth, population or strength.”*

Deputy High Commissioner of Human Rights, Ms. Kate Gilmore, noted the important achievements of the Trust Fund, including the vital training and capacity-building support it has provided to Beneficiaries, as well as the positive aspects that their participation brings to Human Rights Council discussions. *“Together, let us ensure that the success story of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund continues and that we are able to achieve our goal of securing universal participation at every session of the Human Rights Council,”* she said at the closing of her remarks.



Credit: OHCHR/HRCB Danielle Kirby; Caption: LDCs/SIDS Beneficiary delegates at HRC38, Launch of the Photo Boot to promote universal participation and gender parity at HRC, with the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights Kate Gilmore and the Minister for Equal Opportunities and Nordic Cooperation (Denmark) H.E. Ms Eva Kjer Hansen, 22 June 2018, Palais des Nations.

This event was also an opportunity to **launch the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund photo booth to promote universal participation at the Human Rights Council**. It was inaugurated by the Danish Minister, the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, the 100th Beneficiary Delegate and the seven current Beneficiary Delegates.

The photo booth was operational for a four-day period. Beneficiary Delegates, representatives of NGOs and civil society, as well as other interested stakeholders, were invited to choose a banner that best represented their thoughts regarding universal participation at the Human Rights Council and to take a picture (individual or group) in front of that banner. **The photo booth attracted a lot of attention. More than 300 pictures were taken!**

THE FIRST REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR LDCs/SIDS IN THE CARIBBEAN

On 19-20 November 2018, the Trust Fund Secretariat organized the first regional workshop in Georgetown (Guyana). The workshop was mandated by Human Rights Council resolution 34/40 and brought together **23 former Beneficiary** Delegates and Fellows (**18 women** and five men) from the Caribbean region who had participated in a regular session of the HRC. **The two-day workshop**, which was organized with the support of the Government of Guyana and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, **marked the first official visit by a sitting HRC President to the region** (Ambassador Vojislav Šuc of Slovenia). It was opened by H.E. Mr. Moses Nagamootoo, First Vice President of Guyana and Acting President.



Credit: DPI/Guyana Caption:Opening Ceremony LDCs/SIDS Workshop for the Caribbean Region, 19-20 November 2018, Georgetown, Guyana From left to right: Ambassador Missouri Sherman Peter (Permanent Observer of CARICOM to the United Nations in New York); Eric Tistounet (Chief, Human Rights Council Branch, OHCHR The Hon. Moses Verasammy Nagamootoo (First Vice-President and Prime Minister of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, performing functions of the President); Ambassador Vojislav Šuc (President of the United Nations Human Rights Council - Twelfth Cycle, 2018); Ambassador Colin Granderson (Assistant Secretary-General, Directorate for Foreign and Community Relations – CARICOM) and Ms. Fatou Camara Houel (Coordinator of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund).

At the workshop, participants adopted the **“Georgetown Declaration: Towards 2022,”** aimed at enhancing the participation of SIDS in the HRC. **The Georgetown Declaration outlines a series of recommendations and priorities for the next four years.** The priorities include concerted efforts to improve the functioning of the Trust Fund and ensure that discussions are held on topics of particular interest to SIDS of the Caribbean. At the request of the 2018 HRC President, **the document was circulated to all permanent missions in Geneva** on 4 December 2018.

More details on the Georgetown workshop, such as the programme, concept note, list of participants, statements and press releases,

link: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/TrustFund/Pages/RegionalWorkshops.aspx>

The Georgetown Declaration: Towards 2022 is available at:

https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/LDCs_SIDS/Workshops/CaribbeanRegion/GeorgetownDeclarationTowards2022.pdf

FACTS AND FIGURES

In 2018, the Trust Fund provided support to **23 Beneficiary Delegates and 2 Fellows from 24 LDCs/SIDS** (10 from Africa, five from the Latin America and the Caribbean and nine from Asia and the Pacific). Among the 25 Beneficiary Delegates and Fellows, **14 were women**.

Africa: Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Seychelles, South Sudan, Sudan and Zambia.

Latin America and the Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Asia and the Pacific: Afghanistan (2 times), Bangladesh, Marshall Islands, Nepal, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Yemen.

Six of the Beneficiary Delegates and Fellows who participated in the triennial sessions of the HRC represented SIDS that **do not have permanent representation in Geneva: two in the Caribbean Region** (Antigua and Barbuda; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) and **four in the Pacific Region** (Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu).

FIRST TIME PARTICIPATION

For all 25 of the Beneficiary Delegates and Fellows supported by the Trust Fund this year, it was **their first time** participating in a regular session of the Human Rights Council.

WHERE DO BENEFICIARY DELEGATES AND FELLOWS WORK?

	Beneficiary Delegates and Fellows
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	13
Ministry of Justice	3
Attorney's General Office	4
Ministry of Human Rights	2
Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs and Culture	1
Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development	1
Permanent Mission in New York	1

CONTRIBUTIONS

DURING THREE REGULAR SESSIONS OF THE HRC

Beneficiary Delegates and Fellows that participated in one of the three regular sessions of the HRC in 2018 delivered **nine joint statements** on behalf of the Trust Fund Beneficiaries and statements in their national capacities, **for a total of 25 statements.**

BEYOND ROOM XX

Events organized with the support of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund

Geneva

In 2018, **19 events were held** in the margins of the three regular sessions of the HRC in Geneva. These events were organized by **9 permanent missions (Australia, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Maldives, Pakistan and Portugal)**; the Office of the President of the HRC; the Human Rights Unit of the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Universal Rights Group.

New York

In July 2018, the Trust Fund organized **a briefing with the CARICOM Caucus of Permanent Representatives** ahead of the first regional workshop for LDCs/SIDS to be held in the Caribbean region. It also **conducted a briefing with representatives of LDCs/SIDS missions at UN Headquarters**.

Ambassador Vojislav Šuc (Slovenia), **President of the HRC in 2018** participated in both of these well-attended briefings.

Delegates expressed their appreciation for the briefings that were organized in accordance with HRC resolution 34/40. They remarked that these briefings provided **valuable and timely background information**, which enabled more informed participation in the discussions of the General Assembly's Third Committee.

GREATER VISIBILITY OF THE TRUST FUND'S ACTIVITIES

In an effort to increase the visibility of the Trust Fund and showcase the contributions made by Beneficiary Delegates, a **new document was launched in 2018, namely, “LDCs/SIDS Facts and Figures at the HRC.”**

This document will be updated and released at the end of each regular HRC session. Its main objective is **to provide key information on the Beneficiary Delegates and their contributions to the debates and events organized** in support of universality at the sessions they attended.

This new document **has been well received** by Beneficiary Delegates, donors to the Fund and other interested stakeholders. Feedback has demonstrated that they found it to be informative, practical and timely.



The first three editions of Facts and Figures from 2018 are available on the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund webpage at:
<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/TrustFund/Pages/FactFiguresHRCSessions.aspx>

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

TOWARDS UNIVERSAL PARTICIPATION IN THE HRC

Since it became operational on 1 January 2014, the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund has supported 110 Beneficiary Delegates and Fellows (65 women and 45 men) coming from 69 of the 72 eligible LDCs/SIDS (33 from Africa, 19 from Asia and the Pacific and 14 from the Caribbean and Latin America).

The Trust Fund has supported, at least once:

- All of the LDCs/SIDS that do not have a permanent mission in Geneva (milestone reached in June 2016);
- All of the 14 LDCs and SIDS of the Caribbean and Latin America (milestone reached in June 2017);
- All of the 22 LDCs and SIDS of Asia and the Pacific (milestone reached in March 2018);
- 33 of the 35 LDCs and SIDS of Africa;
- All of the LDCs/SIDS that are members of the Commonwealth (milestone reached in March 2018);
- All of the five LDCs/SIDS that are members of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (milestone reached in March 2018); and
- 28 of the 29 LDCs/SIDS members of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie.

DONORS

TRUST

THE WORK OF THE TRUST FUND

Figures that speak for themselves

In 2018, a total of **18** countries contributed to the Trust Fund. Among them, **four** were first-time donors.

In 2015, only three countries were donors to the Trust Fund. Between 2015 and 2018, **in less than three years, the number of donors multiplied by six.**

As of the end of 2018, a total of 26 donors have supported the Trust Fund since **its establishment.**

[Link to the list of donors to the Trust Fund \(as of 31 December 2018\):](https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/TrustFund/Pages/DonorTrustFund.aspx)

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/TrustFund/Pages/DonorTrustFund.aspx>

OUR GOALS FOR 2019

Goal 1: Secure the participation of the three LDCs/SIDS in Africa that have not yet benefited from the Trust Fund, thereby **reaching all 72 eligible LDCs/SIDS in the world and 100 per cent of all African LDCs/SIDS.**

Goal 2: Organize **the second workshop for LDCs/SIDS in the Pacific region** and adopt a declaration similar to the Georgetown Declaration Towards 2022 that was adopted at the first regional workshop for LDCs/SIDS in the Caribbean region.

Goal 3: Reach the symbolic threshold of **30 donors to the Trust Fund.**

Join the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund success story!

A HUMAN RIGHTS SUCCESS STORY

For further information on this document and/or the work of the Trust Fund, kindly contact Ms. Fatou Camara Houel, Coordinator, LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund at fhouel@ohchr.org. The Secretariat of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund may be contacted at sidslcdc@ohchr.org and its website is available at www.ohchr.org/sidslcdc