



# **VOLUNTARY FUND FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**UPR Branch  
(May 2020)**

## **Introduction**

The Voluntary Fund for participation in the universal periodic review (“the Fund”) was established in 2008, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 6/17, to facilitate the participation of developing countries, particularly least developed countries (LDCs), in the universal periodic review mechanism.

Under the terms of reference of the Fund, financial support is made available to developing countries, in particular LDCs, to cover travel to Geneva by one official government representative in order to participate in:

- **sessions of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review during which the representative’s country is considered; and**
- **plenary sessions of the Human Rights Council during which the outcome of the review of the representative’s country is adopted.**

Funding is also available for:

- **travel of representatives of developing countries, and in particular LDCs, which are members of the Human Rights Council and which do not have a permanent mission in Geneva, to act as Rapporteur (i.e. member of the “troika”)<sup>1</sup>; and**
- **training of Member States in the preparation of national reports.**

Following the approval of its terms of reference in 2008, the Fund became operational as a voluntary trust fund administered by the Secretary-General through OHCHR. Given the nature of the Fund and the activities it was designed to support, it was deemed unnecessary to establish a board of trustees.

Resolution 16/21, adopted in March 2011 before the end of the UPR 1st cycle, stipulated that the fund should be strengthened and operationalized in order to encourage a significant participation of developing countries, particularly LDCs and small island developing States (SIDS), in their review.

The Fund provides return air tickets from the capital of the representative’s country to Geneva as well as the daily subsistence allowance based on the official meeting schedule and itinerary.

In accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 6/30 on integrating the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system, and other resolutions subsequently adopted by the Human Rights Council, the UPR Secretariat has been encouraging States to consider gender balance in the composition of their delegation and in the sharing of responsibilities among its members.

---

<sup>1</sup> To date, all States elected to the Human Rights Council have a permanent mission in Geneva. Consequently, there have been no requests for financial assistance to participate in a session as a rapporteur.

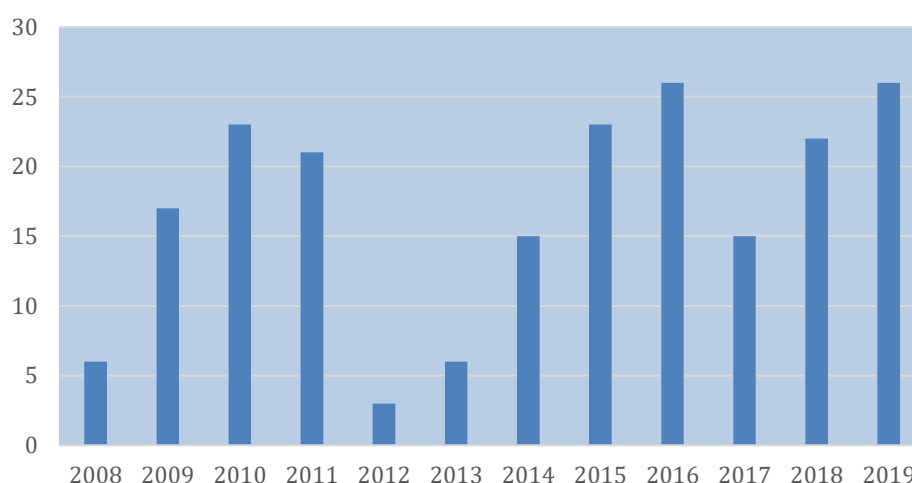
## **Beneficiary countries**

Since the Fund became operational in 2008, **111 States**, out of 193 States Members of the United Nations, have been assisted for travel. Out of these 111 States, approximately **40 per cent** are **LDCs**<sup>2</sup> and **33 per cent** are **SIDS**<sup>3</sup> (See annexes 1 and 2 for the lists of beneficiary countries by region and year.).

Number of countries funded per year to attend sessions of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review and the Human Rights Council plenary:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of countries funded</b> <sup>4</sup>
2008	6
2009	17
2010	23
2011	21
2012	3
2013	6
2014	15
2015	23
2016	26
2017	15
2018	22
2019	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>203</b>

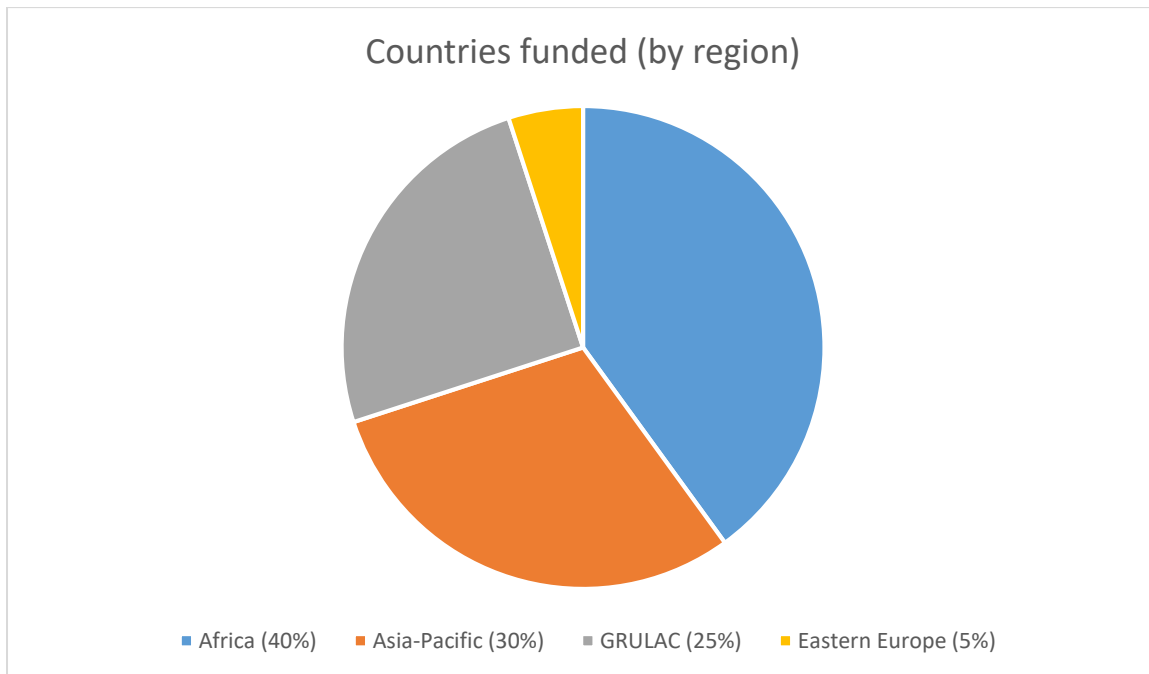
Number of countries funded



<sup>2</sup> This includes the Maldives and Samoa, which were LDCs at the time of the funding but subsequently graduated from the LDC status in 2011 and 2014 respectively. For the list of LDCs as of 13 December 2018, see: <http://unohrlls.org/custom-content/uploads/2018/12/list-of-least-developed-countries-rev1.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> For the list of SIDS, see: <http://unohrlls.org/about-sids/country-profiles/>

<sup>4</sup> Countries are counted more than once if they benefited from the funding in more than one UPR cycle, as well as if their review in the UPR Working Group and the adoption of their UPR outcomes at the Human Rights Council plenary in the given cycle took place in different years.

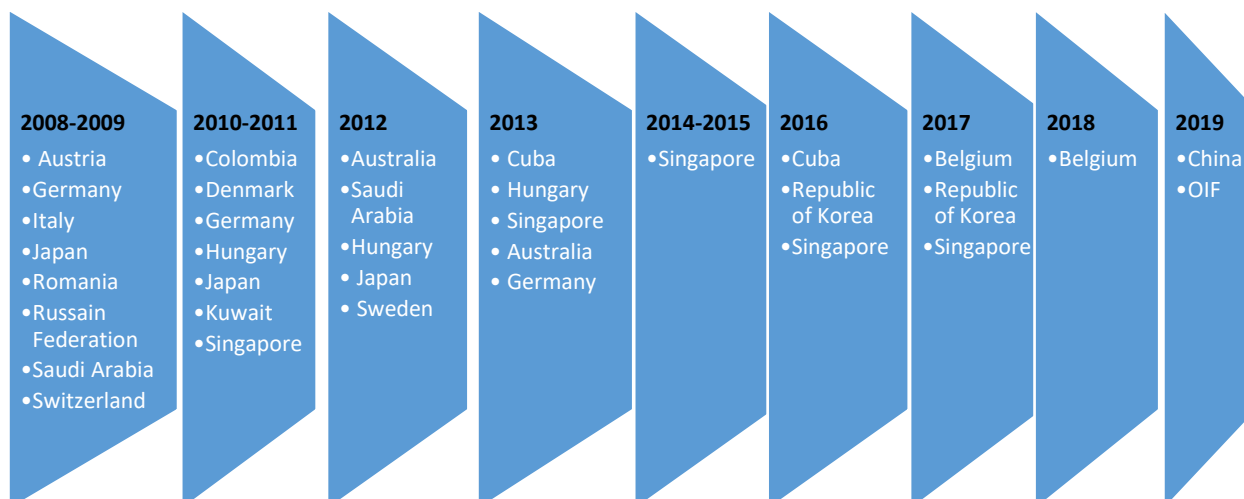


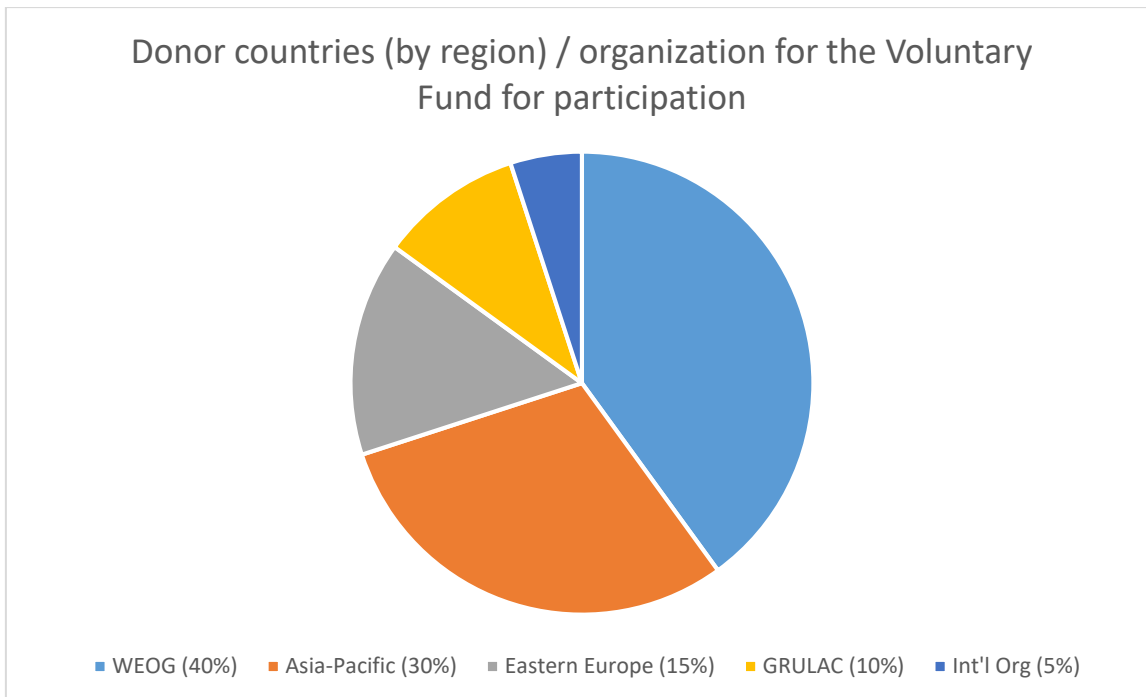
## Contributions to the Fund

The Fund can receive voluntary contributions from States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations or private institutions and individuals. Since the establishment of the Fund in 2008, 19 countries have made financial contributions:

***Austria, Australia, Belgium, China, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland***

Furthermore, in 2019, for the first time since the establishment of the Fund, an intergovernmental organization, the International Organization of la Francophonie (OIF), made a contribution to the Fund.





## **Beneficiaries in 2018 and 2019**

In 2018, out of the 29 States considered eligible for the travel assistance, 22 States requested funding to participate in the sessions of the UPR Working Group or in the Human Rights Council plenary sessions. From the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2018, the UPR Secretariat reached out to eligible States more actively by sending them targeted correspondence and encouraged them to avail themselves of the Fund. In total, 24 delegates<sup>5</sup> (9 women / 15 men) were assisted.

In 2019, 26 of the 42 States considered eligible benefited from financial assistance to participate in the sessions of the Working Group at which they were reviewed or in the Human Rights Council plenary sessions. In total, 31 delegates (13 women / 18 men) received funds.

### **29<sup>th</sup> UPR WG session (January 2018)**

**8 delegates** from the Bahamas, Barbados, Botswana, Burundi, Mali, Montenegro, Serbia, Tonga

**2 LDCs:** Burundi, Mali / **3 SIDS:** Bahamas, Barbados, Tonga

<sup>5</sup> When States nominated the same delegate to participate in both sessions of the UPR Working Group and the Human Rights Council plenary, it is counted as one delegate.

**Region<sup>6</sup>**

Africa	Asia-Pacific	Eastern Europe	GRULAC <sup>7</sup>
3	1	2	2

**Gender**

Female	Male
5	3

**Affiliation**

MOFA	Other
4	4

<b>30<sup>th</sup> UPR WG session (May 2018)</b>
--

**5 delegates** from Cabo Verde, Cuba, Djibouti, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan

**2 LDCs:** Djibouti, Tuvalu / **3 SIDS:** Cabo Verde, Cuba, Tuvalu

**Region**

Africa	Asia-Pacific	Eastern Europe	GRULAC
2	2	0	1

**Gender**

Female	Male
2	3

**Affiliation**

MOFA	MOJ	Other
2	1	2

<b>39<sup>th</sup> HRC session (September 2018)</b>
---

**3 delegates** from Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Tuvalu

**3 LDCs:** Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Tuvalu / **1 SIDS:** Tuvalu

**Region**

Africa	Asia-Pacific
2	1

<sup>6</sup> It is according to the United Nations Regional Groups of Member States:

<https://www.un.org/depts/DGACM/RegionalGroups.shtml>

<sup>7</sup> Latin America and Caribbean Group

**Gender**

Female	Male
0	3

**Affiliation**

MOFA	MOJ
2	1

<b>31<sup>st</sup> UPR WG session (October – November 2018)</b>
---

**8 delegates** from Belize, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Jordan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nigeria

**2 LDCs:** Central African Republic, Chad / **2 SIDS:** Belize, Mauritius

**Region**

Africa	Asia-Pacific	Eastern Europe	GRULAC
5	2	0	1

**Gender**

Female	Male
2	6

**Affiliation**

MOFA	MOJ
4	4

<b>32<sup>nd</sup> UPR WG session (January – February 2019)</b>
---

**9 delegates** from Afghanistan, Cambodia, Chile, Comoros, Dominican Republic, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Uruguay, Yemen

**4 LDCs:** Cambodia, Comoros, Vanuatu, Yemen / **3 SIDS:** Comoros, Dominican Republic, Vanuatu

**Region**

Africa	Asia-Pacific	GRULAC
1	5	3

**Gender**

Female	Male
3	6

#### Affiliation

MOFA	MOJ	NMRF*	Other
4	2	1	2

\*national mechanism for reporting and follow-up

### 40<sup>th</sup> HRC session (February – March 2019)

**5 delegates** from Belize, Central African Republic, Chad, Senegal, Mauritius

**4 LDCs:** Central African Republic, Chad, Senegal, Mauritius / **2 SIDS:** Belize, Mauritius

#### Region

Africa	GRULAC
4	1

#### Gender

Female	Male
0	5

#### Affiliation

MOFA	MOJ
1	4

### 33<sup>rd</sup> UPR WG session (May 2019)

**4 delegates** from Bhutan, Costa Rica, DPRK, Dominica

**1 LDC:** Bhutan / **1 SIDS:** Dominica

#### Region

Asia-Pacific	GRULAC
2	2

#### Gender

Female	Male
2	2

#### Affiliation

MOFA	Other
1	3



### 41<sup>st</sup> HRC session (June – July 2019)

**5 delegates** from Cambodia, Comoros, North Macedonia, Uruguay, Viet Nam  
**2 LDCs:** Cambodia, Comoros / **1 SIDS:** Comoros

#### Region

Africa	GRULAC
4	1

#### Gender

Female	Male
3	2

#### Affiliation

MOFA	NRMF	Other
2	2	1

### 42<sup>nd</sup> HRC session (September 2019)

**3 delegates** from Albania, Bhutan, Dominica  
**1 LDC:** Bhutan / **1 SIDS:** Dominica

#### Region

Asia-Pacific	GRULAC	Eastern Europe
1	1	1

#### Gender

Female	Male
3	0

#### Affiliation

MOFA	Other
2	1

## 34<sup>th</sup> UPR WG session (November 2019)

**6 delegates** from Angola, Egypt, El Salvador, Gambia, Kazakhstan, Madagascar  
**2 LDCs:** Angola, Madagascar / **0 SIDS**

### Region

Africa	Asia-Pacific	GRULAC
4	1	1

### Gender

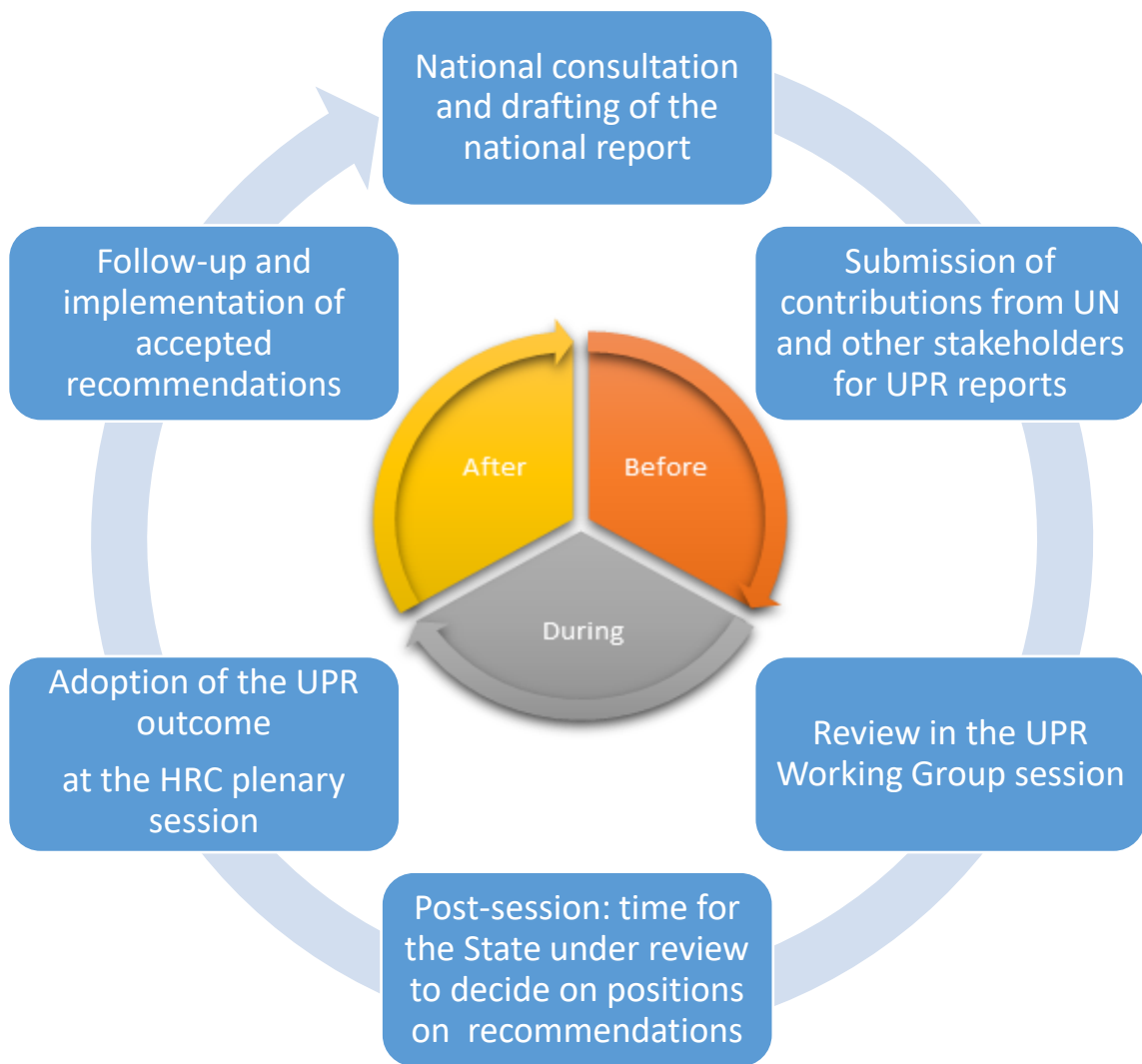
Female	Male
3	3

### Affiliation

MOFA	MOJ
4	2

## Conclusion

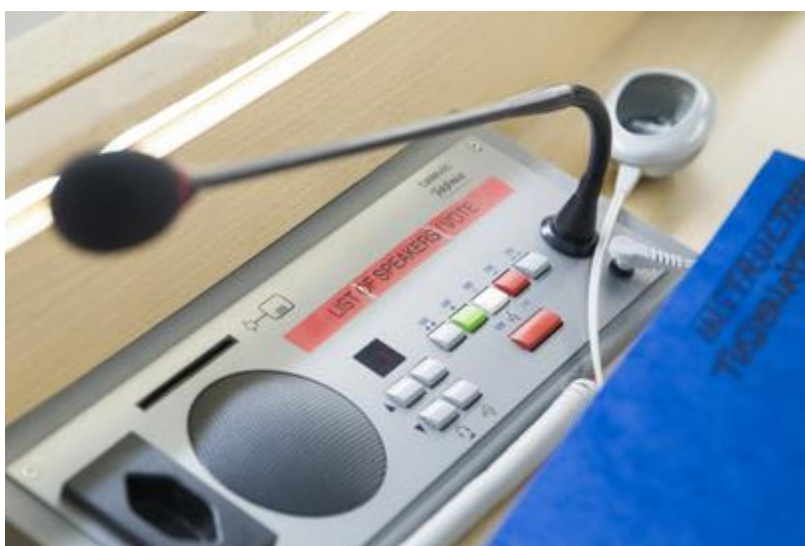
The Voluntary Fund for participation in the universal periodic review is instrumental in ensuring the presence of many delegation members in the sessions of the UPR Working Group and the Human Rights Council plenary. It allows those members to participate in the presentation of national reports describing the implementation of previous recommendations at the national level. This further feeds into an interactive dialogue during the review, which contributes anew to recommendations that are constructive, specific and action-oriented, to be implemented by the subsequent cycle. OHCHR will continue this strategic use of the Fund, which contributes to the increasing understanding of the review as a full process, in particular at the national level, focusing on the implementation of recommendations.



**FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY  
NOT AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT**

For any query, please contact the UPR Secretariat at:  
[UPRStates@ohchr.org](mailto:UPRStates@ohchr.org)

For more information, please see:  
<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRTrustFunds.aspx>



## Annex 1

### Beneficiary countries per region

<b>Africa</b> <b>44 countries</b>	Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe
<b>Asia-Pacific</b> <b>33 countries</b>	Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of ), Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated State of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen
<b>GRULAC</b> <b>28 countries</b>	Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay
<b>Eastern Europe</b> <b>6 countries</b>	Albania, Armenia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia
<b>TOTAL</b> <b>111 countries</b>	

## Annex 2

### Beneficiary countries per year

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2019</b>  (26 countries)</p>	<p>Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Belize, Bhutan, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Comoros, Costa Rica, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Gambia, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, Mauritius, North Macedonia, Senegal, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Uruguay, Yemen</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2018</b>  (22 countries)</p>	<p>Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Cuba, Djibouti, Jordan, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Montenegro, Nigeria, Serbia, Tonga, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2017</b>  (15 countries)</p>	<p>Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Gabon, Guatemala, Indonesia, Peru, Republic of Moldova, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2016</b>  (26 countries)</p>	<p>Antigua and Barbuda, Haiti, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mozambique, Niger, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Moldova, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Swaziland, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2015</b>  (23 countries)</p>	<p>Armenia, Fiji, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2014</b>  (15 countries)</p>	<p>Afghanistan, Belize, Bhutan, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Ethiopia, Fiji, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Madagascar, Nicaragua, Vanuatu, Yemen</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2013</b>  (6 countries)</p>	<p>Bahamas, Belize, Central African Republic, Montenegro, Tonga, Tuvalu</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2012</b>  (3 countries)</p>	<p>Benin, Guatemala, Sri Lanka</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1<sup>st</sup> cycle: 2008-2011</b></p>	<p>Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic</p>

**(67 countries)**

Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Eswatini, Fiji, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nicaragua, Niger, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Suriname, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, Vanuatu, Yemen