

Welcoming Remarks by Mr. Adam Abdelmoula

Director Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division

Official Welcome Ceremony of Small Island Developing States without Permanent representation in Geneva

Thursday 9 June 2016, Room XX, Palais des Nations, 08:45 am -9:30 a.m

On behalf of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, and in my capacity as Director of the Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division which administers **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**, I am particularly honoured to welcome all of you, here in the Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Room, seat of the Human Rights Council.

The High Commissioner has stated and I quote, "The adoption by the Human Rights Council of resolution 19/26 in March 2012, which established the Trust Fund, was a landmark decision through which the Council recognized the importance of ensuring that all 193 Member States, particularly those without a Permanent Mission in Geneva, have the opportunity to contribute to its work."

I would like to commend two colleagues who are working in my Office: Ms. Fatou Camara Houel, my Special Assistant, who is also the Coordinator of the Trust Fund, and Mr. John Bolmer, Programme Assistant. Both of them have worked tirelessly over the past weeks to ensure that all of you are with us today.

As you know, on Monday 13 June 2016 we will all celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Human Rights Council. The participation from SIDS without permanent representation in Geneva will make this session both unique and memorable. It is also worth noting that the majority of you are women. OHCHR encourages the participation of women in all discussions and at all levels. This is a commitment of the High Commissioner.

This anniversary marks an historic and significant milestone since the Human Rights Council was first established; for the participants, for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, for the United Nations Office at Geneva and for the entire human rights community.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is proud to have contributed to this historic event.

Thank you.