



LDCs/SIDS BENEFICIARY FELLOWS PARTICIPATING IN THE LDCs/SIDS TRUST FUND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME 2023 (6 September – 30 November 2023)

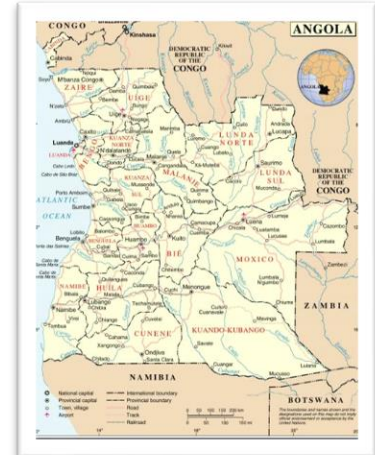
1	Angola	Ms. Sónia Serrão
2	Bahamas	Ms. Akeyra E. Saunders-Gabriel
3	Kiribati	Ms. Aileen Bauro
4	Madagascar	Ms. Soafara Ruphine
5	Maldives	Ms. Mizna Waheed



Angola

Sónia Serrão

Diplomat, 2nd Secretary, Ministry of External Relations of Angola



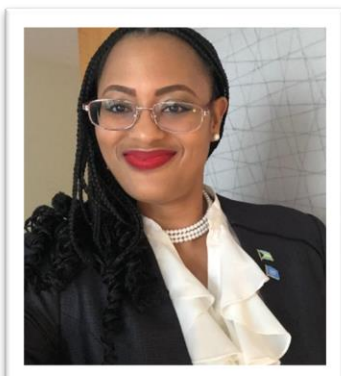
Ms. Serrão considers it a privilege to have been selected for the LDCs/SIDS 2023 Fellowship programme. As a diplomat, she hopes that this experience will enhance her ability to support her country's participation in the work of the Human Rights Council and advise the Angolan authorities on the importance of integrating human rights into the national political framework. She expects to enrich her knowledge about the Council, its mechanisms and processes and to have the knowledge gained reflected in her job performance and engagement on human rights matters.

Subject of research project: CIERNDH (Angolan national system for implementation, reporting and follow-up) - the role of NMIRF in bridging the implementation gap and fulfilling national human rights strategy.

Bahamas

Akeyra E. Saunders-Gabriel

Senior Crown Counsel, Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Legal Affairs



Mrs. Gabriel served in the military with the Royal Bahamas Defence Force from 2005 before joining the Office of the Attorney-General in 2015, where she enjoyed most of her stint as a prosecutor in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. She joined the newly formed “Human Rights Unit” in the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Legal Affairs in March 2019 and has undertaken several development courses, workshops, and symposiums in human rights matters.

Mrs. Gabriel’s primary responsibility is to ensure that the Government of The Bahamas complies with its international human rights obligations and translates these into national legislation and policies. She assists in raising awareness of these obligations through training sessions with stakeholders and representatives of civil society organizations. Mrs. Gabriel deals with all matters relating to the uniformed branches of Government: the Royal Bahamas Police Force, the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, The Department of Correctional Services, and the Department of Immigration, which includes the Detention Centre. She is also the representative and committee member of the Trafficking in Persons (TIPS) Task Force on behalf of her office.

Mrs. Gabriel holds a Bachelor of Law Degree (Honors) from the University of the West Indies and a Legal Education Certificate from the Eugene Dupuch Law School.

Subject of research project: *Statelessness: The effect of climate change and rising sea levels on small island countries.*

Kiribati

Aileen Bauro
Human Rights Officer, Ministry of Justice



Ms. Bauro has been involved in facilitating the Human Rights and Family Peace Act awareness program for communities and outer islands. To date, programme’s visits have covered 12 islands with visits scheduled for an additional 3 islands, including 3 islands within the Line and Phoenix islands. The primary objective of the program is to introduce the concept of human rights and to familiarize communities with the new Act adopted following the ratification of CEDAW.

In 2019, she joined the Kiribati delegation for the constructive dialogue held in Geneva with the CEDAW committee on the initial to third periodic reports. She was also involved in preparing the necessary information required by the Kiribati delegation for the 3rd UPR review in 2019.

As part of her duties as Human Rights Officer, Ms. Bauro is supporting the implementation of and reporting on human rights conventions, such as CRC, CEDAW, CRPD, UNCAT, and also UPR.

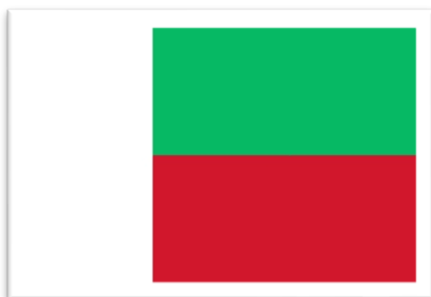
Subject of research project: *Developing an implementation plan of concluding observations adopted by CEDAW and of UPR recommendations accepted by Kiribati.*

This is her first time attending a regular session of the Human Rights Council.

Madagascar

Soafara Ruphine

Foreign Affairs Adviser, Multilateral Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Ms. Ruphine has served in the Department of multilateral relations since early 2020 and holds principal responsibility for coordinating all relationships and activities of the Malagasy Government with International Organizations as well as the human rights activities.

She has been a career Foreign Service Officer at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since October 2017, with extensive experience in multilateral affairs. She acquired this experience from the many years she served at the United Nations Development Programme in Madagascar before she joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ms. Ruphine hold a Master II degree in political science of Catholic University of Madagascar and a Master's in Diplomatic, International Relations and Protocol from the Centre Africain de Management et de Perfectionnement des Cadres (CAMPC), Côte d'Ivoire.

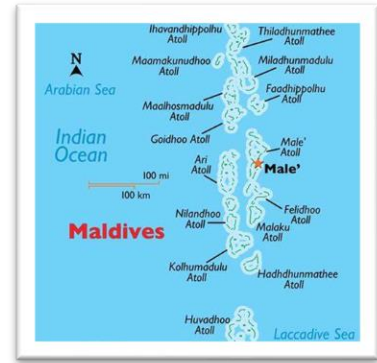
Subject of research project: *Economic specificity and human rights: focus on the reality economic of poor country dominated by corruption and illicit assets and on human rights.*

This is her first time attending a regular session of the Human Rights Council and also her first time in Geneva.

Maldives

Mizna Waheed

Chief General Service Officer, South Asia Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Ms. Mizna Waheed is a career diplomat who joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Maldives in May 2021. In her current position as the Chief General Service Officer at the South Asia Division, she is tasked with seeking ways to enhance stronger bilateral relations between the Maldives and other South Asian countries and addressing consular and human rights issues faced by the migrant population from South Asian countries, among others.

Prior to working in the South Asia Division, Ms. Waheed served at the Ministry's Human Rights Division, where she facilitated the realization of national foreign policy goals concerning human rights. As such, she actively mediated the engagement of the Maldives at the Human Rights Council and various United Nations mechanisms and liaised with a wide range of stakeholders, including Government agencies and the civil society to advance the fulfillment of international human rights obligations. She also represented the Maldives on various international platforms and was a member of the national committee responsible for the implementation, reporting and follow-up of the international human rights instruments to which the Maldives is a party. Notably, she greatly contributed to the campaign that led to the election of the Maldives to the membership of the Human Rights Council for the term 2023-2025.

Ms. Waheed holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and International Relations from the Maldives National University and a Master of Management in International Affairs and Global Governance from Zhejiang University, China.

Subject of research project: *Enhancing Maldives participation in the Human Rights Council.*

This is her first time attending a regular session of the Human Rights Council and also her first time in Geneva.
