

**Joint Statement Delivered**

**By**

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**REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

On behalf of some African Beneficiary Delegates of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund at the 48th RegularSession of the Human Rights Council

 on

**General Debate, Agenda item #10**

Geneva, Switzerland

07th October, 2021

**MADAM PRESIDENT,**

1. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of some African beneficiaries of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund representing the Gambia, Lesotho, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and my own country, Zambia.
2. We all recognise the importance of technical assistance and capacity building as a supplementary tool to States in the promotion and protection of human rights. We also recognise that States have the primary role to promote and protect human rights but the role of the Human Rights Council in the achievement of these goals cannot be overlooked. Technical cooperation and capacity building must be demand driven and guided by the principles of sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity.
3. We express our gratitude for the support given by the Trust Fund and thank the donor countries for their generosity which made it possible for us to participate in this session of the Council. Physical presence and participation in the work of the Council has been a valuable learning experience and enabled us to contribute to the work of the Council. Our participation, which may not have been possible without assistance from the Trust Fund, is a clear indication of the impact of humanity and open-handedness exhibited by the donor States.
4. We also express our gratitude to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for its continued support to the Technical Cooperation Programme rendered to our countries. Finally, we reiterate the importance of the Trust Fund and its sustainability, and call on donor States to continue their support in order to achieve universal participation at the Human Rights Council. We also urge other States to join their hands to support the Trust Fund for it to continue accomplishing its vision and mission.

THANK YOU, MADAM PRESIDENT.