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COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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Funding opportunity for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to participate in the forty-ninth session, the fiftieth session and the fifty-first session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland*.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Secretariat of the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to support the participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the work of Human Rights Council) presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in Geneva and New York and has the honour to inform them of the deadlines **for applications for participation at the 49th (28 February – 25 March 2022) the 50th (13 June – 1 July 2022) and the 51st (12-30 September 2022) sessions of the Human Rights Council (HRC) are:**

49th session: 1st January 2022

50th session: 1st April 2022

51st session: 1st June 2022

The Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund was established pursuant to HRC resolution 19/26 adopted on 23 March 2012. Since its operationalization in 2014, the Trust Fund has assisted 172 delegates coming from 71 LDCs/SIDS to participate in a regular session of the HRC. Additional information on the Trust Fund could be found on the following website: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/TrustFund/Pages/Beneficiaries.aspx>

In accordance with the mandate of the Trust Fund, the LDCs and SIDS are invited to designate one Government official, at expert level, who has been working in the field of human rights for at least one year either in the capital or their Permanent Mission in New York. Priority will be given to the LDCs and SIDS without a Permanent Mission in Geneva and to LDCs/SIDS that are current Members of the HRC. Former beneficiary delegates of the Trust Fund are not eligible in principle.

The designated Government official will be required to attend the full programme including participation in the mandatory virtual induction course (around 20 hours divided in several sessions) organized by the Trust Fund Secretariat prior to the beginning of each regular session of the HRC. (Dates will be communicated at a later stage).

Based on applicable UN rules and regulations, the Trust Fund covers one round-trip ticket in economy class per regular session per Member State and daily subsistence allowance for the duration of the mission in Geneva (not exceeding the duration of the regular session). It does not cover costs for health insurance or other expenses, including personal expenses, during the government official's stay in Geneva. The Trust Fund will not cover any expenses related to COVID-19 (medications; quarantine, etc).



The delegate is responsible for obtaining any necessary visa and health insurance. She/he is also responsible for arranging her/his own accommodation in Geneva and covering related expenses with the daily subsistence allowance applicable during her/his stay. The Secretariat of the Fund will not be able to assist in securing an accommodation in Geneva.

Office space for the selected delegate will have to be provided by his/her e Permanent Mission in Geneva. The Secretariat will not be in a position to secure office space for a selected delegate of the LDCs/SIDS without a Permanent Mission in Geneva.

In order to initiate the process and enable the Secretariat of the Trust Fund to make travel arrangements, a request for funding along with the following five (5) documents must be submitted to the Secretariat by email (**ohchr-sidsldc@un.org** and **ohchr-registry@un.org**) according to the set deadlines.

IMPORTANT: THE APPLICATION SHOULD BE SENT THROUGH THE PERMANENT MISSION IN GENEVA. FOR THE COUNTRIES THAT DO NOT HAVE A PERMANENT MISSION IN GENEVA, THE APPLICATION SHOULD BE SUBMITTED EITHER BY THEIR PERMANENT MISSION IN NEW YORK OR DIRECTLY FROM CAPITAL.

49th session: 1st January 2022

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THE APPLICATION MUST REFER TO THE SESSION NUMBER (49th, 50th or 51st) IN WHICH THE APPLICANT IS INTERESTED TO PARTICIPATE. THE APPLICANT IS AUTHORIZED TO APPLY TO ONLY ONE REGULAR SESSION.

For the application to participate in a **regular** session, the following five (5) mandatory documents must be submitted in **one email**, through the Permanent Mission in Geneva. For a LDCs/SIDS without a Permanent Mission in Geneva the application could be submitted either by its Permanent Mission in New York or directly from the capital.

1. A Note Verbale endorsing the candidature of a government official (copy of sample attached);
2. Certificate of completion of the E-learning course tool for LDCs/SIDS delegates participating in the work of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms developed under the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund. Link to the mandatory e-learning course: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/TrustFund/Pages/Tool.aspx>;
3. A scanned copy of the passport of the candidate (passport number should be readable). The passport must be valid for at least six months after his/her return to his/her home country or official duty station;
4. A detailed curriculum vitae in English or French (MS Word format);
5. A completed "Visa Information Form" (copy attached) to indicate whether or not the candidate needs a Schengen visa.



The candidate must also be committed to sharing the knowledge and experience gained during the Programme with their colleagues in the government.

ONLY FULLY COMPLETED APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED IN ONE EMAIL BY THE SET DEADLINES WILL BE ACCEPTED. THE SECRETARIAT WILL CONTACT ONLY THE DELEGATES WHO HAVE BEEN SELECTED.

THE ATTENTION OF APPLICANTS IS DRAWN TO THE FACT THAT THE PROGRAMME MAY BE CHANGED OR CANCELLED DUE TO THE EVOLVING SITUATION OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND RELATED RESTRICTIONS TO BE IMPOSED BY THE SWISS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES AS WELL AS THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA CLOSER TO THE 49th, 50th OR 51st SESSION CONCERNED.

For further information, kindly contact Ms. Fatou Camara Houel, Coordinator, LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund (email: Fatou.camarahouel@un.org).

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Secretariat of the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to support the participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the work of Human Rights Council) avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions of the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in Geneva and New York the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 28 October 2021

Attachments:

- A sample of Note Verbale endorsing the designation of the Government official;
- Visa information form

cc:

Permanent Mission of the Independent State of Samoa to the United Nations in New York and current Chair of the Pacific Small Islands Developing States (PSIDS) (psidschair@gmail.com)

Permanent Observer Mission of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to the United Nations in New York (cari.per.obs.un@gmail.com)

Permanent Delegation of the African Union to the United Nations in New York (au-newyork@africa-union.org)



Permanent Delegation of the African Union to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva (au-geneva@africa-union.org)

*Please note that duration of each session is likely to continue into another week. This information will be available closer to each session.