

Excellencies,

Dear colleagues and delegates,

Good morning everyone and welcome to Geneva,

First of all, let me seize this opportunity as the representative of the Host State to the United Nations in Geneva to thank you all Dear delegates for being here today. Your presence in Geneva to attend the 32nd session of the Human Rights Council, made possible by the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund for the participation of the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, is in my opinion a truly remarkable contribution to the 10 years anniversary of the human rights council that we will be celebrating this session.

Your participation in the work of the council is of critical importance, not only to contribute to and pursue your States' interests and specific priorities, but also with regard to the legitimacy and credibility of the Human Rights Council as the principal organ of the UN for the promotion and protection of human rights across the globe.

Switzerland is thus very proud to have contributed to the Fund this year, joining other States that have already been supporting this important instrument.

Lastly, I would like to thank the High Commissioner's office's relentless efforts towards universal participation at the Human Rights Council, and I feel humbled to celebrate this important and historical moment together.

I wish you every success in the upcoming session of the HRC. Let me assure you that you can always count on the support of Switzerland, and of our mission here in Geneva.

Thank you

Alexandre Fasel, Permanent Representative of Switzerland