



FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF
LDCS/SIDS
IN THE WORK OF THE
HUMAN RIGHTS
COUNCIL

Ensuring That The Voices Of All UN Member States Are Heard:

Voices of the Beneficiary Delegates
of 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

[Brochure of the Exhibition](#)



Background of the exhibition

FATOU CAMARA HOUEL

Coordinator of 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

Exhibition Designer and Coordinator of "Ensuring That The Voices Of All UN Member States Are Heard"

Office of the Director, Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Geneva,
May 2016

Nearly three months ago, during the 31st session of the Human Rights Council, I listened to the statements of the Beneficiary Delegates of the Trust Fund. I thought that collecting and sharing their ideas and voices would be powerful and moving. We needed to listen to the experiences of the Delegates who were taking part in the current session and also of those who had attended earlier sessions.

This exhibition highlights the experiences of the Delegates during their time at the Council while also reflecting on how their participation impacts on their work once they return to their home countries.

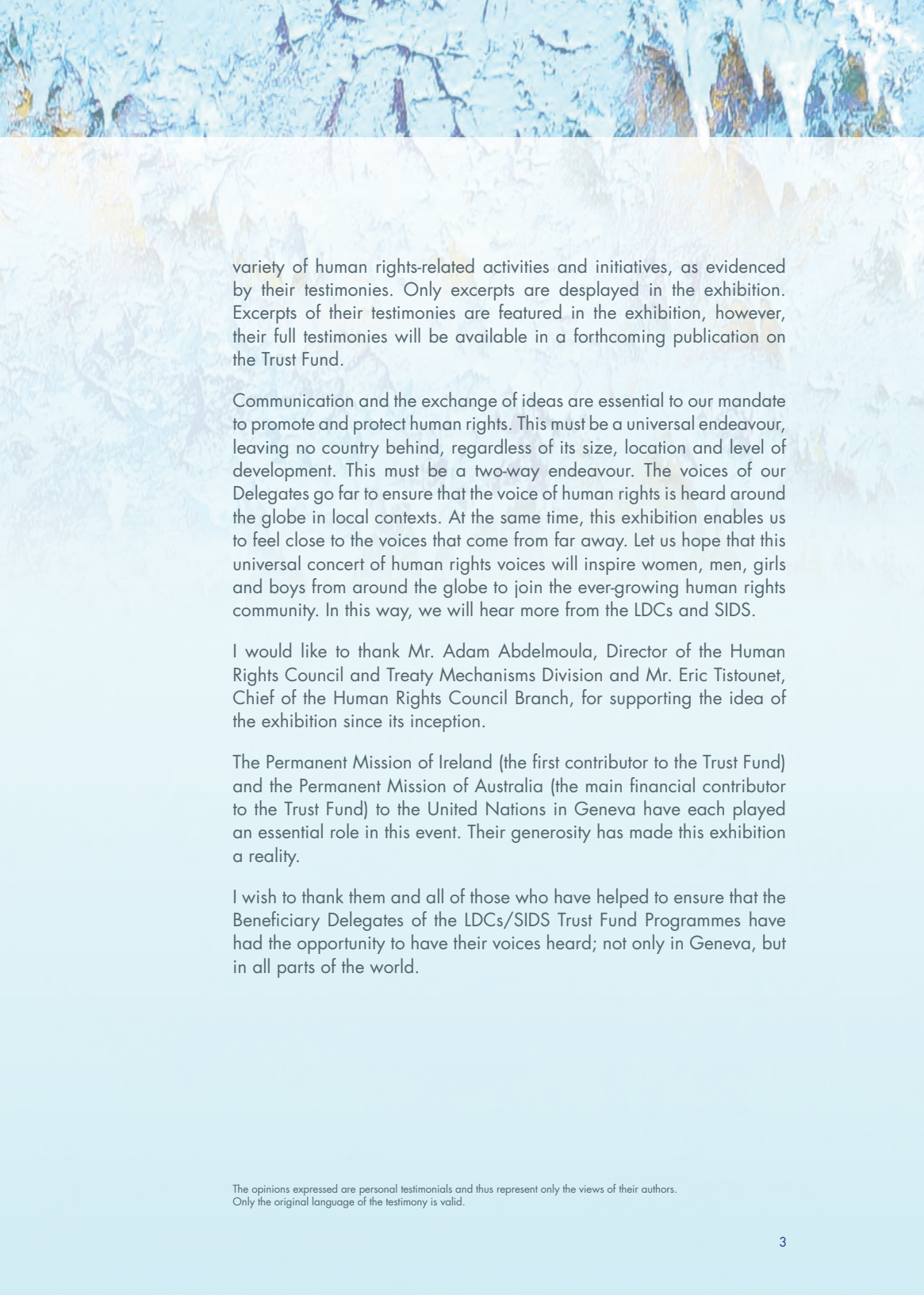
The primary aim of the Trust Fund is to support Delegates in their quest to ensure that their participation in the Human Rights Council will be more than an isolated, individual experience and will instead be an essential first step towards introducing lasting changes on the ground.

The 10th anniversary of the Human Rights Council provides us with a perfect opportunity to assess its achievements and those of its subsidiary bodies. It is also the right moment to consider the activities of the Trust Fund and their impact on beneficiary countries and donor States.

The Trust Fund has been a game changer. The majority of Delegates had not attended a session of the Council before the Trust Fund facilitated their participation.

When I invited the participating Delegates to share their experiences, ideas and perspectives, they reacted immediately. They were enthusiastic and their testimonies were incredibly inspiring. I gathered an impromptu team comprised of highly motivated members of United Nations Volunteers Online. In just a few days and with a few clicks, we put together an "e-team" that has been working out of three different time zones (Australia, Canada and France). Véronique Bergeron, Marie Naudon and William Hochstetler provided crucial support to the project. Sara Dezalay was a sublime editor.

As you take in the exhibition, you will see the diversity, richness and strong commitment of the Delegates. Despite the many challenges they faced, they immersed themselves in the programme. They took full advantage of the opportunity provided by the Trust Fund to be fully acquainted with the work of the Human Rights Council and to participate in it. This has had a tangible impact on the work of the Delegates in their home countries. They are now engaged in a wide



variety of human rights-related activities and initiatives, as evidenced by their testimonies. Only excerpts are displayed in the exhibition. Excerpts of their testimonies are featured in the exhibition, however, their full testimonies will be available in a forthcoming publication on the Trust Fund.

Communication and the exchange of ideas are essential to our mandate to promote and protect human rights. This must be a universal endeavour, leaving no country behind, regardless of its size, location and level of development. This must be a two-way endeavour. The voices of our Delegates go far to ensure that the voice of human rights is heard around the globe in local contexts. At the same time, this exhibition enables us to feel close to the voices that come from far away. Let us hope that this universal concert of human rights voices will inspire women, men, girls and boys from around the globe to join the ever-growing human rights community. In this way, we will hear more from the LDCs and SIDS.

I would like to thank Mr. Adam Abdelmoula, Director of the Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division and Mr. Eric Tistounet, Chief of the Human Rights Council Branch, for supporting the idea of the exhibition since its inception.

The Permanent Mission of Ireland (the first contributor to the Trust Fund) and the Permanent Mission of Australia (the main financial contributor to the Trust Fund) to the United Nations in Geneva have each played an essential role in this event. Their generosity has made this exhibition a reality.

I wish to thank them and all of those who have helped to ensure that the Beneficiary Delegates of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Programmes have had the opportunity to have their voices heard; not only in Geneva, but in all parts of the world.

Trust Fund mandate

Established by **resolution 19/26** of 23 March 2012. Operating since January 2014.

Its main objective is to support activities designed to enhance the institutional and human capacity of LDCs and SIDS, including by enabling their delegations (in particular those that do not have a permanent mission in Geneva) to participate more fully in the work of the Human Rights Council.

Administered by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Trust Fund provides funding for the following activities:



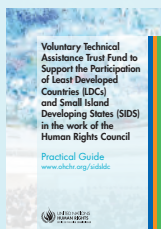
*Participation
of government
officials
in a regular
session
of the HRC*

*Fellowship
programme
(3 months)*

*Targeted
training courses,
including
e-learning*

*Induction
training sessions*

For additional information, please consult:



United Nations

HIGH COMMISSIONER

“To date, the Trust Fund, administered by my Office, has enabled more than 38 Delegates, women and men, from around the world to sit in the Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Room and share their human rights successes and the challenges they are facing.

The testimonies and lessons learned demonstrate how valuable these experiences were, both for them and for all of us.

We will endeavour to maintain and further develop this positive trend.

I therefore appeal to Member States to ensure, through regular voluntary contributions, that the Council continues to be a place where all voices can be heard. This will bring us closer to achieving our common goal to better promote and protect all human rights, for all, everywhere.”

Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein,
United Nations High Commissioner for
Human Rights

PRESIDENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (2016)

“One of the marks of success in the Human Rights Council would be through universal participation. This could only be realized through the participation of all Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States. This is indeed possible thanks to the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund.”

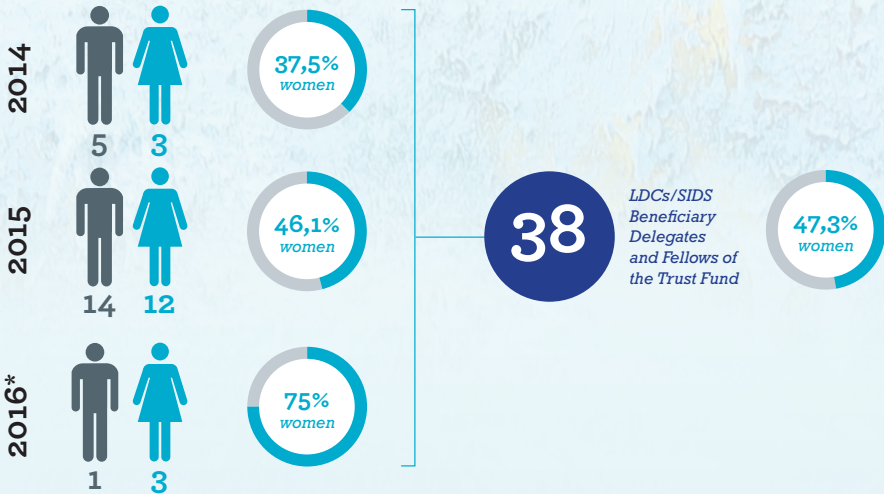
H.E. Mr. Choi Kyonglim,
President of the Human Rights Council
(2016)

Statistics

LDCs/SIDS Beneficiary Delegates and Fellows of the Trust Fund

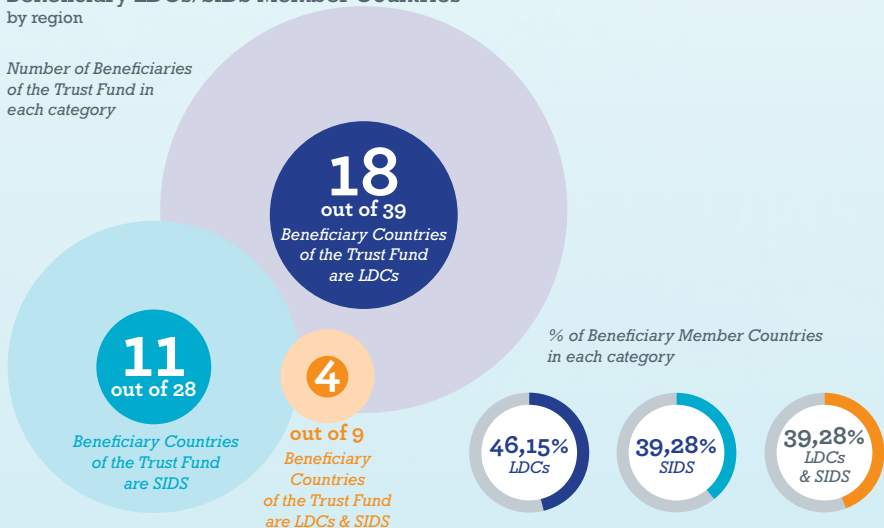
by year and gender

2014-2016 (27th session to 31st session of HRC)



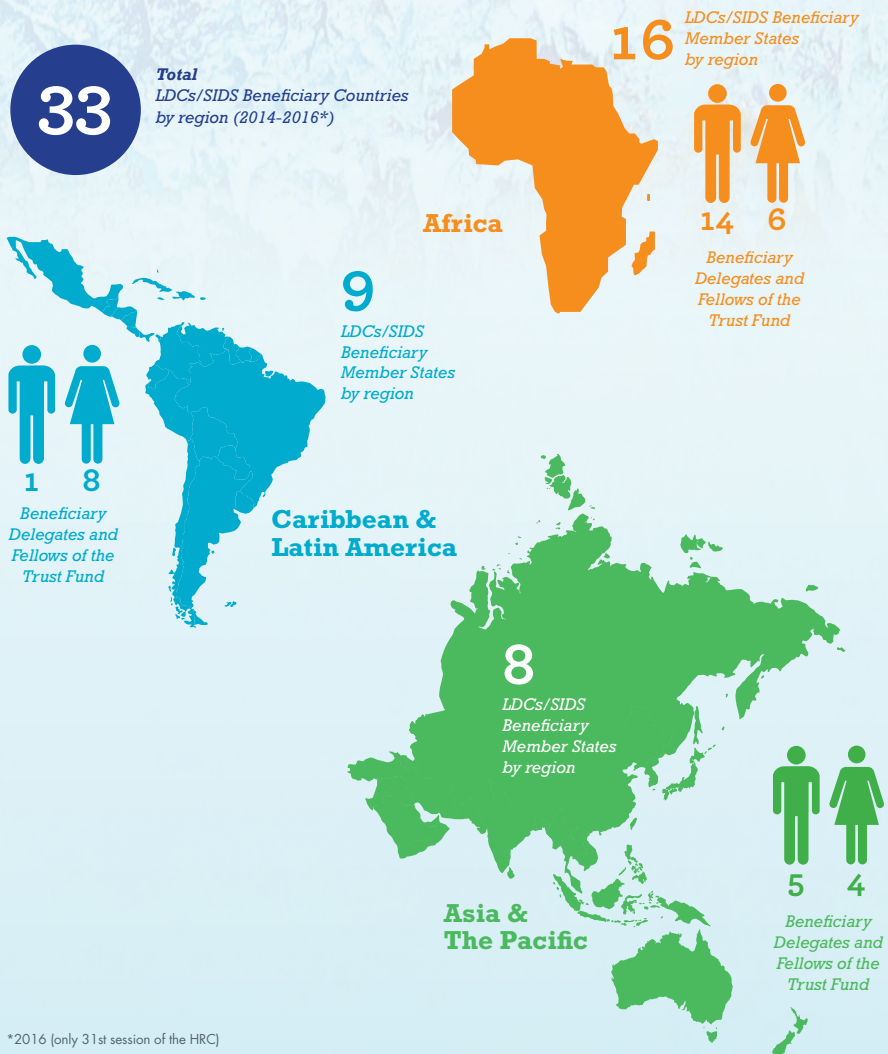
Beneficiary LDCs/SIDS Member Countries by region

Number of Beneficiaries of the Trust Fund in each category



2014-2016* LDCs/SIDS Beneficiary Member States
by region

Beneficiary Delegates and Fellows of the Trust Fund
by region and gender



*2016 (only 31st session of the HRC)

Caribbean & Latin America

Testimonies of the Beneficiary Delegates of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund

Beneficiaries:

9

8 1

Delegates:



6
(6 women)

Fellows:



1 1
(1 woman & 1 man
in 2014 & 2015)



Beneficiary
Member States:

6

SIDS/PEID:
8

Bahamas
Barbados
Grenada
Jamaica
Saint Kitts and
Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and
the Grenadines
Suriname

LDCs & SIDS:

1

Haiti



Kerry Bonamy

(Bahamas),

Beneficiary of the Fellowship Programme
(September–November 2015)

BAHAMAS

“The first concrete action that is easily identifiable is that any matter that references human rights in the course of my work is immediately prioritized, particularly work emanating from our Permanent Missions in Geneva and New York. The human rights element is constantly at the forefront of my mind when considering policies, procedures and as a result, it is re-shaping the discussions and conversations. The re-structuring and re-shaping of the discussions and conversations will in turn lead to the review and amendment of policies, procedures and approaches. While this may not be considered as a concrete action, this change in approach is monumental in that it requires the application of a human rights-based approach to begin and concretize action.”



Ricardo Kellman

(Barbados),

Beneficiary of the Fellowship Programme
(September–November 2014)

BARBADOS

“As a result of the training I received as a Fellow of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund, I improved my job performance through the acquisition of new skills and the confidence to engage on human rights matters. This was probably due, in part, to the effectiveness of the training delivered in Geneva. The decision to have participants onsite must be commended as it provided opportunities for the development of both our cognitive and interpersonal skills.”



**Kasandra Roxie
Hutchinson** (Grenada),

Delegate, 30th session of the Human Rights Council (14 September–2 October 2015)

GRENADA

“I must admit (...) that when I walked past security into Room XX and sat behind my country’s nameplate, it was indeed a proud moment because I knew that I was about to be further enlightened and my perspective on the work of the HRC was about to change.

I believe that drafting and delivering a statement on behalf of Grenada under agenda item 6 at the general debate may have been my greatest achievement. I believe that this was the first time that Grenada delivered a statement during the general debate.”



Nardia Patricia Andrews
(Jamaica), Delegate,

30th session of the Human Rights Council (14 September–2 October 2015)

JAMAICA

“My greatest achievement during my participation in this programme was working closely with my Permanent Mission in Geneva and assisting in the preparation and presentation of a statement related to the adoption of Jamaica’s Universal Periodic Review recommendations during the final week of the 30th session of the Human Rights Council.

As a result of my involvement in the Trust Fund programme, and due to my attendance and participation in the session of the Human Rights Council, I am now able to fully support the Ministry of Justice in Jamaica in its pre-establishment phase of the NHRI. I am a key person in the Ministry with responsibility for establishing a NHRI in Jamaica and I have been tasked with assisting in its establishment.”



Caribbean & Latin America

Testimonies of the Beneficiary Delegates of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund

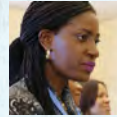


Thouvia France
(Saint Kitts and Nevis),

Delegate, 31st session of the Human Rights Council (29 February–24 March 2016)

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

“It has been a tremendous learning experience! My presence at the session and ability to actively participate will undoubtedly leave a void at the future sessions as we will be unable to attend. On my return to the capital, however, I intend to continue closely following the issues and maintaining some level of involvement at the sessions. This will ensure that St. Kitts and Nevis maintains an ongoing, vested interest in the Human Rights Council and its work.”



Bynta Ernest
(Saint Lucia),

Beneficiary of the Fellowship Programme (September–November 2015)

SAINT LUCIA

“My final fellowship research paper aimed at identifying areas in the work of the Human Rights Council which are directly linked to Saint Lucia’s national priority areas. Making this link is an important first step in changing the culture of how human rights are perceived in Saint Lucia. Human rights must be viewed in terms of how they can contribute to our development.

I have been charged with assisting in the formulation of the Ministry’s Communications Strategy. Within the Strategy, I have included references to international conventions, treaties and declarations which are the basis for Saint Lucia’s international human rights obligations.”



Jinelle Adams

(Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), Delegate, 31st session of the Human Rights Council (29 February–24 March 2016)

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

“I had the opportunity to establish new connections on behalf of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, while fortifying existing relationships with like-minded States and allies. Considering that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not have a Permanent Mission in Geneva, these connections will hopefully serve as a source of useful information regarding what is happening at the HRC and allow my country to participate, albeit from a distance, in the HRC.”

Caribbean & Latin America

Testimonies of the Beneficiary Delegates of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund

Voices from high-level officials from the region

CARICOM

“The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) deeply appreciates the support of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund, which has enhanced the voice of the Community in the Human Rights Council and permitted Small Island Developing States to further their contribution towards addressing critical human rights challenges globally. CARICOM applauds the Trust Fund’s initiative and welcomes the inclusion of a gender perspective in the granting of the awards.”

H.E. Mr. Irwin LaRocque,
Secretary-General of the Caribbean
Community (CARICOM)

BAHAMAS

“One success story of the Council, which must not go unnoticed, is the establishment of the Trust Fund to Support the Participation of LDCs and SIDS in the work of the Human Rights Council. The Bahamas was a beneficiary of the Trust Fund in 2015 and expresses sincere gratitude to the OHCHR for its support and to donor countries for their generosity. Our participation in this exercise is already bearing fruit at the national level.”

H.E. Mrs. Rhoda M. Jackson,
Permanent Representative of the
Commonwealth of the Bahamas to
the United Nations Office at Geneva

HAITI

“Haiti is of the view that the more LDCs/SIDS Delegates that take part in the Human Rights Council, the better their respective countries will perform in effectively realizing human rights for all human beings! Therefore, the Trust Fund, which is a fantastic, laudable and thoughtful initiative, should be supported by an increasing number of donor countries.”

H.E. Mr. Pierre-André Dunbar,
Permanent Representative of Haiti to the
United Nations Office at Geneva

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

“The universal and indivisible character of human rights implies that no country, no matter its economic or military prowess, can on its own ensure the adequate protection, promotion and respect for human rights of all individuals. Thus, the involvement of LDCs/SIDS in the work of the Human Rights Council is vital.”

H.E. Sir Louis Straker,
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Saint Vincent
and the Grenadines

Africa

Testimonies of the Beneficiary Delegates of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund



Beneficiaries:

20

5 15

Delegates:



17

(4 women, 13 men)

Fellows:



(1 woman & 1 man)



VIP



1

Beneficiary Member States:

16

LDCs:

16

- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Djibouti
- Ethiopia
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Niger
- Rwanda
- Sierra Leone
- Togo



Eric Franck Saizonou

(Benin), Delegate,

29th session of the Human Rights Council (15 June–3 July 2015)



André Niyihangejeje

(Burundi), Delegate,

29th session of the Human Rights Council (15 June–3 July 2015)

BENIN

“By giving me the opportunity to take part in the 29th session of the Human Rights Council, the programme gave me the opportunity to remedy a regrettable lack of experience in my role of Legal Affairs Manager in charge of human right issues. I had never attended a Council meeting in Geneva.

I especially learned a great deal by putting together and delivering most of the interventions for Benin during the session. There were 15 interventions altogether, which may sound like a small number compared to other countries.”

BURUNDI

“My participation in the Council's session notably changed the concept I had concerning women and decision-making within the family. Once I returned home, I led some actions to heighten awareness regarding non-discrimination of women in families.

After having noted certain conflicts in relation to the exclusion of women from making decisions, notably when the sale of family property requires that the responsibility is transferred to the male head of the household, I gathered together some families from my town to speak to them about the role of women in the family and to make them understand that no decision that involves the family should be made without consulting them.

I have noted that the work of protecting human rights must be the business of everyone. It is necessary to reinforce education and to teach human rights from the youngest age. It is with this certainty that I left Geneva. Thank you for this!”

Africa

Testimonies of the Beneficiary Delegates of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund



Pascal Gouba
(Burkina Faso),

Delegate, 29th session of the Human Rights Council (15 June–3 July 2015)

BURKINA FASO

“My greatest achievement was related to the plenary sessions, during which I assisted my delegation to draft and deliver statements during the general discussions, interactive discussions with the special procedures, several panels and the adoption of UPR reports from several countries. Our delegation delivered 22 statements with my contribution.

Our participation in the session suffered notably because some documents were not available in French. When I returned to my country, I was able to undertake activities in the field of human rights, including a professional visit to detention sites in the 13 regions of the country and the organization of awareness-raising sessions on the risks of illegal immigration in six of the country’s regions.”



Massalbaye Tenebaye
(Chad), Delegate, 29th

session of the Human Rights Council (15 June–3 July 2015)

CHAD

“Exchanges with other Delegates of the Trust Fund helped me to develop a community of practice and international solidarity throughout the session. The interpersonal relationships that I established with different heads of institutions, special rapporteurs and diplomats allowed me to develop and strengthen my competencies in the context of human rights diplomacy.

Upon my return, I was entrusted with working to reform the National Human Rights Commission, both from the functional point of view and in relation to its mandate, in order to ensure better compliance with the Paris Principles. The proposal will be examined in the Council of Ministers before being examined for possible adoption by the National Assembly.”



Albert Mpinda
(Democratic Republic
of the Congo), Delegate, 29th session
of the Human Rights Council
(15 June–3 July 2015)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

“My participation in the 29th session of the Human Rights Council allowed me to better comprehend the importance of the work being done by this body of the United Nations, as well as its missions and procedures, notably the complaint procedure and the special procedures. I was very happy to share this knowledge with my colleagues and other compatriots in civil society so that they could be briefed on the work of the Council, particularly in the framework of the complaint procedure.”



**Mohamed Moussa
Abdoukader** (Djibouti),
Delegate, 29th session of the Human
Rights Council (15 June–3 July 2015)

DJIBOUTI

“I particularly appreciated being immersed in the heart of the negotiations, which enabled me to better understand the procedures of the Council, to observe the role of NGOs and to witness how the States influenced each other during different negotiations that often took place outside of the Hall. Finally, I was very satisfied to find that the majority of the resolutions were adopted unanimously.”

Africa

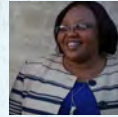
Testimonies of the Beneficiary Delegates of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund



Yibza Aynekullu Tesfay
(Federal Democratic
Republic of Ethiopia), Delegate, 27th
session of the Human Rights Council
(8–26 September 2014)

ETHIOPIA

“My participation helped me to extend my network both within and outside the Council to enhance our communication and cooperation in the field of human rights matters. This will improve my career and my capacity to better advise my country based on accurate information and by taking the positions of others into account. I have also learned a variety of methods related to drafting negotiations and issues pertaining to the organization of side events. This helped me to better understand the concept of human rights from the perspective of different actors.”



Polo Evodia Chabane
(Kingdom of Lesotho),
Delegate, 30th session of the Human
Rights Council (14 September–
2 October 2015)

LESOTHO

“When I got back to the capital, I pushed for the finalization of the Human Rights Commission Bill. In December 2015, the Bill was deliberated in the National Assembly and is presently before the Senate. Although some NGOs are concerned with some provisions of the legislation, for example, the appointment and dismissal procedures, further consultations are being held to address these issues.

My participation as a Delegate, funded by the Trust Fund to the 30th session of the Council, was worth it and memorable. I felt thereafter that I needed to make an immense contribution in my country by pushing the human rights agenda strongly. I remain committed to becoming an ambassador for the Trust Fund and may the Council continue its good work of protecting and promoting human rights for all around the globe.”



Kutaka Devine Togbah
(Liberia), Delegate,

29th session of the Human Rights Council
(15 June–3 July 2015)

LIBERIA

“Upon my return from the training, I held a consultation workshop with civil society organizations (CSOs) to inform them of their role in preparing alternative reports and participating in the HRC’s sessions in order to improve the dialogue between the Government and CSOs during our country’s review process. This resulted in one Liberian CSO attending the 30th regular session and presenting a statement. I am working to find funding sources to encourage other institutions dealing with various thematic human rights issues to participate in future sessions.”



Lalane Josiane Ralaivaoarisoa

(Madagascar), Delegate,
29th session of the Human Rights Council
(15 June–3 July 2015)

MADAGASCAR

“It was a very rewarding time. I had the opportunity to speak during the plenary sessions regarding cases related to the fight against human trafficking in Madagascar. When I returned to Madagascar, in collaboration with the IOM and as a focal point for the fight against human trafficking, I was able to establish the National Office for the Fight Against Human Trafficking. As I stated in my speech to the Council, my Government extended an invitation to the Special Rapporteur on the fight against human trafficking in order for her to assess the situation in Madagascar.”

Africa

Testimonies of the Beneficiary Delegates of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund



Fabien Tombohavana
(Madagascar),

Delegate, session of the Human Rights Council (2–28 September 2014)

MADAGASCAR

“My participation in this programme has been a stepping stone for me, in the sense that it permitted me to consolidate my knowledge on human rights. Since December 2015, I have also been the Interim Director of Human Rights and International Relations within the Ministry of Justice. As such, I ensure the design, coordination and harmonization of actions to promote and protect human rights in the country, particularly measures aiming to implement Madagascar's obligations in the context of international instruments for human rights (including the compliance of the national legal framework, the drafting and submission of reports, etc.).”



Ernest Mungo Makawa
(Malawi), Delegate,

31st session of the Human Rights Council (29 February–24 March 2016)

MALAWI

“Although the agenda of the Human Rights Council meeting was long and complex, the pre-session induction courses helped us to fully understand and follow the agenda items, procedures and practices. During the two induction courses, I acquired the necessary skills for searching for information, establishing which meetings were scheduled (regular and informal meetings) and where they were being held. This enabled us to actively participate and engage with experts and delegations. The skills that I acquired will go a long way towards facilitating my country's preparation and participation in future meetings.

I took steps to facilitate the upcoming mission of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism in April 2016. This will be the first field mission of the Independent Expert since the establishment of the mandate in 2015.”



Issaka Moussa
(Niger), Delegate,

28th session of the Human Rights Council
(2–27 March 2015)

NIGER

“It was a unique experience to discover the workings of the Council, the Palais des Nations and Geneva and to have the opportunity to meet so many people. I never imagined that I would have such an experience in my life!

As the Permanent Secretary of the Interministerial Committee responsible for drafting reports to the human rights treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review, my participation in the programme and the experiences of other delegations provided me with inspiration to draft the report for Niger's second UPR cycle in January 2016.”



**Frank Damas
Mutagamo** (Rwanda),

Beneficiary of the Fellowship Programme
(September–November 2015)

RWANDA

“My greatest achievement during my participation in this programme was a paper that I prepared that is helping my country to participate more fully in the work of the Human Rights Council.

Entitled, “Integrating a gender perspective in the follow-up of the Universal Periodic Review of Rwanda,” my paper aims at integrating a gender perspective in the entire Universal Periodic Review process; from the preparation of the UPR report to the country review itself and the implementation of the received recommendations.”

Africa

Testimonies of the Beneficiary Delegates of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund



Cassandra O. M. Labor
(Sierra Leone),

Beneficiary of the Fellowship Programme
(September–November 2015)

SIERRA LEONE

“The 2015 LDCs/SIDS fellowship was rich in a lot of ways: culturally, socially, academically, diplomatically, professionally and ethically.

Immediately after my participation in the fellowship, I was tasked with working with the Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs to prepare for the UPR review. I was also part of the delegation that was sent to Geneva for the review and was responsible for tutorials and reporting. I am currently preparing the State’s response for the June session of the Human Rights Council, which will include the outcome of the nationwide workshop.”



Adjawè Djeri
(Togo), Delegate,

29th session of the Human Rights Council
(15 June–3 July 2015)

TOGO

“On my return in Togo, I was prepared and proud to have a background that will enable me to serve my country in the field of human rights. I am happy to have participated in two events in the field of human rights.

First and foremost, as part of my engagement in civil society, I met with members of my NGO. Secondly, the report drafting committee is part of Togo’s Ministry of Human Rights. As a result of an informal meeting, I had the chance to contribute to the preparation and enrichment of the report as part of Togo’s second UPR cycle.”

Voice from
a high-level
official
from the
region

SIERRA LEONE

“Through the fellowship programme of the LDCs/SIDS Voluntary Trust Fund, a representative of Sierra Leone had the opportunity to participate in the work of the Human Rights Council. This enabled Sierra Leone, when it was a member of the HRC, to play a lead role in various resolutions, including in relation to albinism, civil society space and child, early and forced marriage.”

H.E. Ms. Yvette Steven,
Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone
to the United Nations Office at Geneva

Asia & The Pacific

Testimonies of the Beneficiary Delegates of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund

Beneficiaries:



Florieann Wilson
(Fiji), Delegate,

30th session of the Human Rights Council
(14 September–2 October 2015)



Sengpraarthid Snookphone

(Lao People's Democratic Republic),
Delegate, 29th session of the Human
Rights Council (15 June–3 July 2015)

Delegates:



(3 women & 2 men)

Fellows:



(1 woman & 1 man
in 2014 & 2015)



**Beneficiary
Member States:**

8

SIDS:
8

- Fiji
- Kiribati
- Lao People's
Democratic
Republic
- Maldives
- Nepal
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Tuvalu

FIJI

“I was so fortunate to be part of a robust group of Delegates and Fellows who were very forthcoming in their sharing of experiences and knowledge and a pleasure to spend time with. I am privileged that I worked with and under the Fiji Permanent Mission in Geneva and I am grateful to the OHCHR and the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund for giving me this opportunity which imparted me with knowledge and experience and allowed me to assist in the work of my country in the Human Rights Council.”

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

“Besides opportunities, there were also some challenges. The topics that were discussed in the Council were broad and extensive. In order to follow the discussions, I had to work hard to prepare by researching and reviewing background information on a variety of subjects. Furthermore, I had to study the Rules of Procedure of the Human Rights Council, particularly how the meetings are conducted in different sessions and how countries make their statements in interactive dialogues.”



Ismail Raushan Zahir
(Republic of the Maldives),
Delegate, 27th session of the Human
Rights Council, (8–26 September 2014)

MALDIVES

“Working with fellow islanders from across the globe enabled us to share our experiences, best practices and discuss how to overcome the inherent challenges faced by small States and especially by small delegations. Our discussions about our similar domestic constraints to active engagement on human rights issues and the opportunity to engage with other colleagues showed many of us a way forward so that we might gain more support from our capitals in terms of being proactive in Geneva.”



Rajendra Thapa
(Nepal), Beneficiary
of the Fellowship Programme
(September–November 2015)

NEPAL

“The LDCs/SIDS fellowship programme provided me with an opportunity to consider the human rights situation in Nepal in contrast to human rights situations in other countries. Through my project work, I was able to assess Nepal’s participation in the activities of the Council’s mechanisms. Following my research, I prepared a report which I submitted to the Permanent Mission of Nepal in Geneva.

As a result of the fellowship programme, I am now quite confident in applying a human rights-based approach to policy inputs and in relation to the implementation of governmental policies while working with the Government of Nepal in different capacities.”



Asia & The Pacific

Testimonies of the Beneficiary Delegates of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund



Olive Justine Vaai
(Samoa), Delegate,

31st session of the Human Rights Council
(29 February–24 March 2016)

SAMOA

“The first day of the session was both exciting and intimidating. Room XX was flooded with delegates, the media and NGOs. From day one, I hit the ground running and fully engaged myself in the work of the Human Rights Council, including in the different side events, at informal sessions, during corridor meetings with Delegates from different countries and by giving statements during the session. During my time in Geneva, Samoa made three interventions during the session. These were largely made possible due to the assistance provided by the Trust Fund and its Secretariat. They gave me advice and examples of similar interventions, which greatly helped to calm my nerves while speaking during the session.”



Jolina Tausinga
(Solomon Islands),

Beneficiary of the Fellowship Programme
(September–November 2015)

SOLOMON ISLANDS

“In the context of the fellowship programme, I also prepared a research paper entitled, "Solomon Islands' participation in the Human Rights Council and its Mechanisms: Contributions, Challenges and Opportunities." The paper assessed the specific thematic areas of the HRC in which Solomon Islands can actively engage and participate during the Council's sessions. This represents the beginning of a way forward for a LDCs/SIDS country to fully engage with the work of the HRC.

This knowledge and my brief experience will enable me to assist and help prepare the Government delegation that will travel to Geneva to present our 2nd cycle UPR report at the 24th session of the UPR Working Group from 18 to 29 January 2016.”



Efren Jogia
(Tuvalu),

Beneficiary of the Fellowship Programme
(September–November 2014)

TUVALU

“My journey from Tuvalu to Switzerland was a three-day marathon! After having arrived from Funafuti, via Suva, Nadi, Sydney, Saudi Arabia and then Brussels, needless to say that I was a bit overwhelmed when I arrived in Geneva.

My experience in Geneva as an LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Fellow provided me with a unique insight by virtue of meeting with so many people from different backgrounds with common goals. I met more people in two days than I have met in one year back in Tuvalu!

Having returned home after participating in the LDCs/SIDS fellowship, and with a burning desire to improve the human rights promotion and protection in Tuvalu, I pursued my Master’s degree at the University of New South Wales in Human Rights Law and Policy. After the successful completion of my Master’s, I am now back in the ‘islands,’ working to improve the human rights standards in-country.”

Voices from high-level officials from the region

KIRIBATI

“How much have we done to address climate change as a human rights issue?... The Human Rights Council is the moral voice of humanity, but we should all be the moral voice of humanity. Let’s not leave it to anybody else. Let’s say it. Let’s do it. The Human Rights Council needs to have a human response to the impacts of climate change.”

H.E. Mr. Anote Tong,
President of the Republic of Kiribati,
Participant in the High-level Panel during
the Annual Day on Human Rights
and Climate Change (28th session of the
Human Rights Council)

TUVALU

“The issue of climate change impact on human rights is extremely important. Certainly for my country, Tuvalu, and I believe, all other small island countries. The main issue is to share our concerns and also to seek understanding for our aspirations, what the world should and must do.”

H.E. Mr. Enele Sosene Sopoaga, Prime
Minister of Tuvalu,
Participant in the High-level Panel during
the Annual Day on Human Rights
and Climate Change (28th session of the
Human Rights Council)



Asia & The Pacific

Voices
from
high-level
officials
from the
region

CHAIR OF THE PACIFIC SIDS (PSIDS)

“These States can obtain practical information and network with a host of delegations in Geneva, and in turn they help build capacity back in their countries. We see this as a long-term investment, but one worth making.”

H.E. Mr. Mahe’uli’uli Sandhurst
Tupouniua, former Chair of the Pacific
Small Island Developing States and
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom
of Tonga to the United Nations in New York

MALDIVES

“The Trust Fund provides the Maldives with increased opportunities to engage more effectively at the Human Rights Council by highlighting the challenges and vulnerabilities as well as the resilience of SIDS.”

H.E. Mrs. Hala Hameed,
Permanent Representative of Maldives to
the United Nations Office at Geneva

SOLOMON ISLANDS

“There are not many good stories at the United Nations. The Trust Fund is an excellent one. It hence needs to be supported fully.”

H.E. Mr. Collin Beck, Permanent
Representative of the Solomon Islands to
the United Nations in New York

Donor countries to the Trust Fund

Donor countries to the Trust Fund:

Australia
(2013, 2015, 2016)

Germany
(2013, 2016)

Ireland
(2013, 2014, 2016)

Italy
(2015, 2016)

Switzerland
(2016)

The Kingdom of Morocco
(2016)

The Kingdom of the Netherlands
(2013, 2014, 2015)

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
(2016)

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
(2016)

Turkey
(2013)



AUSTRALIA

“One of the many achievements of the Trust Fund has been to build the capacity of beneficiaries to engage and contribute to the Human Rights Council, particularly through the provision of training programmes and the sharing of on the ground practical experience and knowledge. Australia is particularly interested in boosting the capacity of our Asia Pacific partners to contribute to the Human Rights Council’s work and is pleased to note that nine of these States have been beneficiaries of the Fund.”

H.E. Mr. John Quinn,
Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations Office at Geneva



GERMANY

“There is clear recognition that all States need to be present in the Human Rights Council on equal footing. The Trust Fund is indispensable and charts a two-way street; we can profit from the participation of these States and they can indeed profit from their own participation.”

H.E. Mr. Joachim Rucker,
Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations Office at Geneva and former President of the Human Rights Council (2015)

Donor countries to the Trust Fund



IRELAND

“Ireland has supported the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund since its inception. We were honoured to be the first contributor and since then we have continued to provide regular contributions to enable it to carry out its work. We have done so for two reasons. First, as it is a question of fairness to all States to facilitate their participation in the Human Rights Council. And second, as we believe that the Council is a forum where all voices can and must be heard if we are to effectively promote and protect human rights around the world. The Trust Fund has proven to be an efficient mechanism to achieve this goal and has ensured the participation in Council sessions of many States that otherwise would have been unable to attend. We particularly welcome the high level of women representing LDCs/SIDS who have been facilitated to participate in this regard. We are pleased that an increasing number of States have joined us in supporting this initiative. The Trust Fund is clearly a success story and we encourage partners to join us in taking action to ensure that it maintains this positive trajectory.”

H.E. Ms. Patricia O'Brien,
Permanent Representative of Ireland to
the United Nations Office at Geneva



ITALY

“Italy is proud to be one of the donors of the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of LDCs/SIDS in the work of the Human Rights Council and is very supportive of this initiative. By providing the UN membership with more opportunities to participate in the work of the Human Rights Council, the Trust Fund is helping to make this body a place where all voices can be heard and expressed. There is no question that the active participation of LDCs/SIDS that were previously unable to engage in human rights discussions due to a lack of human, technical or financial capacities will bring added value to the Council's work and improve its ability to promote and protect human rights around the world. This is why Italy believes so strongly in the work of the Trust Fund and encourages all donors that are in a position to support the Trust Fund to consider doing so.”

H.E. Mr. Maurizio Enrico Serra,
Permanent Representative of Italy to the
United Nations Office at Geneva



SWITZERLAND

“The universal representation of the UN Member States in Geneva is a priority of Swiss foreign policy; all of the States must be in a position to participate in the multilateral debates that are held in Geneva and to contribute to these. It is in this spirit that Switzerland has decided to support the Trust Fund, thanks to which the LDCs and the SIDS may engage with the Human Rights Council. Their participation in the Council's work is essential, not only in defence of their own interests, but also from the point of view of the legitimacy and credibility of the Council as a principal organ of the United Nations for the promotion and protection of human rights in the entire world.”

H.E. Mr. Alexandre Fasel,
Permanent Representative of Switzerland
to the United Nations Office at Geneva



THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO

“The participation of LDCs and SIDS in the work of the Human Rights Council in Geneva illustrates the important role of the Trust Fund. Morocco remains one of the main supporters of this initiative, which stems from a commitment to international solidarity and shows how much the international community cares. The international community should continue to consider the Trust Fund as a way to build a more inclusive society.”

H.E. Mr. Mohamed Auajjar,
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom
of Morocco to the United Nations Office
at Geneva

Donor countries to the Trust Fund



THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

“The Kingdom of the Netherlands is very supportive of the LDCs/ SIDS Trust Fund. Too often, the gap between the UN and the people it aims to serve remains too wide. Specifically in the field of human rights, we should do more to ‘bring human rights home’: to connect the UN to the people. This Trust Fund aims to do exactly that, as it supports countries which may lack the human, technical or financial capacity to actively contribute to the work of the Human Rights Council, to the benefit of these countries, but also to enrich the work of the Council and the entire UN community by introducing new perspectives to our deliberations. We believe in the added value of this Trust Fund and call on other donors who are able to do so to consider supporting it.”

H.E. Mr. Roderick van Schreven,
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations Office at Geneva



THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

“(The Kingdom of Humanity); The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia took on the responsibility of a noble goal, which is, to provide support and help countries and people in need, everywhere around the world, without discrimination and beyond geographical and cultural and religious borders. To do so, the Kingdom decided to support the Trust Fund, welcome the participants and wish them a beneficial experience.”

H.E. Mr. Faisal Bin Hassan Trad,
Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations Office at Geneva



THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

“We are delighted to support this worthwhile Trust Fund as it enables the Least Developed Countries and the Small Island Developing States to engage with the Human Rights Council. The Trust Fund's achievements are commendable, in particular with regard to gender parity.”

H.E. Mr. Julian Braithwaite,
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations Office at Geneva



TURKEY

“Turkey, as an ardent advocate of international solidarity and partnership, is actively engaged in raising awareness in the international community and contributing to the efforts of finding solutions to the pressing problems of the LDCs and the SIDS. Turkey has been an active development partner for these countries through the activities of the Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency, among others. It is in line with this commitment that Turkey contributed to the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund, which provides a unique opportunity to the LDCs and SIDS to have their voices heard in the HRC, allowing them to express their challenges and also to learn from experiences and best practices in the field of human rights.”

H.E. Mr. Mehmet Ferden Çarıkçı,
Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva

Other
testimonies

COMMONWEALTH

“Many of our Commonwealth Member States are classified as Least Developed Countries or Small Island Developing States, and we provide them with technical and logistical support through our Commonwealth Small States Office in Geneva.

Our partnership with the OHCHR LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund enables us to offer support for these countries to participate in the work of the Human Rights Council and to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in line with their international obligations.”

The Right Honourable Patricia Scotland QC,
Secretary-General of the Commonwealth

**INTERNATIONAL
ORGANISATION OF
LA FRANCOPHONIE**

“The International Organisation of La Francophonie welcomes the support that the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund provides to enable the Participation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the work of the Human Rights Council. Without this support, many of these countries would be unable to make such a substantial contribution to the debates of the Council.

This Fund plays an essential role in promoting the universal role of the Council, fostering a more balanced representation in its work and securing more active participation from all countries, regardless of their geographic or linguistic group. All of this contributes to strengthening multilateralism and promoting the democratization of international relations.”

H.E. Mr. Ridha Bouabid, Permanent
Observer of the International
Organisation of la Francophonie to the
United Nations Office at Geneva

Thank you

Kerry
 [Bahamas]
 Ricardo
 [Barbados]
 Eric
 [Benin]
 Pascal
 [Burkina Faso]
 André
 [Burundi]
 Mastenebaye
 [Chad]
 Albert
 [Democratic
 Republic
 of the Congo]
 Mohamed
 [Djibouti]
 Yibza
 [Ethiopia]
 Florieann
 [Fiji]
 Kasandra
 [Grenada]
 Nardia
 [Jamaica]
 Sengpraarthid
 [Lao]
 Polo Evodia
 [Lesotho]
 Kutaka Devine
 [Liberia]
 Lalane Josiane
 [Madagascar]
 Fabien
 [Madagascar]
 Ernest
 [Malawi]
 Ismail Raushan
 [Maldives]
 Rajendra
 [Nepal]
 Issaka
 [Niger]
 Damas
 [Rwanda]
 Olive
 [Samoa]
 Thouvía
 [Saint Kitts and
 Nevis]
 Bynta
 [Saint Lucia]
 Jinelle
 [Saint Vincent and
 the Grenadines]
 Cassandra
 [Sierra Leone]
 Jolina
 [Solomon Islands]
 Adjawè
 [Togo]
 Efen
 [Tuvalu]

Caribbean & Latin America

NUFF RESPEC

[in Patios – Jamaica]

MESI

[in Kweyol – Saint Lucia]

Africa

AH-MAH-SAY-GUH-NAH-LOH

[in Amharic – The Federal
 Democratic Republic of Ethiopia]

NUBA GÂH GNUNON

[in Daye – Chad]

NA GODE

[in Haoussa – Niger]

MISAOTRA

[in Malagasy – Madagascar]

TENKI

[in Krio – Sierra Leone]

MATONDI

[in Lingala – Democratic Republic
 of the Congo]

U YAADA BAARKA

[in Bissa – Burkina Faso]

ZIKOMO

[in Chewa – Malawi]

GADAGUEY

[in Afar – Djibouti]

AKPÈ

[in Ewè – Togo]

E MAMA

[in Kpelle – Liberia]

MURAKOZE

[in Kirundi – Burundi]

MURAKOZE

[in Kinyarwanda – Rwanda]

KEA LEBOHA

[in Sesotho – Kingdom of Lesotho]

MI KOU NAWO

[in Gon – Benin]

Asia & The Pacific

TAGIO TUMAS

[in Solomon Pidgin – Solomon
 Islands]

FAAFETAI LAVA

[in Samoan – Samoa]

DHNYBAD

[in Nepali – Nepal]

SHUKURIYYA

[in Divehi – Maldives]

VINAKA

[in Fijian – Fiji]

FAKAFETAI LASI

[in Tuvaluan – Tuvalu]

KO RAB'A

[in Kiribati – Kiribati]

KHOP CHAI

[in Lao – Lao People's Democratic
 Republic]

Trust Fund Achievements

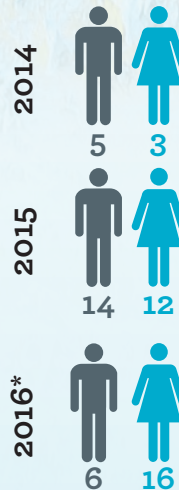
01.01.2014 - 13.06.2016

Join the Trust Fund Success Story!

Total number of
Beneficiary Countries:

44

LDCs/SIDS Beneficiary
Delegates and Fellows of
the Trust Fund
by year and gender



Total

56



Africa

Asia & The Pacific

Caribbean & Latin America

18

Beneficiary Countries

14

Beneficiary Countries

12

Beneficiary Countries

- BENIN
- BURKINA FASO
- BURUNDI
- CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
- CHAD
- DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
- DJIBOUTI
- ETHIOPIA
- GUINEA-BISSAU
- LESOTHO
- LIBERIA
- MADAGASCAR
- MALAWI
- NIGER
- RWANDA
- SAO TOMÉ AND PRINCIPE
- SIERRA LEONE
- TOGO

- FIJI
- KIRIBATI
- LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
- MALDIVES
- MARSHALL ISLANDS
- MICRONESIA
- NAURU
- NEPAL
- PALAU
- SAMOA
- SOLOMON ISLANDS
- TONGA
- TUVALU
- VANUATU

- ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
- BAHAMAS
- BARBADOS
- BELIZE
- GRENADA
- GUYANA
- HAITI
- JAMAICA
- SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS
- SAINT LUCIA
- SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
- SURINAME

LDCs/SIDS Beneficiary Countries of the Trust Fund

In alphabetical order
LDCs - SIDS - LDCs & SIDS



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