



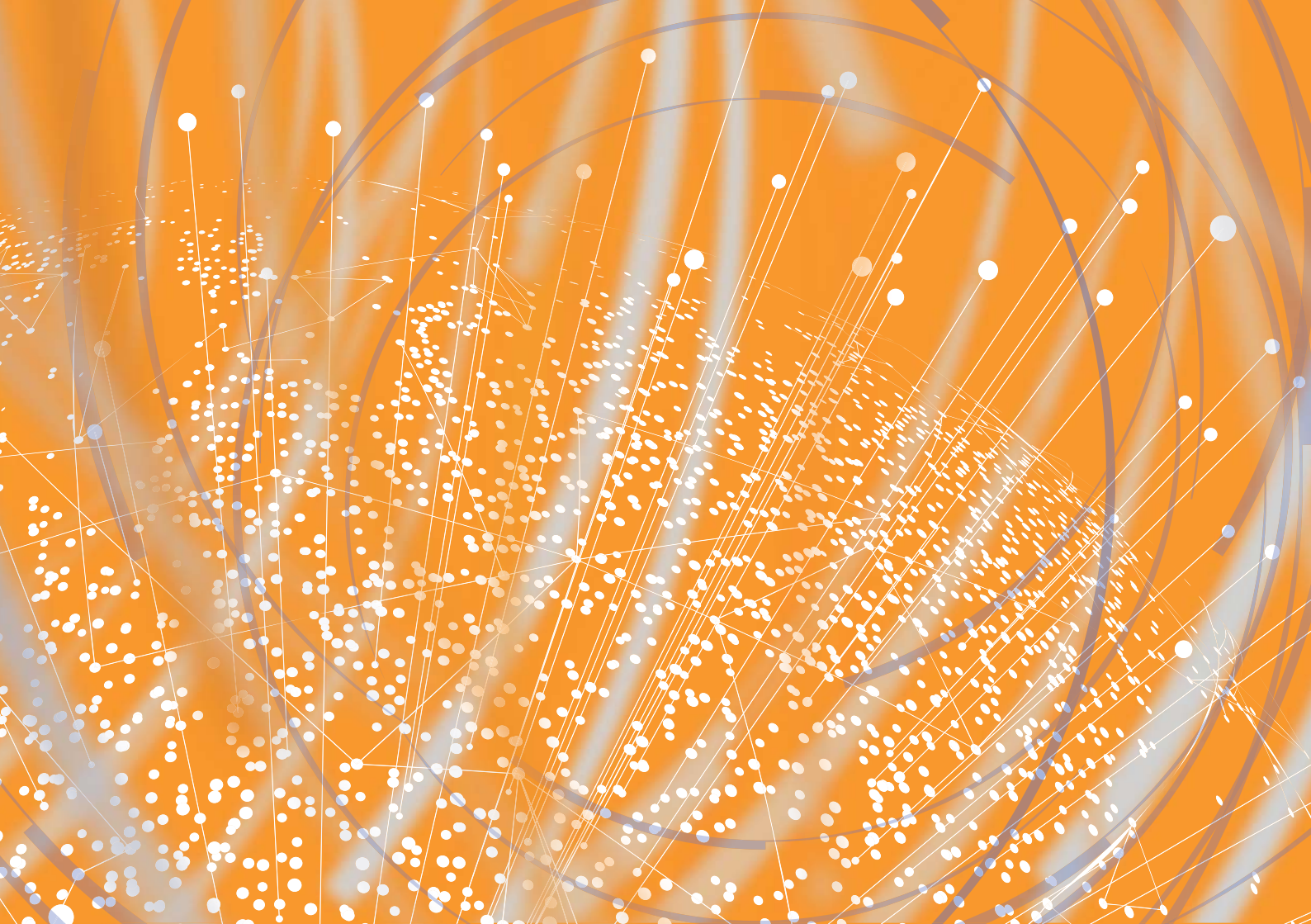
FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF  
**LDCS/SIDS**  
IN THE WORK OF THE  
**HUMAN RIGHTS  
COUNCIL**

The **Historic First Universal Session**  
of the Human Rights Council on the  
occasion of its 10th anniversary

**The contributions of the  
LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund**



WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO



# BACKGROUND

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On 13 June 2016, the Human Rights Council held its first universal session since its establishment in 2006, on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. For the first time, all of the 193 Member States of the United Nations were represented in the Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Room (Room XX), in Palais des Nations.

Among the representatives, 16 were from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) that do not have permanent representation in Geneva. This historic event was made possible thanks to the incredible support provided by 10 donor countries to the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of LDCs/SIDS in the work of the HRC.

For those of us based in Geneva, the first universal session was not only a moving experience, it was also an incredible achievement. All voices from the five regions of the world had the opportunity to be represented and, most importantly, heard.

The inspiration for this brochure came from a recognition that the contributions of the SIDS to the discussions in the HRC needed to be captured. It became a reality thanks to the SIDS Beneficiary Delegates to the Fund who were keen to share their experiences about attending a session of the HRC. For 17 of the 18 Delegates, most of whom focus on human rights in their work, it was their first opportunity to be with us in Geneva.

It is our hope that this brochure will help keep alive the wonderful memories of the 10th anniversary session of the HRC while also reminding us of the importance of joining our efforts to ensure that universal participation becomes a reality...at every session of the Council. This can only be realized through continued and sustained support for the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund.

With your generosity, the Trust Fund will remain a success story – our shared success story – for enhanced promotion and protection of human rights around the globe.

**Fatou Camara Houel**, Coordinator of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund, 1 November 2016



The Kingdom of Morocco, one of the sponsors of the resolution establishing the 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, which the Council adopted by consensus in 2012, is proud to support this brochure entitled: "The Historic First Universal Session of the Human Rights Council on

the occasion of its 10th anniversary: The contributions of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund." The Kingdom of Morocco recognizes the excellent work and diverse outreach activities that the Secretariat of the Fund, administrated by the Human Rights Council Branch of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, has undertaken since it became fully operational in 2014.

This brochure showcases the main achievements of the Trust Fund during the universal session of the HRC on the occasion of its 10th anniversary in June 2016.

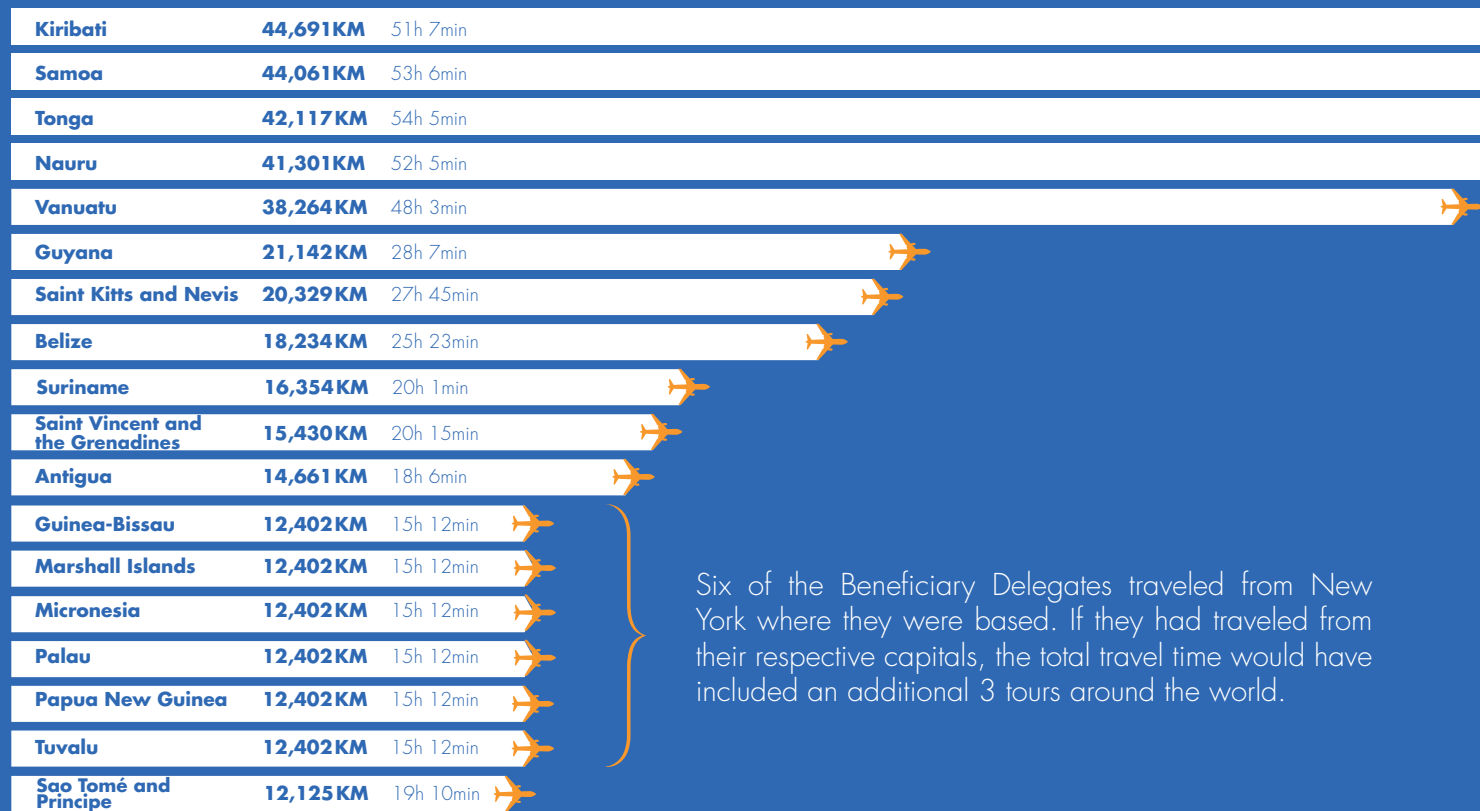
It also demonstrates how important it is that all voices are heard. This historic event has been made possible thanks to the support of the Trust Fund and all of its donor countries, including the Kingdom of Morocco.

As a Geneva Gender Champion, the Kingdom of Morocco would like to praise the commendable efforts made by the Trust Fund to ensure that the overwhelming majority of its Beneficiary Delegates are women. It is critical that women, in particular from far-away countries not represented in Geneva, are able to actively participate in and contribute to the critical debates taking place in the Human Rights Council.

The Kingdom of Morocco commits to continuing its support for the Trust Fund and hopes that in reading this brochure, more UN Member States from all five regions of the world will see the value of contributing to this unique, worthwhile, dynamic and results-oriented mechanism dedicated to enabling the participation of LDCs and SIDS. The Trust Fund has clearly shown its effectiveness, hopefully ensuring that in the

near future, the Human Rights Council will conduct all of its regular sessions with universal participation."

# WHAT IT TOOK FOR THE TRUST FUND' SIDS BENEFICIARY DELEGATES



\*Based on Carlson Wagonlit's itinerary for each of the SIDS Beneficiary Delegates

# WITHOUT REPRESENTATION IN GENEVA, TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FIRST UNIVERSAL SESSION OF THE HRC



In total, the 18 SIDS  
Beneficiary Delegates of the Trust Fund  
traveled:

**403,121** KM

Completing  
more than **10** tours around  
the world

These travels resulted in the first universal participation of the Human Rights Council on the occasion of its 10th anniversary in June 2016.



SIDS FROM ASIA & THE PACIFIC TO GENEVA

ECONOMY



SIDS FROM AFRICA TO GENEVA

ECONOMY



SIDS FROM CARIBBEAN & LATIN AMERICA TO GENEVA

ECONOMY



IN TOTAL, THE BENEFICIARY DELEGATES  
SPENT MORE THAN

**500** HOURS  
(APPROXIMATELY 20 DAYS)

SEATED IN ECONOMY CLASS SEATS  
ON VARIOUS FLIGHTS.

THIS TOTAL DOES NOT TAKE INTO  
ACCOUNT THE NUMBER OF HOURS  
SPENT IN STOPOVERS OR WHILE  
WAITING FOR FLIGHTS IN DIFFERENT  
AIRPORTS.





# FACES OF THE SIDS BENEFICIARY DELEGATES PARTICIPATING IN THE FIRST UNIVERSAL SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

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Pictured from left to right:

**Fatou Camara Houel**, Coordinator, LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund; **Ernestino J. Mango**, Guinea-Bissau; **'Akanesi' Emeline Katoa**, Tonga; **Jasmina Giouba**, Nauru; **H.E. Mrs. Amatlain Elizabeth Kabua**, Marshall Islands; **Moote Korina Anata**, Kiribati; **Orla Kantun-Coleman**, Belize; **Silva Ludmila Afonso Lavres Danquá**, Sao Tomé and Príncipe; **Ane Iati**, Samoa;

**Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein**, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; **Dorn Henry**, Saint Kitts and Nevis; **Kasipo Margaret Teo**, Tuvalu; **Tamara M. Evelyn Khan**, Guyana; **Vanessa A. M. Moe**, Antigua and Barbuda; **Setariki Waqanitoga**, Vanuatu; **Jasmien S. Wijngaarde-Lijkwan**, Suriname;

**Jasmine Veronica Hull**, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and **Nacho Trabadela**, Palau.

28 June 2016, Entrance of Room XX, Palais des Nations, Geneva.

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*The Delegates of Micronesia and Papua New Guinea are not in the pictures since they were unable to attend the whole session due to previous commitments.*

“

All Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, including 16 countries that do not have missions in Geneva, have sent representatives to Geneva to participate in the Human Rights Council. This is due in part to support from the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of LDCs and SIDS and the Member States that contributed funds to make this possible. I take this as a mark of the depth and breadth of influence that this Council has developed, and as an acknowledgement of the essential role that is played by human rights in every one of your nations.”

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

# Hearing the voices that participated in the first universal session of the Human Rights Council

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*The opinions expressed are personal testimonials of the Beneficiary Delegates and thus represent only the views of their authors. Functional titles used during the participation of the Beneficiary Delegates in June 2016.*

18

Total  
SIDS Beneficiary Countries

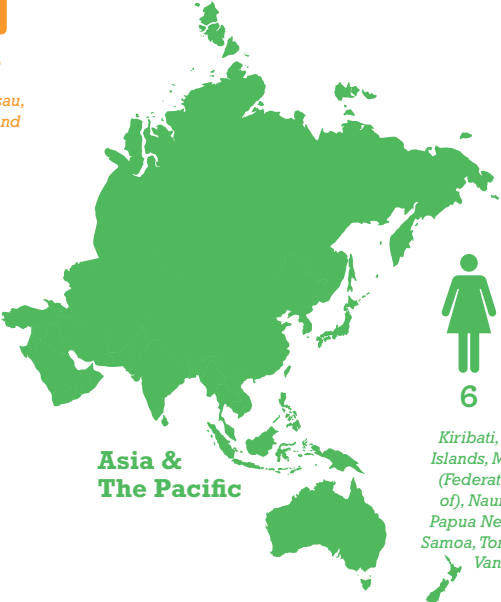


Guinea-Bissau,  
Sao Tomé and  
Príncipe



Antigua and Barbuda,  
Belize, Guyana,  
Saint Kitts and Nevis,  
Saint Vincent and  
the Grenadines,  
Suriname

Caribbean &  
Latin America



Asia &  
The Pacific

Kiribati, Marshall  
Islands, Micronesia  
(Federated States  
of), Nauru, Palau,  
Papua New Guinea,  
Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu,  
Vanuatu

# Caribbean & Latin America

*Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname*

***Delegates***



**6**

***Based in***



**6**

***First time participation  
in a HRC session***



**6**

## ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

"I had an amazing experience participating in the 32nd session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

As a visually impaired delegate, I was able to participate fully in all sessions, including the induction training session. For the most part, the Human Rights Council is accessible for persons with visual impairment. However, some improvements need to be made to better adapt the inscription process so that it is accessible to all.

Thanks to the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund, Antigua and Barbuda was afforded the maiden opportunity to participate in this session and to be part of the historic joint statement. I gained a greater understanding of the work of the Human Rights Council in relation to both thematic and country-specific human rights issues."

**Ms. Vanessa Moe**, Crown Counsel, Office of the Attorney General, Ministry of Legal Affairs

## BELIZE

"I never would have imagined that participating in one Human Rights Council session would have enriched my professional career so much. I was really able to hone my understanding of the Human Rights Council procedures and mechanisms and it was as though I was filling in the gaps as I moved from theory to practical application.

My time at the HRC also made its work more real and it evolved from being a foreign construct to something that I could actually relate to, understand and participate in. Also, being in that environment and having other Member States approach me for Belize's support on various resolutions helped me to better appreciate and understand the dynamics of the HRC's work in Geneva.

My objective now is to see how best to fully integrate human rights into Belize's national policy framework and to recognize that treaty reporting is only a means to an end. Overall, it was a truly enriching experience and surpassed my expectations of the added value I would walk away with. It was truly a job well done in delivering technical assistance and building the capacity in human rights for LDCs/SIDS."

**Ms. Orla Kantun-Coleman**, Director of Cooperation and Treaty Reporting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

## GUYANA

"The opportunity to participate in the 32nd regular session of the Human Rights Council and engage in its work was invaluable from any vantage point.

Of particular note and value was the alignment/collaboration of the LDCs/SIDS to forge one common voice on the issue of realizing the right to development in the particular context of these Member States. The Trust Fund was certainly the unifying agent and catalyst for this sounding of one voice; both in its spirit and intention.

The authentic opportunity for wider networking with stronger, more developed countries is also significant and a direct result of the efforts of the HRC and the Trust Fund. Learning from other Member States, both developed and developing, allows for enormous growth.

To give every State a voice in the global arena and facilitate the sharing of ideas, problems and solutions are among the highest ideals of the Council. The realization of these ideals by way of the Trust Fund is a significant victory and there is no question that Guyana and its fellow LDCs/SIDS will stand taller and remain more informed because of it."

**Ms. Tamara M. Evelyn Khan**, Legal Adviser and Technical Coordinator, Governance Office, Office of the Prime Minister and First Vice President

## SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

“As I reflect thoroughly on my experience at the 32nd session of the Human Rights Council, I can truly say that it was a remarkable journey; one that will bring about positive change for me, both personally and professionally.

My time in the induction course and at the HRC32 session was indeed a steep learning curve and also taught me that I love to learn. This fact was reaffirmed for me after undergoing two days of accelerated learning regarding the multilateral human rights system, followed by focused practical training related to the working methods of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms while also learning how to overcome jetlag. Having the experience of sitting through and participating in the general debates and interactive dialogues taught me to see both sides of an issue, think critically, speak confidently and differentiate a strong argument from strong rhetoric.

On an intellectual level, HRC32 exposed me to a wide variety of human rights discourses, issues and resources that I would otherwise never have considered. I also developed quite a few diplomatic skills that I will seek to strengthen in the near future.”

**Ms. Dorn Henry**, Acting Supervisor, Department of Probation, Government of Anguilla Public Service

## SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

“My journey began with the induction course which served as a forerunner of what was to come in the next three weeks. The information imparted was very useful, even though it was a lot to process in a short space of time.

For me, participation in the proceedings of the Human Rights Council was both a rewarding and humbling experience. Although the agenda was very long and complex, the insight I gained from the induction course assisted me in remaining focused throughout the proceedings.

My greatest achievement was being able to deliver a statement during the general debate as well as forging new relationships that will be forever remembered.

I am very grateful to the donors of the Trust Fund and to the Human Rights Council for enabling my participation in the work of the Council and in ensuring that all Member States were present on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Council.”

**Ms. Jasmine Veronica Hull**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Mobilisation, Social Development

## SURINAME

“The induction course was a two-day intense course on all issues related to agenda items 1 to 10 that we would come across during the Human Rights Council sessions. It was very helpful. National dress day was the most fun that I’d had in ages. I love cultural activities and this magnificent day was a way to express our cultures. On top of that, Suriname and Montenegro jointly won the prize for “best dressed female” which was icing on the cake.

The interaction with other representatives was very fruitful. The countries all wanted to know who the ‘new face’ was and who the person was that was sitting in the ‘always empty’ chair. I even had to ‘fight’ for my chair on the first day.

Since I love writing statements, my Ministry of Foreign Affairs proposed that I draft a joint statement on agenda item 6 on behalf of the SIDS, taking into account our obligations, reports and commitments and our need for technical assistance as small countries.

Besides the work and learning tools, there was an exchange of views among us which required us to confront our different cultures. It gave us insights about each other’s work, beliefs, experiences, countries and islands and of course, our individuality. We made friends but also created a family through SIDS and I will cherish that always.”

**Ms. Jasmien Wijngaarde-Lijkwan**, Senior Desk Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs



# Africa

*Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tomé and Príncipe*

## *Delegates*



**1**

**1**

## *Based in*



*Capital*

*New York*

**1**

**1**

## *First time participation in a HRC session*



**2**

## GUINEA-BISSAU

“The first participation of Guinea-Bissau at a regular session of the Human Rights Council allowed me to become familiar with the functioning of this important organization that is of prime importance in human rights debates and to which my country is firmly committed in order to promote and respect human rights. The most important achievement during this 32nd session of the HRC was the possibility of taking the floor in order to respond to the presentation of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers on her mission to Guinea-Bissau. I have to recall here that my country has never before been given the opportunity to react to a report presentation of this sort.

Another significant achievement was the opportunity to engage in human rights networking with other diplomats and civil society and NGO actors based in Geneva and in other major capital cities. I have to confess that I was impressed to see the important role played by civil society and NGOs in the Council’s work. I believe that the Council is the only place that indiscriminately gives everyone the right to express themselves and, at times, to confront their ideas relative to the situation of human rights.

My main challenge now will be to raise awareness and especially to inform my Government about the necessity of ensuring the required support and implementation of the recommendations formulated for our country by the Special Rapporteur.”

**Mr. Enerstino J. Mango**, Political Affairs Officer,  
Permanent Mission of Guinea-Bissau to the United  
Nations in New York

## SAO TOMÉ AND PRINCIPE

“To be honest, the two first days were difficult for me. There was too much information at the same time. I feel proud of myself for being chosen to participate in this opportunity to learn, challenge myself in a language that is not my own and represent my country. I felt immense joy when I saw the name of my country on one of the tables and knew that I would be representing it.

After spending almost a month with so many experienced people, I can say that I’ve learned a great deal and that besides the luggage I brought with me, I will also return home with an invisible one in my mind that I am sure will affect the way I face the world once I am back in the capital. I will continue my previous work and certainly contribute to our next Universal Periodic Review and improve on the work we have begun.

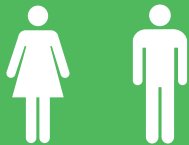
Last, I could not write these lines without extending my thanks to all of the donors to the Trust Fund. All of them were very nice and made me feel comfortable. And, of course, I would like to thank the LDCs/SIDS Secretariat that has been working so that everything functions perfectly.”

**Ms. Silva Ludmila Afonso Lavres Danqua**, Special  
Assistant on Social Area Matters and Public  
Relations, Ministry of Justice and Human Rights

# Asia & The Pacific

*Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu*

## Delegates



4

4

## Permanent Representatives



2

## Based in



Capital

5



New York

5

## First time participation in a HRC session



9

## KIRIBATI

"My attendance at the 32nd session of the Human Rights Council was a memorable one. Coming from the South Pacific, it is a very long way to Geneva. Coming back to Geneva for the second time was extremely interesting. The briefings that were given to the participants allowed me to deepen my understanding of how the HRC operates, what its meetings are like and how reports are presented to the Council.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who contributed in one way or another to make the attendance of the LDCs and SIDS participants at the 32nd session and 10th anniversary of the HRC a reality."

**Mr. Moote Korina Anata**, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Women, Youth and Social Affairs

## MARSHALL ISLANDS

"I am truly grateful, and appreciate being part of the programme and for the opportunity to have represented the Marshall Islands in the 32nd session of the HRC in Geneva and to have witnessed the 10th anniversary of the HRC.

As this was my first time to be in Geneva, and to participate in a HRC session, it was truly an eye-opening experience for me. Geneva is beautiful and clean but very expensive. Thanks to the Trust Fund, I was able to participate in the LDCs/SIDS programme. The programme was a challenge in itself. It was intense with so much new material to cover and understand. The Trust Fund also helped to make it possible for all 193 UN Member States to be present at the 10th anniversary, therefore realizing the goal of universal participation at the HRC.

Although I was able to work with different Member States on resolutions that were of common interest, I found that the connections between various permanent missions in Geneva and those of us in New York were really weak on some issues; almost non-existent. One concrete example was regarding the resolution on climate change.

This is a disconnection that needs to be improved because we all need to collaborate,

consult and network, strengthen our connectivity and form common bonds, in addition to our interests and goals, if we mean to ensure that "no one is left behind." I was not pleased that our interventions were not reflected in the resolution, despite the long hours we spent together. I believe that had these resolutions been previously shared with the New York-based missions, we would have come prepared and ready to engage. What is ironic is that when it comes to UN elections, these same big countries are so accommodating and helpful."

**H.E. Ms. Amatlain Elizabeth Kabua**, Permanent Representative of Marshall Islands to the United Nations in New York

## MICRONESIA (FEDERATED STATES OF)

“It was a rewarding experience for me to participate in the Human Rights Council session for the first time and to be exposed to the many activities of the Council, in particular on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. My participation was made possible through the generous contribution of some Member States to the Trust Fund for LDCs/SIDS.

Thanks to the Trust Fund, a total of 16 SIDS, including the Federated States of Micronesia, that do not have a permanent mission in Geneva, were able to participate in the 32nd session of the HRC. This enabled the Council to hold a universal session for the first time. It is important that more officials learn about the work of the HRC. The best practices learned and networks established through the Trust Fund's training opportunities are an added value. We have been able to ensure that the voices of the SIDS were heard.

The hands-on approach adopted by the Secretariat of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund to provide guidance to those who are not familiar with the HRC processes and modalities were very useful.”

**H.E. Ms. Jane J. Chigiyal**, Permanent Representative of the Federated States of Micronesia to the United Nations in New York

## NAURU

“As the first participant from Nauru to attend a Human Rights Council regular session, I would like to state that being there for the 32nd session, on the occasion of its 10th anniversary, has truly been a wonderful learning experience; one which has produced the most memorable and immensely powerful, positive experience in my career.

Nauru's contribution through the joint statement from LDCs/SIDS and our country statement is an achievement in itself. The privilege and opportunity to be the voice of the LDCs/SIDS in addressing our experiences, our needs and our challenges and with the full support from the participants from the LDCs/SIDS, was truly a professional accomplishment.

I wish the Council every success in its ongoing excellent work and thank the Trust Fund, the Secretariat and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for making it possible for SIDS to be represented in Geneva. I do hope that they can keep the momentum going.”

**Ms. Jasmine Giouba**, Assistant Director, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

## PALAU

“Palau attended the 32nd session of the Human Rights Council for the first time thanks to the support of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund. It has been a phenomenal experience and an eye-opener regarding the importance for Palau and our SIDS colleagues to attend and fully participate in the HRC and learn about human rights as one of the key pillars of the UN system.

The importance of the participation of Palau and other Member States without permanent representation in Geneva should not be underestimated. Universality is not an end but a means to ensuring that the HRC is accessible to all Member States on an equal footing.

Above all, the Trust Fund is a great example of how to implement the United Nations programmes and funds and can be used as a way to catalyze the interaction between capitals, Geneva and New York. In addition, the Trust Fund represents an opportunity for South-South, North-South and Triangular Cooperation to break down the silos at the UN.”

**Mr. Nacho Trabadelo**, Special Adviser to the Permanent Representative of Palau to the United Nations in New York

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

On behalf of the Government of Papua New Guinea, I wish to express our most sincere gratitude and commendation to, first and foremost, the Trust Fund for LDCs/SIDS and particularly the countries which are generously funding it. Let me also take this opportunity to applaud the Trust Fund Secretariat for the invaluable and professional support rendered to me personally and to Papua New Guinea, both leading up to and during the 32nd session of the HRC.

The proactive and commendable support and guidance ensured that SIDS who are not represented in Geneva, including Papua New Guinea, were able to meaningfully participate in the auspicious occasion of the 10th anniversary of the HRC.

Papua New Guinea remains steadfastly committed to working closely with all delegations, including the HRC Secretariat and other stakeholders, to ensure that human rights are meaningfully promoted and protected globally.

**Mr. Fred Sarufa**, Deputy Permanent Representative,  
Permanent Mission of Papua New Guinea to the  
United Nations in New York

## SAMOA

“Taking part in the Council session made me realize the importance of representing my small island nation. My achievement in this session of the Council was presenting and making a general statement during the general debate on agenda item 6, the Universal Periodic Review, on 27 June 2016. The most important achievement, however, was making connections and creating a network of working relationships with all of my LDCs and SIDS colleagues from their capitals and those working with their permanent missions in Geneva. Through this experience, I have come to learn that ‘together we are stronger.’

There were a number of challenges that I experienced during my participation in the Council session, including receiving timely authorization from the capital for the delivery of statements due to the time difference. Also, during the informal consultations, I observed that the LDCs and SIDS rarely commented on a resolution. I think this was due to a lack of understanding about how to participate constructively and effectively. I personally think that it would be a great idea to circulate draft resolutions for State input (if possible).

Last but not least, I would like to express our gratitude and thanks to the Office of the

High Commissioner for Human Rights. Being one of the SIDS without a permanent mission in Geneva is challenging, however, we are thankful to the Trust Fund and all of its donors that enabled me to participate in this 32nd session of the Council session and represent my nation.”

**Ms. Ane Iati**, Principal State Solicitor, Office of the  
Attorney General

## TONGA

"The Trust Fund gave the Kingdom of Tonga an invaluable opportunity to be represented at the 32nd session of the Human Rights Council on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. This experience allowed me to fully understand the work of the HRC and how it relates to the promotion of human rights in my country. Reading about the process is nothing compared to attending and fully participating in it. It was an excellent opportunity to learn about the different technical and capacity-building assistance that is available to countries and to build connections with other LDCs and SIDS, developed countries and organizations.

Tonga delivered one statement under agenda item 6 and co-sponsored one statement delivered by the Maldives under agenda item 10 on the work of SIDS at the Human Rights Council. This was also an opportunity to associate with other SIDS countries without permanent representation in Geneva. It was an interesting interaction.

This experience has given me a renewed sense of appreciation for the work of the Council and human rights issues and allowed the voice of Tonga, as a country with no permanent mission in Geneva, to be heard in the Council. I hope to take this experience back home to assist and promote human rights for the benefit of our Tongan people."

**Ms. 'Akanesi' Emeline Katoa**, Assistant Crown Counsel, Office of the Attorney General

## TUVALU

"I was fortunate to have been able to represent my country, Tuvalu, in this universally attended session of the HRC, during its 10-year anniversary. The Trust Fund has not only allowed Tuvalu's participation in this historic milestone of the Council, it has afforded me the opportunity to participate, learn, observe and build my capacity as a defender of human rights. Additionally, my participation in the session allowed me to expand my network to include SIDS, other UN Member States, HRC officers, NGOs and all other relevant stakeholders of the Council. Despite the fact that I did not make a statement at this session, I believe my participation has equipped me to be better informed and prepared to participate efficiently in future sessions.

During its 32nd session in June 2016, the HRC celebrated its 10-year anniversary. This was made possible through contributions made by Member States to the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund which allowed 16 SIDS, without a Permanent Mission in Geneva, to participate in this historic event.

In addition to the universal participation of all Member States, countries celebrated by participating in a traditional costume competition which took place on 17 June. Room XX was a sea of colours and a reflection

of the painting on the ceiling. The occasion demonstrated the variety of traditions, cultures and beliefs that can be brought together at the Council and within the United Nations. I am thankful for all the work that was undertaken by the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Secretariat to ensure our successful participation in the 32nd session of the HRC. Fakafetai lasilasi ("Thank you very much" in Tuvaluan)."

**Ms. Kasipo Margaret Teo**, Legal Officer, Ministry of Natural Resources



## VANUATU

“The Trust Fund coordinating team has been tremendous in putting together a comprehensive programme of work. The programme of work allowed SIDS Beneficiary Delegates to attain knowledge about the fundamentals of the Human Rights Council and, most importantly, created a friendly environment which enabled them to share their experiences and the challenges they face in their work related to human rights.

As a Policy Advisor to the Ministry of Justice and Community Services and a member of the National Human Rights Committee in Vanuatu, the opportunity to attend the 32nd session of the HRC was beneficial to my capacities, understanding the work of the Council and exploring the benefits of the HRC and its mechanisms in relation to our national human rights institution in the capital.

Through the Trust Fund, SIDS Member States can exercise their rights as Observer States in the UN, participate in HRC resolutions/decisions and address the HRC on agenda items of interest. It was a privilege to be given authorization from my capital to give a statement on agenda item 4 regarding human rights situations that require the Council’s attention.

By the end of my participation, I had learned a lot, made more friends and established points of contact with human rights experts and organizations.”

**Mr. Setariki Waqanitoga**, Policy Advisor, Ministry of Justice and Community Services

# 10 FACTS ABOUT THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LDCs/SIDS TRUST FUND

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## FACT 1

The HRC held its first universal session (HRC32) in June 2016 due to the Fund's support

## FACT 2

All of the 16 SIDS without permanent representation in Geneva participated in the HRC32

## FACT 3

17 of the 18 Beneficiary Delegates participated in the HRC for the first time

## FACT 4

13 of the 18 SIDS Beneficiary Delegates were women

## FACT 5

The first visually impaired SIDS Beneficiary Delegate participated in the HRC32

# ON THE OCCASION OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HRC

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FACT  
6

Beneficiary Delegates delivered 25 statements and issued an historic joint statement

FACT  
7

A total of 10 LDCs/SIDS side events were organized by the Trust Fund

FACT  
8

An exhibition was displayed on the LDCs/SIDS' contributions to the HRC entitled "Ensuring That The Voices Of All UN Member States Are Heard"

FACT  
9

The Trust Fund launched its e-learning tool on the HRC for LDCs/SIDS Delegates, welcome to Generation 2.0!

FACT  
10

The Trust Fund reached its goal of: "10 donor countries\* for the 10th anniversary"

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*\*Four new donor countries (Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) were inspired to support the Trust Fund to secure universal participation in June 2016.*

What was said about the contributions of the LDCs/SIDS  
Trust Fund at the universal session of the HRC

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**At the Welcome Ceremony** of the SIDS Delegates without permanent missions in Geneva, attending HRC32, supported by the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund, 9 June 2016, Room XX, Palais des Nations, Geneva



Pictured from left to right:

**Setariki Waqanitoga**, Vanuatu; **Moote Korina Anata**, Kiribati; **Tamara M. Evelyn Khan**, Guyana; **Jasmien S. Wijngaarde-Lijkwan**, Suriname; **Ernestino J. Mango**, Guinea-Bissau; **Silva Ludmila Afonso Lavres Danquá**, Sao Tomé and Príncipe; **Nacho Trababela**, Palau; **Dorn Henry**, Saint Kitts and Nevis; **Jasmine Veronica Hull**, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; **Ane Iati**, Samoa; **Vanessa A.M. Moe**, Antigua and Barbuda; **Adam Abdelmoula**, Director, Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division;

**H.E. Mr. Choi Kyonglim**, President of the Human Rights Council; **Mr. Michael Møller**, Director-General of UNOG; **H.E. Mr. Alexandre Fasel**, Permanent Representative of Switzerland; **H.E. Ms. A. Missouri Sherman-Peter**, Permanent Observer of CARICOM to the UN in New York; **Jasmina Giouba**, Nauru; **Kasipo Margaret Teo**, Tuvalu; **'Akanesi' Emeline Katoa**, Tonga;

**H.E. Ms. Amatlain Elizabeth Kabua**, Permanent Representative of the Marshall Islands to the UN in New York; **Fatou Camara Houel**, Coordinator, LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund.

“

The participation of all Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the 32nd Human Rights Council session will make this session truly universal and contribute to the human rights agenda of the United Nations as a whole. This great achievement is made possible as a result of the important work of the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund. I hope that through your participation, the 32nd session will mark a unique occasion when all voices from every corner of the world were represented.”

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

“

The Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the work of the Human Rights Council is a very important tool enabling all of us to benefit from the interaction here in Geneva with Member States and people from all corners of the world.”

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**Mr. Michael Møller**, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva



“

Your presence in Geneva to attend the 32nd session of the Human Rights Council, made possible by the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund, is in my opinion a truly remarkable contribution to the 10th anniversary of the Council. I would like to thank the High Commissioner's Office for its tireless efforts to ensure universal participation at the HRC and I feel humbled that we are able to celebrate this important and historic event together.”

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

2

**At the launch of the exhibition, "Ensuring That The Voices Of All UN Member States Are Heard,"** 15 June 2016, Entrance of Room XX, Palais des Nations, Geneva

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Input from all United Nations Member States is central to making the Human Rights Council an effective body. The skillful and effective management of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund has permitted delegates representing 12 of CARICOM's 14 Member States to participate in the work of the Human Rights Council. Most of our Member States would have been unable to participate in the

Council's work without the generous donations that have been made to the Fund. This exhibition makes an impressive statement. It is a statement that speaks loudly and clearly about the constructive engagement between a dynamic Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, supportive donor countries and LDCs and SIDS that are committed to

making their contributions to the promotion and protection of human rights globally. CARICOM regards this constructive engagement, and its positive results, as a prime example of a unique and effective partnership in action.”

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**H.E. Ms. A. Missouri Sherman-Peter**, Permanent Observer for the Caribbean community (CARICOM) to the United Nations, New York

“

The theme of International Women’s Day in 2016 was gender parity. As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Council, I am pleased to announce that the Trust Fund has supported 56 Beneficiary Delegates and Fellows from 44 countries: 25 men and...31 women! These numbers set a wonderful standard which we should be all proud of and work to sustain.”

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**Kate Gilmore**, United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights

3

**During the HRC session** (agenda item 10), 30 June 2016, Room XX, Palais des Nations, Geneva

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In this Human Rights Council Chamber, we are the beating heart of the United Nations... It is imperative that every UN Member State has the opportunity to participate in the work of this Council, in keeping with our commitment to leave no one behind. Therefore, participation in the Council's work must also be – in practice - universal. Today we welcome the participation of 16 Small

Island Developing States (SIDS), who have not yet been able to actively participate in the work of this Council until this session. It is noteworthy that while SIDS represent less than one percent of the world's population, they make up 20 percent of the UN's membership.

We would like to particularly thank all Member States that have made contributions

to the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to support the participation of LDCs and SIDS which has made their participation possible in this session. We are seizing the opportunity of the 10th anniversary of the Council to underline the importance of paying special attention to the participation of all SIDS in the work of the HRC.”

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**H.E. Ms. Dunya Maumoon**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Maldives\*

\*On behalf of a cross-regional group consisting of Australia, Bahamas, Maldives, Morocco and Singapore, and with the support of 77 additional Member States.

# DONOR COUNTRIES TO THE

The powerful impact of the participation of the 16 SIDS Beneficiary Delegates without permanent missions at the HRC, which resulted in the first universal session, convinced four additional donor countries\* to pledge their support to the Trust Fund. Within one year (September 2015 - September 2016) the number of donor countries has quadrupled from 3 to 12. The number of donor countries to the Trust Fund now stands at 14 (as of 1 November 2016).

## Number of donor countries to the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund by year



# LDCs/SIDS TRUST FUND

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## List of the 14 donor countries to the Trust Fund as of 1 November 2016

(by alphabetical order)

 **Australia** (2013, 2015, 2016)

 **Georgia** (2016)\*\*

 **Germany** (2013, 2016)

 **Ireland** (2013, 2014, 2016)

 **Italy** (2015, 2016\*)

 **Kuwait** (2016)\*\*

 **Morocco** (2016)

 **Netherlands** (2013, 2014, 2015\*)

 **Republic of Korea** (2016)\*\*

 **Saudi Arabia** (2016)

 **Spain** (2016)\*\*

 **Switzerland** (2016)

 **Turkey** (2013)

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

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\*The Netherlands and Italy contributed twice to the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund, in 2015 and 2016, respectively

\*\*Donor countries that supported the Trust Fund after the holding of the universal session in June 2016

# Why we support the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund

## AUSTRALIA

“One of the many achievements of the Trust Fund has been to build the capacity of Beneficiary Delegates to engage with 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

## GEORGIA

“Georgia was a co-sponsor of the landmark resolution establishing the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund. Since then, Georgia remains one of the supporters of this initiative.

The voice of each UN Member State, irrespective of their size, population or strength must be heard. Universal participation in the debates of the Council is crucial. In this context, the Council’s last session was a good example to follow. It is therefore important for the Council to maintain the promotion of universal participation and engagement which will further improve its ability to protect and promote human rights across the globe.

It is in this spirit that Georgia has decided to make a contribution to the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund. We are honoured to be the first donor country from Eastern Europe and we pledge our country’s continued support for this initiative.”

**H.E. Mr. Shalva Tsiskarashvili**, Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations Office at Geneva

## GERMANY

“There is a clear recognition that all Member 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 Member 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



## 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, it is a question of fairness to all Member States to facilitate their participation in the Human Rights Council. And second, 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 Member States that otherwise would have been unable to attend. We particularly welcome the high number of women representing LDCs/SIDS who have been facilitated to participate in this regard. We are pleased that an increasing number of Member 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

## KUWAIT

"In June 2016, for the first time, the Human Rights Council achieved universal participation of its Member States. This remarkable achievement was made possible thanks to the support of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund that enabled SIDS countries without permanent representation in Geneva to participate in this landmark event.

The State of Kuwait has decided to contribute to the Fund as it strongly believes that universal participation in the regular session should be the norm and no longer an exception. The State of Kuwait is committed to ensuring that this goal is fully realized to ensure that all UN voices resonate each time the Council meets in Geneva."

**H.E. Mr. Jamal M. I. Alghunaim**, Permanent Representative of the State of Kuwait to the United Nations Office at Geneva

## 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. The Kingdom of 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

## 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

## REPUBLIC OF KOREA

“Universality is one of the guiding principles of the Human Rights Council and the Republic of Korea places great importance on efforts to achieve this objective. Yet, universality in the Council is not possible without the presence and participation of LDCs and SIDS and the presence and participation of the LDCs and SIDS is not possible without the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund.

The Republic of Korea strives to lead by example and it is our sincere hope that we will inspire other countries from the region, with the resources, to assist LDCs and SIDS to send delegates to participate in the Human Rights Council. It is in the interest of all human rights that there is universal representation in the Council and that all voices from around the world are heard.”

**H.E. Mr. Choi Kyonglim**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations Office at Geneva

## 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

## SPAIN

“On the occasion of its 10th anniversary since its inception, one the most outstanding outcomes of HRC32 was the first-time participation of the entire membership of the Human Rights Council. The HRC benefited from the proactive engagement of those Member States and Beneficiary Delegates which, for different reasons, had been previously unable to attend and contribute to its work. The LDCs and SIDS Trust Fund is essential to the HRC. A UN body that is deprived of its whole membership is a lame duck.

Spain is of the opinion that the universality of human rights must be coupled with universal participation. For this reason, Spain has recently decided to become a donor to this Trust Fund and invites all countries with the financial capacity to provide assistance to do likewise in order to improve the legitimacy and efficiency of the Council.”

**H.E. Mrs. Ana Menendez Perez**, Permanent Representative of Spain 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 Member 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

## 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 learn from the experiences and best practices of other Member States in the field of human rights.”

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

## 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



Since it became operational in 2014, the Trust Fund has supported

59  
Delegates

from

45 (18 LDCs & 27 SIDS)  
UN Member States

## Thanks



to the support of its donor countries



# Our Goal

Ensuring **universal participation at every session**  
of the Human Rights Council

Join the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund success story!



The background features a stylized globe with a network of white and blue dots connected by thin lines, set against a warm orange and blue gradient. The globe is partially obscured by a dark blue curved band.

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