

THE REPUBLIC OF  **THE GAMBIA**

41st Session of the Human Rights Council

Joint Statement

ITEM 10 GENERAL DEBATE

On Behalf of the Beneficiary Delegates of the LDCs/SIDS Fund at HRC41

**The Bahamas, Comoros, Djibouti, Dominica, Fiji, The Gambia, Kiribati,
Madagascar, Nauru, Nepal, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Somalia and
Vanuatu**

Delivered by Ms. Mam Ndeban Jobe

GENEVA

10 JULY 2019

Check against delivery

Mr. President,

On behalf of the 15 beneficiaries of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund – **The Bahamas, Comoros, Djibouti, Dominica, Fiji, The Gambia, Kiribati, Madagascar, Nauru, Nepal, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Somalia, and Vanuatu** – we express our appreciation to the Human Rights Council, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and to donor States for supporting our participation at these Sessions.

For most of the beneficiaries, this is our first session and the opportunity has been invaluable especially for four of the beneficiary countries without a permanent mission in Geneva.

Mr. President,

As LDCs/SIDS beneficiaries, we reaffirm the importance of promoting and protecting human rights at home. Our participation has exposed us to the work of the Council on thematic issues and to OHCHR's institutional efforts. Throughout the session, we have delivered approximately 38 national statements, 3 joint statements and attended various informal meetings and side events based on the agenda of the 41st Sessions. Moreover, the program has enabled us to develop close ties and friendships, among ourselves as well as with other delegations both from States and civil societies. This will contribute to our collective efforts to advance the promotion and protection of human rights as international partners.

OHCHR's support work to the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund has played a significant role in increasing our engagement in the Council and developing technical capacities in human rights in the LDCs/SIDS Countries. We wish to express our deepest appreciation to the Trust Fund's Coordinator and staff for their dedication to ensure that our participation has been a success. We are optimistic that we will contribute more to our countries from the experience we have gained by participating in this session and also through transferring knowledge and skills across our national institutions.

We encourage OHCHR to bring together LDCs and SIDS states to enhance dialogue to improve the effectiveness of technical assistance for protection and promotion of human rights.

To conclude, we would like to reiterate the importance of the Trust Fund and its sustainability to ensure that the voices of all countries are heard at the Council through Universal participation.

We thank you, Mr. President.