**38th SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**MAURITIUS**

**Geneva, 5 July 2018**

**JOINT STATEMENT DELIVERED**

**BY**

**Ms. Asha Sungkur Daby**

**State Counsel**

**MAURITIUS**

**Re: Agenda Item 10 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

On behalf of the 2018 beneficiary delegates of the LCDs/SIDS Trust Fund; **Mauritius, Marshall Island, Jamaica, Seychelles, Samoa, Sudan, Tonga, and Zambia**

**Mr. President,**

It is with great pride that I speak on behalf of the eight beneficiary delegates of the Trust Fund namely **Marshall Island, Jamaica, Seychelles, Samoa, Sudan, Tonga, and Zambia and my own country Mauritius** as we celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We, the beneficiaries of the Trust Fund should like to express our appreciation and gratitude to the donor countries and friends of LDCs and SIDS for the generous funding contributions that they continue to provide through 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.

We should equally like to convey our deepest appreciation to the OHCHR, particularly with regard to the remarkable work of the Trust Fund without which it would not have been possible for us to get such a high level exposure and to enjoy such a unique experience.

For most of us, this has been the first time for us to witness the workings of the Council meeting, which shall enable us to better appreciate and understand not only the challenges in the promotion and protection of Human Rights worldwide but more importantly the vital role that Human Rights play at domestic, regional and international levels. We shall endeavor to make the most of the experience that we shall gather in order to instill a culture of human rights in our respective countries.

**Mr. President,**

This year as we celebrate the Sixth anniversary of the Trust Fund, we should also like to place on record our appreciation for the immense efforts put in by the Trust Fund in order to facilitate our participation.

On a concluding note, we should like to reiterate our thanks to Member States for Promoting 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.

Thank you for your kind attention.