

**SAMOA**

**36th Session of the Human Rights Council**

**Joint Statement delivered by**

Elizabeth Tagi

**Representative of Samoa from Capital**

**On behalf of the 8 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Beneficiary Delegates and Fellows of the Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of LDCs/SIDS in the work of the Human Rights Council during the 36th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council**

GENERAL DEBATE ON ITEM #06

GENEVA, 22 SEPTEMBER 2017

Mr. President,

I am honored to speak on behalf of the following Least Developing Countries (LDCs) /Small Island Developing States (SIDS) beneficiary countries of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund namely Angola, Belize, Guinee-Bissau, Mali, Malawi, Marshall Islands, Mauritania and Samoa.

We are present here today at this momentous session due to the visionary efforts of the Trust Fund and through the generous contributions of its Donor friends. The selfless acts of the Trust Fund has made it possible for LDCs/SIDS to sit here today and make a statement; to be acknowledged and more importantly to voice its human rights. For no matter how big or small a state maybe, each has its own human rights issues which does not discriminate on geographic size or state wealth.

We are thankful to the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund which enables our government’s active participation in the work of the Council, in particular our states Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the “all so important” follow up to the implementation of recommendations. The challenges faced by LDCs/SIDS are testament to the fundamental role played by the Trust Fund in ensuring that representation at the Human Rights Council sessions; **are truly universal**.

On that note, as per the mandate entrusted to the Council in its resolution 34/40, we call upon and continue to call upon, all developed and willing nations, to actively promote and support the work of the Trust Fund to guarantee its full and effective implementation.

I thank you, Mr. President.