32nd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

Joint Statement by

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**On behalf of the SIDS beneficiary of the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States in the work of the Human Rights**

**GENERAL DEBATE ON ITEM # 6**

**UPR**

GENEVA, 27th JUNE 2016

Mr. President,

On behalf of **Antigua & Barbuda, Belize, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Suriname, Tuvalu, St Kitts & Nevis, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** receiving support of 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 administrated by the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, are thankful to be united here in Geneva for the 10th anniversary of this Council.

It is a privilege for the SIDS in particular the 16 countries (gender balanced by 13 women and 5 men) without **Permanent Representation in Geneva**, coming from the Pacific Islands, Africa and the Caribbean to participate in the workings of the Human Rights Council for the whole period of the **Council’s Thirty Second Session.**  The SIDS however, should not be categorized as a “One Size Fits All”, The Council must address our specific development, and capacity capabilities.

We wish to express our appreciation for the cooperation and skillful leadership at the UPR sessions and the Members of the Council and for the fruitful spirit of discussions in the Working Group. We thank the representatives who were present for the positive feedback and the recommendations made to our countries to improve the several aspects of human rights.

In addition we highly acknowledge the assistance from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as well as the Technical assistance which has been made available.

In this regard we will continue to exercise all efforts to ensure that the rights of all rights holders in the countries are respected and upheld. The collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including the civil society and NGO’s will also be continued and empowered.

Since reporting is done on a regular basis we will implement recommendations supported by our countries during the cycle and while addressing the challenges faced, we expect that we will receive the support and assistance of you all.

We also call on donor countries and friends of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund to ensure that for all sessions of the Council, Universal Participation is ensured and that it will not be limited to this historic session.

I thank you