

## **STATEMENT**

General Concluding remarks by States or other stakeholders, item 1, 27 September 2018, Geneva

Thank you, Mr. President

At the opening of this session you extended warm greetings to the five delegates of the LDC/SIDS Trust Fund from Afghanistan, Bhutan, Niger, the Gambia and my country, Tuvalu. We acknowledged and appreciated the welcome, the generosity and support from you, Mr President, from member and observe states and NGOs. Throughout this session, we treasure the opportunity and privilege to interact, exchange best practices and strengthen and broaden our networks.

Throughout this session, we had the opportunity to attend side events on specific issues and witness and participate in discussions and negotiations on resolutions. We also interacted with civil society on their perception and perspectives on the work carried out by Human Rights Council.

Mr President.

The Council is mandated to promote universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind, in a fair and equal manner.

We applaud the effort of core groups and delegations to try reaching consensus after engaging in extensive negotiations.

For all five beneficiaries of the trust fund, it was our first time to participate in a Human Rights Council session and we were able to deliver statements.

This session was important for Tuvalu as the Council adopted the outcome of our UPR Report. My country does not have a Permanent Mission in Geneva however the participation of our delegation was made possible, thank to the support of two trust funds, LDC/SIDS and UPR.

Mr President,

From this experience, the in-depth knowledge, exposure and experience attained, the lessons learnt and best practices exchanged, will immensely contribute to our countries' journey in promoting and protecting Human Rights. This experience will be shared to Government agencies, island communities, civil society, non governmental organisations, men, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities.

The Human Rights Council has concluded another session, undertaking valuable work that will contribute to furthering human rights norms.

No one should be left behind in promoting and protecting all human rights and fundamental freedoms world wide.

I thank you, Mr President.