



Office of the Permanent Observer
of the Caribbean Community
(CARICOM)
to the United Nations
685 Third Avenue, Suite 1106
New York, NY 10017
USA

**LDCs/SIDS TRUST FUND VIRTUAL WORKSHOP
FOR THE AFRICAN REGION
28-29 APRIL 2021 AND 6 MAY 2021**

**CO-HOSTS: BURKINA FASO AND
REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS**

REMARKS BY

**H.E. MS. A. MISSOURI SHERMAN-PETER
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT OBSERVER OF
THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)
TO THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

Please check against delivery

Mobile: (718) 501-9550

Office: (646) 931-7791

Office: (718) 438-1925

E-mail: CARL.PER.OBS.UN@gmail.com

E-mail: missouri.shermanpeter@caricom.org

Webpage: www.caricom.org

Excellencies,
Madam President of the HRC, Nazet Shareen Khan
Distinguished Participants
Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of Ambassador Irwin LaRocque, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community, and on my own behalf, it is my privilege to address this LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Workshop for the African Region.

As the two Workshops that preceded it, this Workshop brings the Trust Fund into focus as a progressive and effective instrument contributing to transformation in the HRC. The Workshop's objectives, in short, are to examine the functions, procedures and performance of Fund, and to fill any perceived gaps, in the interest of maintaining the momentum of the Fund's beneficial support for LDCs and SIDS.

Since it became operational, the Trust Fund has enabled the participation of LDCs/SIDS requiring its support, including those of the Caribbean Community, and particularly those without a Resident Permanent Mission in Geneva, to participate in the work of the HRC. Recognition is given here to the Donors and Partners of the Trust Fund, whose numbers and contributions have steadily increased over the years, permitting the Trust Fund to implement its human rights mandate.

Human Rights should be upheld universally, so that all voices may be heard in action to implement this important pillar of the UN Charter. Just short of its first decade, the Trust Fund has become renowned for its support to LDCs/SIDS in HRC, where their voices are being loudly and clearly heard, their numbers are increasing, and today, both the President and two of the Vice Presidents of the HRC are from 2 SIDS, and 1 LDC. Memorable among spaces created for LDCs/SIDS voices to be heard was the 13 June 2016 Historic Milestone First Universal Session of the HRC, which I was privileged to attend.

As this African Workshop and its companion Workshops critically examine the objectives set out for consideration, another opportunity is presented, including through regional and inter-regional exchanges of vision, ideas and experiences among fellow beneficiaries, on ways and means of ensuring an enabling environment, to maintain the momentum and progress of the Trust Fund. Two issues concerning these matters are now on the table – the convening of the High-

Level Panel Discussion and the Report on the Trust Fund, both to be presented on the Fund's 10th Anniversary.

Having served as Rapporteur-General of the First Regional Workshop, that convened for the Caribbean in Georgetown, Guyana in 2018, and as Observer of the Pacific Region Workshop, convened in Nadi Fiji, in 2019, the robust discussion and thoughtful reflection on the accomplishments of the Fund, and the setting of priorities and strategies for implementing them, was instructive. Madam Chair of the HRC, I take this opportunity to commend you on the excellent conduct of the Pacific Region Workshop.

Also instructive were the discussion and reflection on the next steps for the Fund. It was important that delegates from Africa, Asia and the Pacific were also at the previous Workshops. Their participation enriched the discussions and their sharing of experiences added value to the outcomes and was appreciated.

All discussions and reflections were captured in the outcome documents of the Workshops – The Georgetown Declaration and the Nadi Declaration Towards 2022. I am pleased to report that The Georgetown Declaration is some 60 % implemented, with the cooperation of the Fund, and for the benefit of the CARICOM Region.

In the Trust Fund, and is effective and committed Coordinator, Ms Fatou Camara Houel, CARICOM has a key strategic partner with whom it collaborates closely. CARICOM was pleased to be the first region in which 100% of its Member States participated in the HRC with support from the Trust Fund. Today, our cooperative initiatives include briefing of the CARICOM Caucus in New York by the Trust Fund following Sessions of the HRC, usually in the presence of the HRC's President.

CARICOM counts the Fund among those UN System Organizations with which it collaborates and convene cooperation meetings biennially. Matters relating to the Trust Fund comprise a Standing Item in the CARICOM Permanent Observer's update to the Monthly Meeting of the CARICOM Caucus, and are regularly exchanged with the CARICOM Secretariat for information and action.

As the Africa Region moves forward with this important Workshop, on behalf of CARICOM I extend best regards for a successful Workshop for Africa, a region with which CARICOM continues to develop close relations at all levels, including

at high political level, and at the United Nations, New York, through AfCAR, the African and CARICOM Group.

CARICOM looks forward to sharing the ***Ouagadougou-Port Louis Declaration Towards 2022*** cooperative initiatives, in conjunction with the Trust Fund and all LDCs/SIDS regions. Together, we are all on the way to contributing to, and benefiting from, initiatives that will ensure that the Trust Fund will continue to be ***“A HUMAN RIGHTS SUCCESS STORY”***.

***New York, NY
28 April 2021***