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CLOSING REMARKS

Good Evening,

Excellency, Mr. Vojislav Šuc, President of the United Nations Human Rights Council (12th Cycle)

Excellency Mr. Colin Granderson, Assistant Secretary-General, Directorate for Foreign and Community Relations (CARICOM)

Mr. Eric Tistounet, Chief Human Rights Council Branch, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Officials from CARICOM and the United Nations

Esteemed participants from CARICOM, African, Asian and Pacific states

As we close such a momentous event, the Government of Guyana was indeed honoured to have co-hosted such a significant workshop in partnership with the Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights and CARICOM.

During the past two days this workshop which is the first of a series of 3 workshops, has without a doubt enabled you participants to actively engage in evaluating the invaluable contributions of the Trust Fund in building the capacity of LDCs and SIDS for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Caribbean region. It has enabled member States to benefit from the expertise and experience not only from among those within our region but

from other regions such as Africa, Asia and the Pacific, that have developed good practices in engaging with the HRC and its mechanisms.

This Workshop and those planned in the not so distant future serves as unique forum for periodic, open and interactive dialogue on approaches and procedures for ensuring that human rights challenges of concern to SIDS and LDCs are placed and remain on the HRCs agenda, and that opportunities are identified to address them.

We are cognizant that as a result of resource constraints most of our Member States do not have a permanent mission in Geneva. The support provided by the Trust Fund has therefore been critical to ensuring that the voices and perspectives of LDCs and SIDS are heard.

Our presence allows us to speak directly to the global community about the human rights issues that are of greatest concern to us ensures that our development priorities are identified and reflected in the HRC.

It is imperative that we must continue to work to ensure that the interests, perspectives, and challenges faced by LDCs and SIDS are front and centre in the UN HRC's deliberations on human rights, and that we can fully benefit from the UN mechanisms in place for the promotion and protection of human rights.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda recognizes the importance of strengthening the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.

And it is well known that a participatory HRC is critical to the strategic action required to counter human rights violations and to promote and protect human rights.

With the identification of experiences and lessons learnt and good practices shared during this workshop we do hope that delegates will leave here today empowered to further enhance and strengthen the effective participation of their respective country in the work of the Human Rights Council.

The adoption of the declaration of the Georgetown Roadmap to 2022 provides a guide aimed at ensuring that LDCs and SIDS in the Caribbean Region continue to be actively engaged in, and participate in the work of the HRC and its mechanism in the period leading up to 2022, which will mark the 10th Anniversary of the established Trust Fund.

In closing the Government of Guyana wishes to take this opportunity to thank and commend the Secretariat of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund for its commitment to universal participation in the work of the HRC and its instrumental role in providing practical support to LDCs and SIDS.

We would like to particularly thank all Member States that have made contributions to the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to support the participation of LDCs and SIDS.

A special thank you to all the delegates for your valuable inputs into this workshop, your inputs will further strengthen and enhance the participation of LDCs and SIDS in the HRC.

It is important to note that the universality of human rights must be coupled with universal participation because every state has an important role to play in the HRC irrespective of its size, geography, population or resources.

I thank you!