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Closing remarks

by

His Excellency Mr. Coly Seck

PRESIDENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

LDCs/SIDS TRUST FUND WORKSHOP FOR THE PACIFIC REGION

**“Engaging with the UN Human Rights Council through the LDCs/SIDS Trust
Fund: Achievements, Challenges and Lessons Learned”**

Nadi, Republic of Fiji, 19-21 November 2019

21 November 2019

Your Excellency Ambassador Khan,

Honourable Solicitor- General, Mr. Sharvada Sharma,

Mister Fred Sarufa, Rapporteur General of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Workshop for the Pacific Region,

Your Excellency Ambassador Sherman- Peter,

Your Excellencies,

Madame Chitralekha Massey, Regional Representative of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Pacific,

Mister Eric Tistounet, Chief of the Human Rights Council Branch,

Distinguished participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me first to express my sincere thanks to Ambassador Khan and, through her to the Government and citizens of the Republic of Fiji, for the very warm and familiar welcome that I have received in this beautiful country. Bula Vinaka!

It was an honour and a privilege to be with all of you, former beneficiary delegates and fellows from the Pacific Region, of the you on the occasion of the second regional seminar for SIDS and LDCs, organized by the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the work of the Human Rights Council (HRC).

Distinguished participants,

I wish to commend all of you for your active participation in this Workshop.

I am glad that you were able to reach agreement on the outcome of this important Workshop and that the Nadi Declaration Towards 2022 was agreed upon by all of you.

This Declaration is timely because it clearly reiterate the commitment of SIDS of your region to strengthen their cooperation with the HRC and its Mechanisms,

The Declaration contains detailed and precise action point. It sets a framework for the 2 SIDS from your region, and it may assist Fiji and the Republic of Marshall Islands, to further engage with the HRC.

My hope is that the P SIDS will implement, most of the actions included thereon in a very short time span. May I recall that 60% of the Georgetown suggested action points were implemented in less than one year. We should be all proud of this wonderful achievements. I am confident that this will be case also for the Nadi Declaration.

Having attending some of your deliberations, I strongly convinced that the effective participation of all States in the work of the Council is crucial. Your voices must be heard and must resonate in the HRC Chamber, in Room XX, on issues that are of primary importance to you: climate change, the fight against violence against women, the importance of strengthening the nexus between the HRC and the 2020 agenda and its SDGs. 2030 is at the corner and we should all strive to ensure that “no one will be left behind.”

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Distinguished participants,

It was my honour to be warmly received by His Excellency the President of Fiji, Major-General (RETD.) Joji Konrote. His Excellency discussed the need for ensuring the human rights of all and laid emphasis on leaving no one behind.

I was also deeply honoured to receive an invitation to the House of Parliament. Indeed, I was humbled and touched by this honour bestowed on me by the Honourable Speaker Ratu Epeli Nailatikau and the Members of Parliament.

The active engagement of Fiji as a member of the Human Rights Council has provided an impetus to other Pacific Island States. My joint meeting with the Honourable Prime Minister, the Attorney General and the Minister for Foreign Affairs was very constructive, and we agreed on the need for continued leadership by the Pacific region as well as the continued leadership by Fiji at the Human Rights Council.

This meeting provided me with the opportunity to commend the Fijian Government on its leadership at the global stage on climate change. I encourage the Fijian Government to show similar leadership in the region on the implementation of the accepted UPR recommendations. Indeed, I congratulate the Fijian Government on the acceptance of 189 out of 243 recommendations received at its 3rd UPR cycle.

All governments require support in different forms to meet their human rights obligations, this is the reason why my engagement with the UN Country Team was important. I was delighted to meet with the UN Country Team in Fiji as UN agencies reiterated their

commitments to support the governments across the Pacific by implementing the United Nations Pacific Strategy 2018 – 2021.

Distinguished Participants,

I would like before closing to commit to the following:

1. Ensure that upon my return to Geneva, I will seize all opportunities to reiterate the importance of supporting the LDCs/SIDS Trust, a mechanism that has proven its efficiency to ensure that you join us in the deliberations of the HRC, in particular Pacific SIDS, that are not represented in Geneva.
2. Brief thoroughly the incoming HRC President on the outcome of this important workshop
3. Circulate, the Nadi Declaration to all the Permanent Missions in Geneva, if I receive such a request from the host of the this workshop

Finally ,and even if the one year tenure of my country Senegal, the first LDC to hold the Presidency of the Council since its establishment of the Council in 2006, will end in 6 weeks, Senegal the country of the Teranga (Hospitality) will always stand ready by you to assist, share its experience and lessons learnt with all the LDCs/SIDS. You can count on us. I invite you to reach out to us.

I wish to all of you safe return to your respective countries.

Diërëdiëf, Bula Vinaka, Thank you