

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The year **2017** was **EVENTFUL** for the **LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund** as it marked **the 5th Anniversary** of the unanimous adoption of resolution 19/26 establishing the Fund.



The Year in Review: LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund 2017

WHAT'S NEW?

A Strengthened Trust Fund Mandate

Human Rights Council resolution 34/40 entitled: *Promoting 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*, was adopted on **24 March 2017 without a vote**.

The number of countries **that sponsored /co-sponsored resolution 34/40 totalled 120**, making it **the second most sponsored** resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council since its establishment in 2006.

In addition to the record number of co-sponsors, there were **3 other 'first time' milestones reached with the resolution:**

- **First time that** all States without Permanent Missions in **Geneva** co-sponsored a HRC resolution;
- **First time all Pacific States** co-sponsored a HRC resolution; and
- **First time a resolution was co-sponsored by all 14 Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).**

In this resolution, the HRC decides that:

1. the Fund should conduct **at least one briefing a year in New York** on the outcomes of the regular and special sessions of the Human Rights Council,
2. the Fund should **conduct workshops in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and the Caribbean**, reflecting on its achievements, identifying where further improvements might be made and assessing the value of its activities;
3. the *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights* should **prepare a report** in which the Office evaluates the activities of the Trust Fund in meeting its training and capacity-building mandate, and to present the report to **the Human Rights Council** at its forty-ninth session (**2022**).

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LDCs/SIDS TRUST

FUND SUPPORT 2017

Facts and Figures

In 2017, the Trust Fund provided support to **22 DELEGATES AND 5 FELLOWS FROM 26 LDCS/SIDS** (13 from Africa, 4 from the Caribbean and Latin America, and 9 from Asia and the Pacific). Among the **27** beneficiary delegates and fellows **18 were women (66%)**.

Nine of the delegates and fellows that participated in the HRC with Trust

Fund Awards in 2017 **represented SIDS that do not have permanent**

representation in Geneva, namely: Belize, Dominica, Federated States of

Micronesia, Guinea Bissau, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, and Tonga.

First Time Participation

Of the 26 delegates and fellows supported by the Trust Fund this year, **24 were delegates that were participating in the work of the HRC for the first time** (18 women, 6 men).

WHERE DO BENEFICIARY DELEGATES WORK?

18 in THE MINISTRY OF **FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

5 in THE MINISTRY OF **JUSTICE**

3 in **other** Ministries

1 IN THE PERMANENT MISSION IN NEW YORK

Their Contribution during the 3 HRC Regular Sessions

Beneficiary Delegates and Fellows that *participated* in one of the three regular sessions of the HRC in 2017 delivered at least one statement to the

Council, amounting to more **than 27 statements**. They also delivered **A**

total of 9 joint statements ON BEHALF OF BENEFICIARIES

OF THE FUND.

BEYOND ROOM XX

Events organized in support of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund

Geneva

The Secretariat of the LDCs/SIDS of the OHCHR organized **23 events** in the margins of the three regular sessions of the HRC in Geneva In 2017.

Most of these events were supported by the Geneva Permanent Missions of both beneficiary and donor countries (**AUSTRALIA, BAHAMAS, DENMARK, FRANCE, GUYANA, IRELAND, ITALY, MALDIVES, MOROCCO, NEW ZEALAND, SINGAPORE, SPAIN, AND THE NETHERLANDS**, in *English alphabetical order*), the Human Rights section of the **Commonwealth Secretariat**, and **the Universal Rights Group** (NGO).

New York

In **October**, a delegation of the Human Rights Council Branch, which administrates the Trust Fund, **began implementation** of a particular provision of HRC resolution 34/40 of 23 March 2017.

The delegation specifically addressed the **mandate that invited the HRC Secretariat to,** “conduct at least one briefing a year in New York on the outcomes of the regular and special sessions of the Human Rights Council, prior to the commencement of each session of the General Assembly” for LDCs/SIDS.

Some *30 delegates attended the briefings, most at the level of Permanent Representative or Deputy Permanent Representative*. The **CARICOM Office** of the Permanent Observer and a *donor country* of the Trust Fund also attended the Briefings. All LDCs/SIDS delegations welcomed and expressed appreciation for the **first-ever** briefings organised by HRCB in New York.

Delegates described the briefings as **Practical** and **helpful**, and providing valuable background information to enable full participation in the discussions of the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly.

Trust Fund Beneficiaries Participation in international Forum

Ms. Norleen Oliver, A former beneficiary delegate from **Micronesia**

(Federated States of) together with the Trust Fund Coordinator, participated in the 7th World Human Rights Cities Forum (WHRCF) held from 14 – 17 September 2017 in the **Gwangju Metropolitan City, Republic of Korea**.

In its Final Statement, the Forum “*Welcomed* the participation of new pioneers and innovators for human rights city, especially those from the countries and societies prone to conflicts and/or natural disasters, *such as small developing island nations in Asia and the Pacific*” (point 6).

GREATER VISIBILITY OF THE TRUST FUND’S ACTIVITIES

Publications

The LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund issued three publications (in English, French and Spanish) during 2017:

- The Historic First Universal Session of the HRC: The contributions of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund (January 2017)



- Commemorating the 5th anniversary of the Trust Fund (February 2017)



An historical milestone of participation by all Caribbean Community (CARICOM) SIDS through the support of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund (June 2017)



Microsite and Television

A dedicated microsite featuring a series of **articles** and **video INTERVIEWS** with LDCs/SIDS Beneficiary delegates and others on the activities of the *Trust Fund* was developed **in partnership** with the **Television Suisse**

Romande (**RTS Découverte**) and broadcasted on the **9** channels

of **TV5 Monde**.

OUR Achievements TOWARDS UNIVERSAL PARTICIPATION in the HRC

Since it became operational on 1st January 2014, the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund has

supported **86** Delegates and Fellows (including **51**

women) coming from **61 LDCs/SIDS** (28 from Africa, 19 from Asia & the Pacific, 14 from the Caribbean and Latin America).

As mandated by the Council, OHCHR has developed **the first** interactive, **accessible** and **gender-sensitive**

E-LEARNING TOOL designed for officials from **LDCs and SIDS**. The tool is available in English and French.

SHARING OUR SUCCESS WITH OUR Indispensable SUPPORTERS: THE DONORS TO THE TRUST FUNDS

At the end of 2017, **22** donors are supporting the Trust Fund.

In 2017, **13** countries contributed to the Fund.

Among them, **FIVE** were **FIRST TIME Donors.**

2018

OUR GOALS

Goal 1:

100% SUPPORT *TO ALL* THE 72 LDCs/SIDS in THE **WORLD**

Goal 2:

Celebrating the 100th Beneficiary delegate !

Goal 3:

REACHING 30 DONORS

Join the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund success story!

A HUMAN RIGHTS SUCCESS STORY

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