



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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Funding opportunity for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to participate in the thirty-seventh session (28 February - 23 March 2018), in the thirty-eight session (18 June-6 July 2018) and in the thirty-ninth session (10-28 September 2018) of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Human Rights Council Branch) presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Geneva and New York and has the honour to inform them that the deadlines for applications are the following:

1st January 2018 (for the 37th session)
1st April 2018 (for the 38th session), and
1st July 2018 (for the 39th session)

The Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund was established pursuant to HRC resolution 19/26 adopted on 23 March 2012 (copy attached). On 24 March 2017, the Human Rights Council adopted 34/40 (copy attached) 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".

Since its operationalization in 2014, the Trust Fund has assisted 86 LDCs/SIDS Delegates (including 51 women) coming from 61 LDCs/SIDS (28 from Africa, 19 from Asia & the Pacific, 14 from the Caribbean and Latin America) to participate in a regular session of the HRC.

Additional information on the Trust Fund can be found on the following website: www.ohchr.org/sidslde.

In accordance with the mandate of the Trust Fund, the LDCs and SIDS are invited to designate one Government official, at expert level, who has been working in the field of human rights for at least one year either in the capital or their Permanent Mission in New York. Priority will be given to the LDCs and SIDS that have not yet benefited from the Trust Fund namely:

Africa: Comoros, Eritrea, Mauritius, Mozambique, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Zambia

Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Yemen.

The designated Government official will be required to attend the full programme. A mandatory Induction Programme will be organized by the Human Rights Council



Branch prior to the 37th, 38th and the 39th sessions of the HRC (dates of the mandatory Induction Programme for each session to be communicated at a later stage).

Based on applicable UN rules and regulations, the Trust Fund covers one round-trip ticket in economy class per regular session for each Government official and daily subsistence allowance for the duration of the mission in Geneva (not exceeding the duration of the regular session). It does not cover costs for health insurance or other expenses, including personal expenses, during the government official's stay in Geneva.

Please note that the Human Rights Council Branch is not responsible for finding accommodation/lodging for the designated Government official. Each Government official is responsible to secure her/his own temporary accommodation in Geneva and covering it with the Daily subsistence allowance applicable during her/his stay.

In order to initiate the process and enable the Secretariat to make travel arrangements, a request for funding along with the following documents must be sent to the Secretariat by email (sidsldc@ohchr.org and registry@ohchr.org) no later than 1st January 2018 (for the 37th session), 1st April 2018 (for the 38th session) and 1st July 2018 (for the 39th session).

For the participation in the 37th, 38th and 39th sessions, the following four documents are required:

1. A note verbale from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or any other appropriate Ministry endorsing the designation of the Government official (a sample is attached). A copy of this note verbale must be sent to the Permanent Mission of his/her country in Geneva, if any. The Secretariat would greatly appreciate it if in the Note verbale, in addition to the contact details of the Government delegate (email, office and mobile telephone numbers), it would be indicated whether or not the Government official requires a visa to enter Switzerland.
2. At the time of the application, the designated Government official must hold a passport valid at least six months following his/her return to his/her country of origin or to New York. A scanned copy of the passport of the designated Government official must be attached to the application package.
3. A curriculum vitae (word version, no pdf or scanned image please) of the designated Government official in English or French;
4. The candidate's certificate of completion of the mandatory e-Learning course
(<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/TrustFund/Pages/Tool.aspx>)

The attention of applicants is drawn to the fact that while interpretation is always provided in the HRC proceedings, negotiation of draft resolutions or the holding of side-events and the induction course organized by the Trust Fund are conducted without interpretation and normally in English only.

Only fully completed applications that are submitted prior to the deadline will be considered.



For additional information, kindly contact Ms. Fatou Camara Houel, Coordinator of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund (email: fhoul@ohchr.org).

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Human Rights Council Branch) avails itself of this opportunity to renew to Permanent Missions of the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in Geneva and New York the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 12 October 2017

Attachments:

- HRC resolution 19/26 adopted on 23 March 2012
- HRC resolution 34/40 adopted on 24 March 2017
- A sample of note verbale endorsing the designation of the Government official

cc:

- Current Chair of the PSIDS, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Nauru to the United Nations in New York

- Current Chair of the CARICOM Caucus, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Haiti Nauru to the United Nations in New York

- Office of the Permanent Observer Mission of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in New York

- Office of the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations in New York

- Office of the Permanent Observer of the African Union to United Nations Office at Geneva