Donor countries to the Trust Fund:

**AUSTRALIA**

“One of the many achievements of the Trust Fund has been to build the capacity of beneficiaries to engage and contribute to the Human Rights Council, particularly through the provision of training programmes and the sharing of on the ground practical experience and knowledge. Australia is particularly interested in boosting the capacity of our Asia Pacific partners to contribute to the Human Rights Council’s work and is pleased to note that nine of these States have been beneficiaries of the Fund.”

H.E. Mr. John Quinn,
Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations Office at Geneva

**GERMANY**

“There is clear recognition that all States need to be present in the Human Rights Council on equal footing. The Trust Fund is indispensable and charts a two-way street; we can profit from the participation of these States and they can indeed profit from their own participation.”

H.E. Mr. Joachim Rücker,
“Ireland has supported the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund since its inception. We were honoured to be the first contributor and since then we have continued to provide regular contributions to enable it to carry out its work. We have done so for two reasons. First, as it is a question of fairness to all States to facilitate their participation in the Human Rights Council. And second, as we believe that the Council is a forum where all voices can and must be heard if we are to effectively promote and protect human rights around the world. The Trust Fund has proven to be an efficient mechanism to achieve this goal and has ensured the participation in Council sessions of many States that otherwise would have been unable to attend. We particularly welcome the high level of women representing LDCs/SIDS who have been facilitated to participate in this regard. We are pleased that an increasing number of States have joined us in supporting this initiative. The Trust Fund is clearly a success story and we encourage partners to join us in taking action to ensure that it maintains this positive trajectory.”

H.E. Ms. Patricia O’Brien, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations Office at Geneva

“Italy is proud to be one of the donors of the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of LDCs/SIDS in the work of the Human Rights Council and is very supportive of this initiative. By providing the UN membership with more opportunities to participate in the work of the Human Rights Council, the Trust Fund is helping to make this body a place where all voices can be heard and expressed. There is no question that the active participation of LDCs/SIDS that were previously unable to engage in human rights discussions due to a lack of human, technical or financial capacities will bring added value to the Council’s work and improve its ability to promote and protect human rights around the world. This is why Italy believes so strongly in the work of the Trust Fund and encourages all donors that are in a position to support the Trust Fund to consider doing so.”

H.E. Mr. Maurizio Enrico Serra, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations Office at Geneva
**SWITZERLAND**

“The universal representation of the UN Member States in Geneva is a priority of Swiss foreign policy; all of the States must be in a position to participate in the multilateral debates that are held in Geneva and to contribute to these. It is in this spirit that Switzerland has decided to support the Trust Fund, thanks to which the LDCs and the SIDS may engage with the Human Rights Council. Their participation in the Council’s work is essential, not only in defence of their own interests, but also from the point of view of the legitimacy and credibility of the Council as a principal organ of the United Nations for the promotion and protection of human rights in the entire world.”

H.E. Mr. Alexandre Fasel, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations Office at Geneva

**THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO**

“The participation of LDCs and SIDS in the work of the Human Rights Council in Geneva illustrates the important role of the Trust Fund. Morocco remains one of the main supporters of this initiative, which stems from a commitment to international solidarity and shows how much the international community cares. The international community should continue to consider the Trust Fund as a way to build a more inclusive society.”

H.E. Mr. Mohamed Auajjar, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations Office at Geneva
THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

“The Kingdom of the Netherlands is very supportive of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund. Too often, the gap between the UN and the people it aims to serve remains too wide. Specifically in the field of human rights, we should do more to ‘bring human rights home’: to connect the UN to the people. This Trust Fund aims to do exactly that, as it supports countries which may lack the human, technical or financial capacity to actively contribute to the work of the Human Rights Council, to the benefit of these countries, but also to enrich the work of the Council and the entire UN community by introducing new perspectives to our deliberations. We believe in the added value of this Trust Fund and call on other donors who are able to do so to consider supporting it.”

H.E. Mr. Roderick van Schreven, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations Office at Geneva

THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

“(The Kingdom of Humanity); The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia took on the responsibility of a noble goal, which is, to provide support and help countries and people in need, everywhere around the world, without discrimination and beyond geographical and cultural and religious borders. To do so, the Kingdom decided to support the Trust Fund, welcome the participants and wish them a beneficial experience.”

H.E. Mr. Faisal Bin Hassan Trad, Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations Office at Geneva
THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

“We are delighted to support this worthwhile Trust Fund as it enables the Least Developed Countries and the Small Island Developing States to engage with the Human Rights Council. The Trust Fund’s achievements are commendable, in particular with regard to gender parity.”

H.E. Mr. Julian Braithwaite, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations Office at Geneva

TURKEY

“Turkey, as an ardent advocate of international solidarity and partnership, is actively engaged in raising awareness in the international community and contributing to the efforts of finding solutions to the pressing problems of the LDCs and the SIDS. Turkey has been an active development partner for these countries through the activities of the Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency, among others. It is in line with this commitment that Turkey contributed to the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund, which provides a unique opportunity to the LDCs and SIDS to have their voices heard in the HRC, allowing them to express their challenges and also to learn from experiences and best practices in the field of human rights.”

H.E. Mr. Mehmet Ferden Çarıkçı, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva