**Funding opportunity for Least Developed Countries (LCDs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to participate in the forty-third session (24 February - 20 March 2020), the forty-forth session (15 June - 3 July 2020) and the forty-fifth session (14 September - 2 October 2020) of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland**

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Secretariat of the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to support the participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the work of Human Rights Council) presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions of Least Developed Countries andSmall Island Developing States in Geneva and New York and has the honour to inform them that the deadlines for applications **are the following:**

* **1st January 2020 (for the 43rd session);**
* **1st April 2020 (for the 44th session); and**
* **1st July 2020 (for the 45th session).**

The Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund was established pursuant to HRC resolution 19/26 adopted on 23 March 2012. Since its operationalization in 2014, the Trust Fund has assisted 143 delegates coming from 71 LDCs/SIDS to participate in a regular session of the HRC. Additional information on the Trust Fund could be found on the following website: [www.ohchr.org/sidsldc](http://www.ohchr.org/sidsldc).

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 LCDs and SIDS without a Permanent Mission Geneva.

The designated Government official will be required to attend the full programme. A three-day Induction Programme, in English, will be organized by the Trust Fund Secretariat the week prior each session (dates will 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 per Member State 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 Secretariat of the Trust Fund is not responsible for finding accommodation/lodging for the designated delegate. Each delegate 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 of the Trust Fund 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 the **1st January 2020 (for the 43rd session)**, the **1st April 2020 (for the 44th session)**; and the **1st July 2020 (for the 45th session)**.

**PLEASE MAKE SURE TO MENTION IN YOUR APPLICATION FOR WHICH SESSION YOU ARE APPLYING. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO APPLY FOR MORE THAN ONE SESSION AT ONCE.**

For the participation in those **regular** sessions, the following five mandatory 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 applicable.
2. The candidate’s certificate of completion of the e-Learning course (http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/TrustFund/Pages/Tool.aspx)
3. A scanned copy of the passport of the designated Government official must be attached to the application package. Please note that 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.
4. A curriculum vitae (word version ONLY, no PDF or picture of the CV) of the designated Government official in English and or French;
5. The VISA request dully completed.

**The attention of candidates 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 are conducted without interpretation and normally in English only.**

**ONLY FULLY COMPLETED APPLICATIONS THAT ARE SUBMITTED PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE**

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Secretariat of the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to support the participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the work of Human Rights Council) avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions of the Least Developed Countries andSmall Island Developing States in Geneva and New York the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 26 September 2019

Attachments:

A sample of note verbale endorsing the designation of the Government official

A visa request form

cc:

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Fiji to the United Nations in New York and current Chair of the PSIDS

Permanent Observer Mission of the Caribbean Community in New York

Permanent Delegation of the African Union to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva