



CONCEPT NOTE

WORKSHOP FOR LDCs/SIDS IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION

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

Monday 19 November and Tuesday 20 November 2018

Pegasus Hotel

Georgetown, Guyana

WORKSHOP FOR LDCs/SIDS IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION
**“Engaging with the UN Human Rights Council through the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund:
Achievements, Challenges and Lessons Learnt “**

Organization:

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 the Human Rights Council, Human Rights Council Branch, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner For Human Rights.

Sponsors

*Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana
Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM)*

Participants

Projected Participants - 40:

All the former beneficiary delegates and fellows of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund from CARICOM Member States (21 delegates out of the 23 delegates supported by the Trust Fund from September 2014 to date)

Former beneficiary delegates from the other 2 regions within the mandate of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund: Africa (Seychelles, Senegal) -1; Asia and the Pacific (Fiji, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea) – 4

Representative of the CARICOM Caucus New York and CARICOM Group Geneva

Chair (Singapore) and one representative (Slovenia) of the Forum of Small States (FOSS)

Representative of the Human Rights Unit of the Commonwealth Secretariat, London

Designated Staff - Government of Guyana and CARICOM Secretariat

Representative(s) of UNDP Guyana

Guest of Honor

His Excellency Mr. Vojislav ŠUC (Slovenia) President of the UN Human Rights Council Twelve Cycle (2018)

Background and Mandate

The workshop is organized pursuant to HRC resolution 34/40 adopted on 6 April 2017. That resolution encouraged the Trust Fund to support the conduct of a workshop in Africa, in Asia and the Pacific, and in Caribbean, the three areas supported by the Fund, before its tenth anniversary in March 2022 for:

- ***Reflecting on its achievements,***
- ***Identifying where further improvements might be made; and***
- ***Assessing the value of its activities in fulfilling its training and capacity-building in support of the engagement of LDCs and SIDS in the work of the HRC and its mechanisms "***

This workshop for LDCs/SIDS in the Caribbean Region is the first of in the series of 3 Workshops that will be organized before 2022, as mandated by the Human Rights Council.

In June 2017, the Caribbean region became the first of the 3 eligible regions to have received 100% support for all of its member states from the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund. Each of the region's 14 LDCs/SIDS states had received support from the Trust Fund at least once on that date.

A brochure commemorating the 100% milestone is available at the following address:

https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/LDCs_SIDS/BrochureTheCaribbean_EN.pdf .Hard copies of the brochure would be make available to all participants at the Workshop.

Context

The workshop brings together, for the first time, all delegates of the Caribbean Region that have participated in a regular session of the HRC with the support of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund. It therefore presents a unique opportunity for interaction and the exchange of experience, information and ideas, and for the identification and documentation of best practices that would further enhance and strengthen their country's effective participation in the Human Rights Council and its mechanism, both nationally and regionally.

Objectives

The two-day workshop aims to:

Assess the contribution of the Trust Fund in building the capacity of LDCs/SIDS for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Caribbean region by providing the opportunity for Member States to benefit from the expertise and experience among themselves as well as of states of other regions that have developed good practices they can share in engaging with the HRC and its mechanisms

Identify methodologies and approaches beneficiary delegates may use to identify practical courses of action they can recommend for implementation to their Governments following their participation in the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Programme, and to assess the impact these courses of action are likely to have, and the relevance of the beneficiary delegate's experience to their implementation at the national and regional levels

Serve as a unique forum for open and interactive dialogue on approaches and procedures for ensuring that human rights challenges of concern to SIDS are placed and remain on the HRC's Agenda, and that opportunities be identified to address them.

Make specific recommendations regarding the further strengthening of participation of LDCs/SIDS in the work of the HRC and its Mechanisms (UPR, Special Procedures) and on provisions for ensuring the inclusion and participation of LDCs/SIDS during the 2021 Review of the status of the HRC.

General Outcome

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner has been tasked with the drafting of a report to evaluate the activities of the Trust Fund in implementing its training and capacity-building mandate. This report will be presented to the HRC at its forty-ninth Session (February/March 2022). The commentary and conclusions on training and capacity building emanating from the Workshop will serve as the Caribbean Region's contribution to the Report.

Principal Outcome

*To develop and agree a final declaration, **The Georgetown Roadmap to 2022**, setting out action points aimed at ensuring that LDCs/SIDS in the Caribbean Region continue to be actively engaged in, and participate in the work of the HRC and its Mechanisms in the period leading up to 2022, which will mark the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of the Trust Fund.*

The "Georgetown Roadmap to 2022" will be finalized and adopted at the end of the Workshop.

Methodology

*The 2 day-Workshop will be organized between **Plenary Sessions** and **Working Group Sessions**.*

*A **Workshop Rapporteur** will be designated, who, in cooperation with Moderators, Rapporteurs of the two Working Groups, a member of the OHCHR Secretariat, and a volunteer participant, will give a summary of Plenary and Working Group Sessions, and prepare the draft **The Georgetown Roadmap to 2022** for consideration and adoption by the Workshop.*

Working Language

*The working language for the Workshop will be in **English**.*