



**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 Learned”**

Georgetown, 19 November 2018

**Welcome Address
by
H.E. Mr Vojislav Šuc
President of the Human Rights Council**

The Honourable Moses Nagamootoo, Prime Minister of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana,

Your Excellency Mr. Colin Anderson, Assistant Secretary-General, Directorate for Foreign and Community Relations of CARICOM

Mr. Eric Tistounet, Chief of the Human Rights Branch at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Excellencies,

Distinguished Colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great honour and pleasure to be able to welcome you here today in Guyana and at this first workshop for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) mandated by the Human Rights Council in 2017. This is also my first visit to Guyana and the CARICOM region and if I am correctly informed it is also the first time that a sitting President of the Human Rights Council has visited the region. This set of firsts is of particular privilege to me, as the issue of enhancing SIDS engagement in the Council's work has been high on my agenda this year.

During the year while visiting New York this year I have already made some steps towards knitting closer connection between the Human Rights Council and the SIDS, especially CARICOM community. In particular, I have briefed your representatives in New York, when I was there in July, on the work of the Council and answered their questions. Before this, in April, I have met Ambassador Sherman Peter and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her again for taking her time to discuss how we can help strengthening engagement of the CARICOM states in the work of the Human Rights Council.

The next few days here will be very busy days for me as I intend to also meet with different high representatives of Guyana and the CARICOM and I am sincerely looking forward to it.

Before I conclude I would like to make one observation: When I look around the room I cannot but applaud to such a high representation (more than half) of women in this seminar.

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish us all very fruitful and productive discussions in the next few days.

Thank you!