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COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
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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 (LDC) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Geneva and in New York and has the honour to inform them that the deadline for applications for the 2021 Fellowship Programme **is 1 May 2021**.

The Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund was established pursuant to HRC resolution 19/26 adopted on 23 March 2012. Since its operationalization in 2014, a total of twenty-one LDCs/SIDS government officials have participated in the Fellowship Programme. In 2021, the Trust Fund will grant **a maximum of ten (10) Fellowships worldwide**. Additional information on the Trust Fund could be found on the following website: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/TrustFund/Pages/Beneficiaries.aspx>

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 2 years either in the capital or their Permanent Mission in New York. Priority will be given to the **LDCs and SIDS that do not have a permanent representation in Geneva and LDCs/SIDS that are Members of the HRC. Applications from female candidates are strongly encouraged.**

The designated Government official will be required to attend the full Fellowship Programme which is expected to run for a maximum of 11 weeks from September to November 2021. Tentative dates: 7 September – 12 November 2021 (Precise dates will be determined at a later stage).

Scope of the financial coverage

The Trust Fund financially supports the selected Fellow in the **form of a monthly stipend for the duration of the Fellowship Programme (maximum of 11 weeks <https://www.un.org/development/desa/fellowship/stipend-rates/>) and covers the cost of a round-trip ticket in economy class** (based on applicable UN rules on travel). The Trust Fund does not cover costs for health insurance or other expenses, including personal expenses, during the Fellow's stay in Geneva. The Trust Fund will not cover any expenses related to COVID 19 (medications; quarantine, etc).

The Fellow is responsible for obtaining any necessary visa and health insurance. She/he is also responsible for arranging her/his own accommodation in Geneva and covering related expenses from the monthly stipend. The Secretariat of the Fund will not be able to assist in securing an accommodation in Geneva.



Eligibility and Qualifications

Only a government official/civil servant from a LDC/SIDS who is based in her/his home country is eligible to apply. At the time of application, the candidate must have:

- An advanced university degree in law, political science, international relations or a related discipline. Significant relevant experience may be considered in lieu of an advanced university degree.
- A minimum of 2 years' experience in the government of her/his home country in the field of human rights. Experience in intergovernmental processes is an advantage.
- Fluency in English or French. **The attention of candidates is drawn to the fact that while interpretation is always provided in the formal meetings of the Human Rights Council, informal meetings and informal consultations on draft resolutions are conducted without interpretation and normally in English only.**

The candidate must also be committed to sharing the knowledge and experience gained during the Fellowship with their colleagues in the government.

Only successful applicants will be informed of the final decision by **mid-June 2021**.

How to apply

Interested, eligible and qualified candidates must submit applications through their permanent missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva or in New York if there is no Permanent mission in Geneva together with the following documents:

1. Completed application form (copy attached)
2. Note Verbale endorsing the candidature of a government official (copy of sample attached);
3. Certificate of completion of the e-Learning course for LDCs/SIDS delegates participating in the the work of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms developed by the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund of LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Secretariat. Link to the mandatory e-learning course: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/TrustFund/Pages/Tool.aspx>;
4. A scanned copy of the passport of the candidate. The passport must be **valid for at least six months after his/her return to his/her home country or official duty station**;
5. A detailed curriculum vitae in English or French (MS Word format);
6. A personal letter of motivation explaining concrete follow-up actions that will be undertaken upon return to the capital or official duty station (two pages maximum);
7. A 'Visa Information Form' (copy attached) to indicate whether or not the candidate needs a Schengen visa;
8. Photograph of the candidate in jpeg format.



Important notice: Only fully completed applications (including 8 documents listed above) sent in one email message that are submitted prior to 1 May 2021 will be considered by the Secretariat of the Trust Fund. Applications should be sent to: sidslde@ohchr.org and registry@ohchr.org with the following reference in the subject line of the email message: LDCs/SIDS Fellowship Programme 2021: (name of your country, name of the delegate).

THE ATTENTION OF CANDIDATES IS DRAWN TO THE FACT THAT THE PROGRAMME MAY BE CHANGED OR CANCELLED DUE TO THE EVOLVING SITUATION OF THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC AND RELATED RESTRICTIONS TO BE IMPOSED BY THE SWISS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES, AS WELL AS THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA CLOSER TO THE PERIOD OF THE FELLOWSHIP.

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 and Small Island Developing States in Geneva and in New York the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 31 December 2020

Attachments:

- Application form the 2021 Fellowship Programme
- Sample of Note Verbale endorsing the designation of the Government official
- Visa information form

cc:

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Fiji to the United Nations in New York and current Chair of the Pacific Small Islands Developing States (PSIDS) (mission@fijiprun.org)

Permanent Observer Mission of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to the United Nations in New York (cari.per.obs.un@gmail.com)

Permanent Delegation of the African Union to the United Nations in New York (au-newyork@africa-union.org)

Permanent Delegation of the African Union to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva (au-geneva@africa-union.org)