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COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
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**Funding opportunity for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to participate in the forty-seventh session (21 June-9 July 2021) and the forty-eight session (13 September – 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021) 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 and Small Island Developing States in Geneva and New York and has the honour to inform them **that the deadline for applications for participation at the 47<sup>th</sup> and the 48<sup>th</sup> sessions of the Human Rights Council (HRC) is 1<sup>st</sup> April 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, the Trust Fund has assisted 153 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:

<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 one year either in the capital or their Permanent Mission in New York. Priority will be given to the LDCs and SIDS without a Permanent Mission in Geneva and to LDCs/SIDS that are current Members of the HRC.

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 to 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. The Trust Fund will not cover any expenses related to COVID-19 (medications; quarantine, etc).

The delegate 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 with the daily subsistence allowance applicable during her/his stay. The Secretariat of the Fund will not be able to assist in securing an accommodation in Geneva.

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 five (5) documents must be



sent to the Secretariat by email ([sidsldc@ohchr.org](mailto:sidsldc@ohchr.org) and [registry@ohchr.org](mailto:registry@ohchr.org)) no later than **1 April 2021**.

**PLEASE MAKE SURE TO MENTION IN YOUR APPLICATION THE SESSION NUMBER (47<sup>th</sup> or 48<sup>th</sup>) IN WHICH YOU ARE INTERESTED TO PARTICIPATE. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR A DELEGATE TO APPLY TO PARTICIPATE IN BOTH SESSIONS.**

For the application to participate in a **regular** session, the following five (5) mandatory documents must be submitted:

1. A Note Verbale endorsing the candidature of a government official (copy of sample attached);
2. Certificate of completion of the E-learning course tool for LDCs/SIDS delegates participating in the work of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms developed by the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund. Link to the mandatory e-learning course:  
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/TrustFund/Pages/Tool.aspx>;
3. 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;
4. A detailed curriculum vitae in English or French (MS Word format);
5. A completed "Visa Information Form" (copy attached) to indicate whether or not the candidate needs a Schengen visa.

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

**ONLY FULLY COMPLETED APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE (1 April 2021) WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

**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 UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA CLOSER TO THE 47<sup>TH</sup> OR 48<sup>TH</sup> SESSION CONCERNED.**

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 New York the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 31 December 2020



Attachments:

- A 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](mailto:mission@fijiprun.org))

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

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