

**Welcome ceremony for the Delegates of Small Islands Developing states
without permanent representation in Geneva
Thursday 9 June 2016
9 a.m. – 9:30 a.m (Room XX, Palais des Nations)**

H.E. Mr. Choi Kyonglim, President of the Human Rights Council (2016)

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am privileged to welcome you all to this ceremony in honour of the distinguished representatives of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) without permanent representation in Geneva, who will be participating in the 32nd session of the Human Rights Council.

We are also honored by the presence of **Mr. Michael Møller, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, His Excellency Mr. Alexandre Fasel, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations Office in Geneva, and Mr. Adam Abdelmoula, Director of the Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division in the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.**

The participation of all Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States for the 32nd human rights council session will make this session truly universal and contribute to the human rights agenda of the United Nations as a whole. This great achievement is made possible as a result of the important work of the Voluntary Technical Assistant Trust Fund.

I hope that through your participation, the 32nd session will mark a unique opportunity to represent all voices from every corner of the world.

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I now have the pleasure to give the floor to the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, Mr. Michael Møller.

Mr. Director-General you have the floor.
[Remarks by the D-G]

I thank you for your statement.

I now have the honour of inviting the Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations in Geneva, His Excellency Mr. Alexandre Fasel, to make a statement on behalf of the host country.

Excellency, you have the floor.
[Remarks by the PR of Switzerland]

Excellency, I thank you.

I now have the pleasure to invite Mr. Adam Abdelmoula, Director of the Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division to make a statement on behalf of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Mr. Abdelmoula you have the floor.
[Remarks by the OHCHR]

I thank you for your statement.

I would now like to invite each Delegate (16) to introduce herself or himself.

Before concluding, I would like to invite the Permanent Representative of the CARICOM to deliver some remarks.

Excellency you have the floor.
[Remarks by the PR of CARICOM]

Thank you Excellency.

Closure of the ceremony and photo opportunities

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

This brings us to the end of our ceremony. I would like to now invite you to move to the front of the podium for some photo opportunities.

[Group pictures]

[Individual pictures with the President of the HRC]