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OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
PALAIS DES NATIONS • 1211 GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND
www.ohchr.org • TEL: +41 22 917 9000 • FAX: +41 22 917 9008 • E-MAIL: ohchr-registry@un.org; ohchr-sidsldc@un.org

Funding opportunity for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to participate in the 61st session, 62nd session and the 63rd session 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 of the **deadlines for applications to participate in the delegate programme for the 61st (23 February – 2 April 2026, dates to be confirmed), 62nd (15 June – 10 July 2026, dates to be confirmed) and 63rd (7 September – 9 October 2026, dates to be confirmed) sessions of the Human Rights Council (HRC), as follows:**

61st session: 10 December 2025
62nd session: 31 March 2026
63rd session: 5 June 2026

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 307 beneficiaries coming from 73 LDCs/SIDS to participate in a regular session of the HRC. Additional information about the Trust Fund is available at https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/trust-fund/ld-cs.

In accordance with the mandate of the Trust Fund, 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 in their Permanent Mission in New York, to participate in the delegate programme of the Trust Fund. The delegate programme covers the participation of a government official in one of the three regular Council sessions that are held during the year. 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. Former beneficiary delegates of the Trust Fund are not eligible.

The designated government official will be required to attend the full delegate programme, including the mandatory three-day induction course in Geneva organized by the Trust Fund Secretariat, prior to the beginning of each regular session of the HRC (dates will be communicated at a later stage).

Based on applicable United Nations rules and regulations, the Trust Fund covers one round-trip ticket in economy class per regular session per LDCs/SIDS and the daily subsistence allowance (DSA) payable to the selected delegate for the duration of his/her mission in Geneva (not exceeding the duration of the regular session). **The Trust Fund does not cover**

health insurance costs or medical expenses, nor any other expenses, including personal expenses, such as those incurred for clothing etc.

The delegate selected as a beneficiary of the Trust Fund will be responsible for obtaining a visa (if required) and health insurance coverage. He/she will also responsible for arranging his/her own accommodation in Geneva and for covering related expenses. A daily subsistence allowance, intended to cover lodging, meals and other expenses incurred during their mission in Geneva, will be paid to selected delegates in accordance with United Nations relevant rules and regulations. **The Secretariat of the Trust Fund cannot assist in securing accommodation in Geneva.**

Office space for the selected delegate will have to be provided by his/her Permanent Mission in Geneva. The Secretariat will not be able to secure office space for a selected delegate from LDCs/SIDS without a Permanent Mission in Geneva.

In order to initiate the process and enable the Secretariat of the Trust Fund to make travel arrangements, an application for funding must be submitted to the Secretariat by the above-mentioned deadlines.

Important: the application should be sent through the Permanent Mission in Geneva. For countries that do not have a Permanent Mission in Geneva, the application should be submitted either by their Permanent Mission in New York or other duty station that covers the Human Rights Council, or directly by the capital.

The application must indicate the Council session number (61st, 62nd or 63rd) in which the delegate is designated to participate, if selected. The same delegate cannot be designated for more than one regular session.

The application for funding must comprise the following five (5) mandatory documents:

1. A note verbale endorsing the candidature of a government official (sample attached);
2. The certificate of completion of the e-learning course tool on the Council for LDCs/SIDS delegates developed by the Trust Fund (available at https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/trust-fund/tool);
3. A legible scanned copy of the passport of the designated delegate in a separate pdf file (the passport must be valid for at least six months after his/her return to the home country or official duty station);
4. A detailed curriculum vitae (CV) in English or French, in MS Word format; and
5. A completed "Visa information form" (attached), indicating whether the candidate needs a Schengen visa.

Designated delegates must also commit to sharing the knowledge and experience gained during the programme with their colleagues in the government.

Only applications containing the five mandatory documents (see above) and submitted prior to the set deadlines will be accepted. Applications should be sent in one single email with 5 separate files to ohchr-sidsldc@un.org and ohchr-registry@un.org, indicating in the subject line of the email *LDCs/SIDS Delegate Programme HRC61 [or HRC62 or HRC63, as applicable] - name of country, name of delegate.* The Secretariat

will contact only the selected delegates, and with the relevant Permanent Missions in copy.

The attention of applicants is drawn to the fact that the delegate programme may be adjusted or cancelled due to financial, operational or other constraints and circumstances beyond the control of the Secretariat of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund.

For further information, please contact the Secretariat of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund at ohchr-sidsldc@un.org.

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, 8 October 2025

Attachments:

- A sample note verbale endorsing the candidature of a government official;
- Visa information form

Cc:

Permanent Mission of the Federated States of Micronesiato the United Nations in New York and current Chair of the Pacific Small Islands Developing States (PSIDS) (fsmun@fsmgov.org; psidschair@gmail.com)

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

Office of the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations in New York (au-newyork@africa-union.org; aumission_ny@yahoo.com)

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

Permanent Delegation of the International Organization of la Francophonie to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva (reper.geneve@francophonie.org)