

CARICOM and the Human Rights Council

Presentation by Ms. Sasha Dixon,
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Regional Workshop of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund for Africa

Sharing experiences and lessons learned from other regions (Asia and the Caribbean): With a focus on the priorities identified in the declarations and outcomes adopted at the previous regional workshops

May 2025



- Benin–CARICOM Ministerial Meeting (Jan 2025)

- Shared history and ambition between Africa and Caribbean



CARICOM Engagement with the HRC

- Trust Fund instrumental in building CARICOM engagement
- All CARICOM States have benefited from the Fund
- 49 delegates supported to date
- The Bahamas: From no mission to first CARICOM Council Member (2019–2021)

Concrete Results of Engagement



Joint CARICOM statements grew 70% from 2019 to 2023



17 joint statements in 2023



Organization of side events and resolution sponsorship



Adoption of CARICOM-led resolution for OHCHR Regional Office

Shared Regional Goals between Africa and the Caribbean

- Ouagadougou–Port Louis & Georgetown Declarations
- Common priorities: participation, inclusivity, sustainability
- Strong engagement with the Trust Fund
- Call to preserve hybrid modalities and training opportunities

Good Practices & Thematic Priorities

- Coordination before HRC sessions
- Peer-to-peer exchanges with Beneficiary delegates
- Geneva – New York linkages
- Thematic priorities: climate, gender, racial justice
- Strengthening NMIRFs
- Regional solidarity and institutional development





Emerging Challenges and Risks

- Geopolitical environment & financial pressures on OHCHR
- Risk of reduced meetings and intersessional events
- Threat to UPR webcasting and participation tools
- Declining voluntary contributions to Trust Fund

Call to Action



Advocate for increased contributions to the Trust Fund



Defend transparency and participation tools (e.g. webcasting)



Emphasize that virtual participation is essential—not optional



Build on momentum of the 2025 Africa Workshop to advance human rights priorities of the region

Conclusion

- CARICOM's engagement affirms the value of small state voices
- Partnership with Africa is vital and ongoing
- Together we can strive for a more inclusive and impactful HRC



Thank you