LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Workshop for the Caribbean Region

Assessing the value of the activities of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund in fulfilling its training and capacity-building mandate: identifying achievements and areas for improvement

Venue: Hilton Barbados Hotel
Bridgetown, Barbados
3–5 June 2026

Wednesday, 3 June 2026

Day one

09:00	**Registration**
10:00 – 10:30	**Opening ceremony** *Master of ceremony: Ms. Michelle Brathwaite* Statements: • **Ms. Mariana Olivera West**, Chief of the Human Rights Council Branch, OHCHR • **H.E. Mr. Sidharto Reza Suryodipuro**, President of the Human Rights Council (*video message*) Keynote address: • **The Most Honourable Kerryann F. Ifill, FB**, Barbados' National Human Rights Commissioner
10:30 – 11:15	**Group picture and coffee break**

11:15 – 11:45	**Introductory session** Modalities of the workshop • **Ms. Meena Ramkaun**, Coordinator of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund, OHCHR • **Ms. LaToya Archer (Barbados)**, Rapporteur of the workshop
11:45 – 12:45	**First plenary session** **The Human Rights Council and the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund since the last regional workshop in 2018** Moderator: Mr. Gustavo Rutilo Presentations: • HRC trends and main outcomes, **Ms. Mariana Olivera West** • Trust Fund's main achievements and challenges, **Ms. Meena Ramkaun** • The Georgetown Declaration 2018, **Ms. Jinelle Adams**, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Interactive discussion
12:45 – 14:00	**Lunch**
14:00 – 15:30	**Second plenary session** **LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund in the Caribbean region:** Our stories: Testimonials from former beneficiaries with a focus on assessing the value of the Trust Fund's activities in fulfilling its training and capacity – building mandate Moderator: Ms. Meena Ramkaun Notetaker: Mr. Gustavo Rutilo • Projection of video about testimonials by beneficiary representatives • Testimonial from former beneficiaries: - **Ms. Roxie Hutchinson** (Grenada) - **Ms. Annetta Jackson** (Antigua and Barbuda) - **Ms. Latoya Graham** (Bahamas) - **Ms. Shelly Ann Thomson** (Jamaica) Interactive discussion

15:30 – 16:00	**Coffee break**
16:00 – 17:15	**Third plenary session** **Key priorities for LDCs and SIDS from the Caribbean region at the Human Rights Council** Moderator: Ms. Mariana Olivera West Notetaker: Ms. Momoko Nomura • Presentation of the key human rights priorities for the Caribbean region and its engagement with the Human Rights Council, as identified in the pre-workshop questionnaire, **Mr. Gustavo Rutilo**, LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund, OHCHR • The role of OHCHR's Caribbean Community Regional Office in advancing regional priorities, **Ms. Michelle Brathwaite**, OHCHR Regional Representative for the CARICOM Office Interactive discussion on current challenges and ways in which LDCs and SIDS can advance their priorities, so that the HRC can respond to them more effectively

Thursday, 4 June 2026

Day two

09:00 – 10:00	**Fourth plenary session** **Sharing experiences and lessons learned across and within regions** Moderator: Ms. Mariana Olivera West Notetaker: Ms. Meena Ramkaun • **Ms. Audrey Goh**, Permanent Mission of Singapore to the UN in Geneva - Forum of Small States (FOSS) (*online*) • **Mr. Yashasvi Nain**, Human Rights Advisor, Commonwealth Secretariat in Geneva • **Ms. Gayethri Pillay**, Head, Convention against Torture Initiative (CTI) Interactive discussion

10:15 – 11:15	**<u>Special session</u>** Moderator: Ms. Mariana Olivera West Notetaker: Mr. Kama Sukarno Engaging with the President of the Human Rights Council for the 20th cycle (2026), **H.E. Mr. Sidharto Reza Suryodipuro** *(online)*
11:15 – 11:30	**Coffee break**
11:30 – 13:00	**<u>Fifth plenary session</u>** **Engagement of the Caribbean region with the Human Rights Council and the international human rights system: good practices and challenges** Moderator: Mr. Yashasvi Nain Notetaker: Mr. Gustavo Rutilo Presentations: • **HRC Membership** - **Ms. Sasha Dixon** on the experience of the **Bahamas** as a member of the Human Rights Council and its bureau (*online*) • **Special Procedures – Mr. Jurgen Tjin Liep Shie** on the engagement of **Suriname** with special procedures • **UPR – Ms. Kamila Bell (Dominica)** on the participation in a UPR working group session and on implementation and follow-up of recommendations • **Mr. Carlos Clarke**, on the engagement of **Belize** with human rights treaty bodies • **Mr. Jason Fields**, on the national experience of **Guyana** in the promotion of human rights <u>Interactive discussion</u>
13:00 – 14:00	**Lunch**
14:00 – 15:30	**<u>Sixth plenary session</u>** **Exchange of experience on reporting to the treaty bodies** Moderator: Ms. Momoko Nomura Notetaker: Ms. Meena Ramkaun Presentations:

	• **Overview of current ratification & reporting status; simplified vs. regular reporting procedure – Ms. Momoko Nomura**, OHCHR CARICOM Office (15 mins) • **Insights from a treaty body member:** the benefits of reporting, simplified reporting offered by treaty bodies, and best practices to overcome reporting challenges **- Ms. Faith Marshall-Harris,** member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (15 min) • **World cafe (30 min)** ○ What are the challenges to ensure timely reporting to the treaty bodies? ○ What support is needed to ensure timely reporting to the treaty bodies? ○ What has worked in your country to keep up with reporting? <u>Feedback and discussion in plenary (30 min)</u>
15:30 – 15:45	**Coffee break**
15:45 – 16:50	**<u>Seventh plenary session</u>** **National mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up (NMIRF)** Moderator: Ms. Michelle Brathwaite Notetaker: Mr. Gustavo Rutilo • Presentation of NMIRFs from the Caribbean region: **Bahamas – Ms. Jewel Major,** Assistant Director of Legal Affairs, Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Legal Affairs of the Bahamas (*online*) (15 min) • **Presentation** on key concepts and capacities; NMIRF Hub (20 min) – **Ms. Momoko Nomura**, OHCHR CARICOM Office • Facilitated plenary discussion (30 mins) ○ What Is the current status of the NMIRF in your country? ○ What support is needed to establish/strengthen the NMIRF? *This session will explain the concept and capacities of NMIRF, showcase countries in the Caribbean having established NMIRF and a discussion on utility and feasibility of establishing NMIRFs in the region, as well as support needed in this respect.*

Friday, 5 June 2026

Day three

09:00 – 10:30	**Breakout sessions** Rapporteurs of the breakout groups: • Breakout group sessions focusing on the implementation of major recommendations contained in the Georgetown Declaration, and setting out actionable recommendations aimed at further improving the Trust Fund's training and capacity – building activities in support of strengthening the engagement of the Caribbean region in the work of the Human Rights Council
10:30 – 10:45	**Coffee break**
10:45 – 11:30	• **Presentation** by breakout group Rapporteurs, proposing main elements and recommendations to be included in the outcome document of the workshop that will feed into the report by OHCHR as mandated by HRC res. 49/32
11:30 – 12:45	**Drafting group meeting** (to draft the outcome recommendations) The drafting group comprises the Rapporteur of the workshop and the Rapporteurs of the different breakout groups
12:45 – 13:45	**Lunch**
13:45 – 14:45	**Eighth plenary session** • Presentation of the draft recommendations for the Caribbean Region, by the Rapporteur of the workshop on behalf of the drafting group • Comments and suggestions on the recommendations presented by the workshop participants Notetakers: [Rapporteurs of breakout groups]
14:45 – 15:45	Drafting group meeting to finalize the recommendations

15:45 – 16:15	**<u>Ninth plenary session</u>** **Finalization and adoption of the workshop outcome document** • Chair: **Ms. LaToya Archer**, Rapporteur of the workshop (with the support of the drafting group)
16:15 – 16:30	**Coffee break**
16:30 – 17:30	**<u>Closing session</u>** **Certificate ceremony and closing remarks** • **Ms. LaToya Archer**, Rapporteur of the workshop • **Ms. Michelle Brathwaite**, OHCHR Regional Representative for the CARICOM Office • **Ms. Mariana Olivera West**, Chief of the Human Rights Council Branch, OHCHR
18:00	**Cultural Experience at Oistins Bay Gardens**, Christ Church – offered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and the Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc. (BTMI)