CONCEPT NOTE

LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund regional workshop for the Caribbean

"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"

Bridgetown, Barbados
3–5 June 2026

Introduction

The LDCs/SIDS workshop for the Caribbean region is being organized by the 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 the Human Rights Council (LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund), administered by the Human Rights Council Branch of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

The workshop will focus on assessing the activities of the Trust Fund in support of the engagement of LDCs and SIDS from the Caribbean region in the work of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms. It will provide a space for reflection on achievements, lessons learned and areas for improvement, and will contribute to the preparation of the OHCHR report mandated by the Human Rights Council.

Host

Government of Barbados

Participants

It is projected that the workshop will bring together around **30 participants**, including:

- Former beneficiary delegates and fellows of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund from the Caribbean region, from the following countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago;
- H.E. Mr. Sidharto Reza Suryodipuro, President of the United Nations Human Rights Council, who will participate remotely;
- Resource persons, funds permitting, from the other three regions (Africa, Asia and the Pacific), including former beneficiaries of the Trust Fund;
- OHCHR staff from Geneva and OHCHR CARICOM Regional Office in the Bahamas;
- Representatives of the CARICOM, Commonwealth secretariat and FOSS based in Geneva.

Background and mandate of the workshop

This regional workshop is being organized pursuant to **Human Rights Council resolution 49/32 (2022)**, which encourages the Trust Fund to support the conduct of regional workshops in Africa,

Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific, with government officials, including former beneficiaries, ahead of the fifteenth anniversary of the Trust Fund in 2027. The workshops are intended to reflect on the Trust Fund's achievements, identify areas for improvement, and assess the value of its training and capacity-building activities in support of the engagement of LDCs and SIDS in the work of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms.

In the same resolution, OHCHR is mandated to prepare a report, based on the outcomes of consultations in the four regions, evaluating the activities of the Trust Fund to enhance the engagement of LDCs and SIDS in the work of the Council. This report will be presented to the Human Rights Council at its sixty-fourth session (March 2027).

The Caribbean workshop will be the **fourth and final workshop** in the series mandated by resolution 49/32. The first three workshops were held in Malé, Maldives (3–5 December 2024), Cotonou, Benin (20–22 May 2025), and Palikir, Federated States of Micronesia (17–20 November 2025).

The Trust Fund previously organized an earlier series of four regional workshops between 2018 and 2021 pursuant to Council resolution 34/40. The Caribbean workshop under that mandate was held in Georgetown, Guyana, in November 2018 and resulted in the adoption of the **Georgetown Declaration**.

Objectives

The three-day workshop aims to:

- Assess the contribution of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund to building the capacity of Caribbean States to engage with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms;
- Reflect on achievements, challenges and lessons learned from the perspective of former beneficiaries of the Trust Fund;
- Identify concrete and actionable recommendations to further improve the Trust Fund's training and capacity-building activities in support of Caribbean LDCs and SIDS;
- Facilitate peer-to-peer exchange and the sharing of good practices among Caribbean States, as well as with participants from other regions;
- Provide a forum for open and interactive dialogue on approaches to ensure that human rights issues of priority concern to the Caribbean region are effectively placed on and addressed by the Human Rights Council agenda;
- Contribute substantively to the OHCHR report to the Human Rights Council mandated by resolution 49/32.

General outcome of the workshop

In accordance with resolution 49/32, the outcomes of the Caribbean workshop, including comments and recommendations on training and capacity-building, will serve as the Caribbean

region's contribution to the OHCHR report evaluating the activities of the Trust Fund, to be presented to the Human Rights Council at its sixty-fourth session (March 2027).

Principal outcome of the workshop

To develop and agree on a set of **actionable recommendations**, building on the outcomes of the 2018 Georgetown Declaration, to further strengthen the Trust Fund's training and capacity-building activities in support of enhanced participation of Caribbean LDCs and SIDS in the work of the Human Rights Council by 2027.

Workshop modalities

The workshop will comprise a combination of plenary discussions and interactive breakout group sessions.

A Rapporteur, selected from among former Trust Fund beneficiaries from the Caribbean region, will support the documentation of discussions and the preparation of draft recommendations, with the assistance of resource persons and breakout group rapporteurs. The draft recommendations will be presented for consideration and adoption by participants on the final day of the workshop.

Working language of the workshop

English