MICRONESIA DECLARATION

Adopted in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, on 19 November 2025

Preamble

We, the former beneficiary delegates and fellows of the Trust Fund for Technical Assistance to Support the Participation of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Work of the Human Rights Council (hereinafter the 'LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund') coming from 10 countries[1] in the Pacific Region,

Gathered in unity and purpose, reaffirm our commitment to the dignity, rights, and resilience of our people,

Guided by the wisdom of our elders, the strength of our communities, and the enduring spirit of our islands, recognize the value of spaces that centre our voices, not as recipients of support, but as contributors to global progress based on the Charter of the United Nations and Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Welcome the convening of the LDCs/SIDS regional workshops pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 49/32, and the one for the Pacific from 17 to 19 November 2025 in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia,

Express our profound gratitude to the Government and the people of the Federated States of Micronesia for successfully hosting this workshop,

Express further appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Jurg Lauber, President of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) for his landmark visit to the Pacific region and his participation in this workshop,

Convey also our sincere appreciation to the Secretariat of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and the OHCHR Pacific Regional Office for providing all the necessary support for a successful workshop,

Commend the Secretariat of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund for ensuring the participation of all LDCs/SIDS in the Human Rights Council, including particularly those without a Permanent Mission in Geneva,

Acknowledge with appreciation and commendation all donors to the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund and further encourage their continued support, and also call upon potential donors, including those from the beneficiary countries, to contribute to the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund's continuing efforts to build national capacity in the field of human rights,

[1] Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu.

Express further appreciation to the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Forum of Small States (FOSS), and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) for their participation in the LDCs/SIDS Workshop for the Pacific Region,

And make the following recommendations:

Recommendations

1. Strengthened engagement of countries in the Pacific region with the HRC

- Consider having at least one member from the Pacific Island Countries in the Human Rights Council (HRC) every year.
- Increase attendance of high-level decision-making officials from Pacific SIDS at the High-level Segment of the HRC at its March sessions.
- Encourage Member States of the Pacific to continue coordinating on issues of common concern in the region and advocating for appropriate remedial solutions tailored to the region including on the following priority areas identified as a group during this workshop as follows:
    - Climate justice
    - Nuclear legacy (noting the impacts of nuclear testing in the Pacific) and its implication on human rights
    - Cultural rights and traditional knowledge
    - Migration
    - Gender Equality and Gender based Violence
- Also encourage Pacific SIDS to engage with other Member States, particularly HRC Members and SIDS from other regions, on issues of importance to Pacific SIDS, to ensure that these issues are included in the HRC agenda and its discussions.
- Call for a joint visit of the Special Rapporteurs on Health, Environment, and Toxics to the Pacific.
- Request the special rapporteur on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment to consider to address the issue of the human rights situations linked to environmental and health impacts from remnants of the Second World War and national disasters, particularly radioactive waste in the Pacific, in his next report.

2. Use of online tools and hybrid modalities to strengthen participation

- Recognising the benefits of hybrid modalities, strongly recommend the resumption of hybrid modalities to ensure universal participation at the HRC.

- Call for the continuity of webcast for all HRC meetings and those of its subsidiary bodies and mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review.
- Request OHCHR to make tools such as the National Recommendation Tracking Database accessible to Member States in the Pacific upon their request.

3. Increasing the number of experts from the region in human rights mechanisms

- Encourage governments in the Pacific region to continue to put forward and support the nomination of candidates from the region, particularly women, for human rights treaty bodies and HRC Special Procedures.

4. Establishment of a Northern Pacific Human Rights office in FSM

- Recommend establishing a Northern Pacific Human Rights Office to assist countries in the Northern Pacific region to fulfill their human rights obligations, given the distance between Fiji and Northern Pacific and the limited capacity-building and technical assistance provided by the OHCHR Pacific Regional Office.
- Also recommend utilizing the presence and expertise of the OHCHR Pacific Regional Office to maximize outreach, coordination, and technical support for programme activities.

5. Enhancing the role of the OHCHR Pacific Regional Office

- Encourage the OHCHR Pacific Regional Office to increase its technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives, particularly towards the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Nadi and Pohnpei Declarations.
- Further encourage the OHCHR Pacific Regional Office to enhance its support for LDCs/SIDS participation in the work of the HRC.

6. Cost-Sharing and Shared Responsibility

- Encourage the practice of cost-sharing among Pacific Island partners, with countries jointly supporting facilitators and organizers of capacity-building workshops and trainings to be organized in the region, in order to foster regional ownership, shared responsibility and solidarity.
- Also encourage governments of the Pacific Member States to contribute to the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund.

7. Establishment of a Former Beneficiaries Pacific Network

- Recommend establishing a Pacific Chapter of former beneficiaries of the SIDS/LDCs Trust Fund to enable peer-to-peer learning, networking and information sharing of resolutions, meetings and workshops in order to build capacity of the pacific network

by using online platforms (e.g. WhatsApp, mailing list) with the support of the Trust Fund secretariat.

- Encourage former Trust Fund beneficiaries to act as mentors and trainers and engage with international and regional organizations including OHCHR, Commonwealth Secretariat, and others, to support build capacity of government officials as well as NMIRF representatives or similar inter-ministerial committees.

8. Improving the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Programme

- Propose that the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund's induction course be over four days, to ensure more comprehensive understanding of HRC working methods and rules of procedure.
- Expand the capacity-building programme of the Trust Fund to include a specific training workshop on drafting, negotiation and presentation of draft resolutions.
- Call on the Secretariat of the Trust Fund to conduct a "Train the Trainers" Workshop on the procedures and working methods of the HRC and its mechanisms, twice a year, once in Geneva and once in the Pacific, either in collaboration with other human rights programmes or at the request and cost of member states in the region.
- Encourage the Secretariat of the Trust Fund to continue organizing regional workshops bringing together former beneficiaries of the Trust Fund and call on donor countries and partners of the Trust Fund to participate in those workshops on a self-funded basis, in order to gauge the added value of their contributions and its transformative impact on the advancement of human rights in the beneficiary countries.
- Request the Secretariat of the Trust Fund to resume its briefing sessions to LDCs/SIDS missions in New York on the outcome of the Human Rights sessions and to have an impactful effect on its work.
- Encourage the Secretariat of the Trust Fund to continue its collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat to avail the facilities of the Commonwealth Small States Office in Geneva for LDCs/SIDS beneficiaries.

9. Support for nursing mothers

- Align the Trust Fund policy with relevant UN regulations in order to have a more inclusive approach and facilitate the participation of nursing mothers travelling with infants by incorporating necessary support arrangements.

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