CONCEPT NOTE

LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Regional workshop for the Pacific 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 of improvement"

FSM National Convention Center, Palikir, Federated States of Micronesia
17 to 20 November 2025

Introduction

The workshop for the Pacific 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 the activities of the Trust Fund. It will also include a one-day capacity-building session on reporting to the United Nations treaty bodies, including a discussion on challenges in reporting and a peer-to-peer exchange on the role of national mechanisms for implementation, reporting, and follow-up (NMIRF) in the Pacific Region.

Host

Government of the Federated States of Micronesia

Guests of Honor

His Excellency Mr. Jürg Lauber (Switzerland), President of the United Nations Human Rights Council, 19th cycle (2025)

Participants

It is projected that there will be around 20 participants in the workshop as follows:

- 12 former beneficiary delegates and fellows of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund from the Pacific region-from the following 12 countries: Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New-Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu;
- The President of the Human Rights Council;
- Resource persons from other regions (Asia, Caribbean and the Pacific);
- OHCHR staff based in Geneva, the Pacific Regional Office, and FSM
- The Permanent Representative from the Permanent Mission of Host Country of the Workshop based in Geneva;
- Representative of a country member of the Forum of Small States (FOSS) based in Geneva
- Representative of the Pacific Islands Forum
- Representative of the Pacific Community
- Representative of the Commonwealth Secretariat
- Representative of CARICOM based in Geneva or New York

Background and Mandate of the Workshop

This regional workshop in the Pacific region is being organized pursuant to HRC resolution 49/32 (2022) which "encourages the Trust Fund to support the conduct of a regional workshop in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific, with government officials, including former beneficiaries of the Trust Fund, before the fifteenth anniversary of the Trust Fund in 2027, reflecting on its achievements, identifying where further improvements to the activities of the Trust Fund might be made and assessing the value of its activities in fulfilling its training and capacity-building mandate in support of the engagement of least developed countries and small island developing States in the work of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms." This workshop is the third in a series of four regional workshops organized pursuant to this resolution. The first was held in Malé, Maldives, from 3 to 5 December 2024, and the second took place in Cotonou, Benin, from 20 to 22 May 2025.

Objectives

The four-day workshop aims to:

- Adopt a set of actionable recommendations to further improve the activities of the Trust Fund in fulfilling its training and capacity-building mandate in support of the engagement of LDCs/SIDS in the work of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms.
- Assess the contribution of the Trust Fund in building the capacity of LDCs/SIDS for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Pacific region, by providing the opportunity for Member States to benefit from the expertise and experience among themselves, including States from other regions that have developed best practices to be shared in engaging with the HRC and its mechanisms.
- Identify methodologies and approaches that beneficiary delegates might use to identify practical courses of action to be recommended for implementation by their governments following their participation in the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund programmes.
- Serve as a unique forum for an open and interactive dialogue on approaches and procedures to ensure that human rights challenges of concern to the region are placed and remain on the HRC agenda, and that best opportunities are identified to address them.
- Making specific recommendations regarding the further strengthening of the participation of LDCs/SIDS in the work of the HRC and its mechanisms.
- Offer a space to discuss topics that are of primary importance to the Pacific region, such as the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment; climate change and human rights and, SDGs and human rights.
- Facilitate the exchange of good practices on national reporting, implementation, and follow-up processes and mechanisms for implementing the recommendations of human rights mechanisms, including those of the UNHRC.

- Through a dedicated one-day capacity building session, further the capacity of participants in reporting to the United Nations treaty bodies, including through better understanding the reporting process, the use of digital tools, improved reporting methodology and the establishment of NMIRFs.

General Outcome of the Workshop

OHCHR is mandated by Council resolution 49/32 to prepare a report, based on the outcomes of the consultations in the four regional groups, in which the Office evaluates the activities of the Trust Fund to increase the engagement of LDCs/SIDS in the work of the Human Rights Council, which will be presented to the HRC at its sixty-fourth session (March 2027). The comments and recommendations on training and capacity-building emanating from the Workshop will serve as the Pacific region's contribution to the report of OHCHR. Similarly, good practices on national implementation, reporting, and follow-up mechanisms and other national processes could be published on the future virtual knowledge hub for national mechanisms, mandated by Council resolution 51/33. The capacity-building session should contribute to timely and good quality reporting by the Pacific States.

Principal Outcome of the Workshop

To develop and agree on a **set of actionable recommendations in follow-up to the 2019 Nadi Declaration** (adopted at the regional workshop for the Pacific region held in 2019) to further improve the Trust Fund's training and capacity-building activities in support of strengthening the engagement of the LDCs/SIDS in the Pacific region in the work of the Human Rights Council by 2027.

Workshop modalities

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

The Rapporteur of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Workshop for the Pacific region will be a former beneficiary delegate from the region. The Rapporteur, together with the resource persons (also former beneficiaries) representing other regions, and with the support of the rapporteurs of the break-out groups, will present a summary of the plenary and break-out group sessions. This drafting group will also prepare the draft recommendations for the Workshop participants' consideration on the last day of the Workshop.

Working language of the Workshop

English