

RECOMMENDATION OF UPR- UPDATED AS AT DECEMBER 2015

	RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL	STATUS
The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue listed below enjoy the support of Mauritius		
1.	Take necessary steps to ratify or accede to other major international human rights instruments which are still outstanding (Lesotho);	This has been recommended in the National Human Rights Action Plan 2012-2020 and a Human Rights Monitoring Committee has been set up to analyse the implications of ratifying or acceding the Human Rights instruments which are outstanding.
2.	Reconsider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICRMW) (Indonesia);	Due to limited resources and Mauritius being geographically small, it will not be possible to allow migrant workers with their families. Hence, the ratification of the Convention is not envisaged at this stage.
3.	Endeavour to accede to ICRMW (Nigeria);	
4.	Consider ratifying ICRMW (Philippines);	
5.	Consider adhering to ICRMW (Cape Verde);	
6.	Consider ratifying ICRMW (Burkina Faso);	
7.	Consider becoming a party to ICRMW (Chad);	The National Assembly enacted the Abolition of Death Penalty Act in 1995, thereby abolishing death penalty. However, Section 4 (1) of the Constitution provides that “No person shall be deprived of his life intentionally save in the execution of the sentence of a court in respect of a criminal offence of which he has been convicted”. Following the enactment of the Abolition of Death Penalty Act 1995, all death sentences imposed have been commuted to sentences of penal servitude for life. The Supreme Court may now inflict sentences of penal servitude for life or sentences for terms not exceeding 60 years where the law so provides.
8.	Consider ratifying the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Rwanda);	

9.	Consider the possibility of ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons against Enforced Disappearances (CPED) (Tunisia);	Since Mauritius has no case of enforced disappearance, ratification is not envisaged for the time being.
10.	Continue efforts to ratify CPED (Argentina);	
11.	Consider ratifying CPED (Burkina Faso);	
12.	Consider ratifying the third Optional Protocol to the CRC (OP-CRC-IC) (Montenegro);	The Third Optional Protocol on Communications Procedure to the CRC was signed on 13 August 2012. A draft Cabinet paper to seek approval for the ratification of the Optional Protocol has been forwarded by the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare for vetting to the Attorney General's Office.
13.	Consider ratifying the Third Optional Protocol on the Rights of the Child on Communications Procedure (Seychelles);	
14.	Consider ratifying the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);	Mauritius is party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Same has been domesticated in the International Criminal Court Act which criminalised genocide and other atrocities of war crimes go unpunished for their deeds. Mauritius, being a small and peaceful society with no such scourges, does not envisage to ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide at this stage
15.	Consider ratifying the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocol (Rwanda);	Mauritius, being small and densely-populated with limited resources, has not yet adopted a policy or laws to grant refugee status to foreigners. It does, however, attempt to treat applications for refugee status or political asylum on a humanitarian and case-to-case basis by facilitating their settlement in a friendly country willing to receive them. Moreover, although Mauritius has not yet signed the Convention, it has always extended necessary assistance to those who apply for asylum through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.
16.	Further enhance its efforts to ensure adequate legal protection for all segments of the population (Kenya);	The Constitution advocates equality for all the citizens of Mauritius. The Constitution has also conferred on the Judiciary the role of ensuring the proper functioning of a democratic society. The latter is charged with the speciality of ensuring that legislative and executive powers are executed in accordance with the Constitution and within the limit authorised by the Constitution. It is also charged with the duty to safeguard fundamental rights which include, inter alia, protection of the law. Moreover, the set-up of the Equal Opportunities Commission under the Equal Opportunities Act in 2012, ensures better protection against discrimination as it prohibits both direct and indirect

		discrimination on the grounds of age, caste, creed, ethnic origin, impairment, marital status, place of origin, political opinion, race, sex or sexual orientation.
17.	Ensure that the non-discrimination against women is reflected in the provisions of domestic law, including in the context of the current process of the constitutional reform (Cape Verde);	<p>Section 16 of the Constitution provides that no law shall make a provision that is discriminatory either of itself or in its effect. The term ‘discriminatory’ means affording different treatment to different persons attributable wholly or mainly to their respective descriptions by race, caste, place of origin, political opinions, colour, creed or sex whereby persons of one such description are subjected to disabilities or restrictions to which persons of another such description are not made subject or are accorded privileges or advantages that are not accorded to persons of another such description.</p> <p>The Equal Opportunities Act which was proclaimed on 1 January 2012, ensures better protection against discrimination as it prohibits both direct and indirect discrimination on the grounds of age, caste, creed, ethnic origin, impairment, marital status, place of origin, political opinion, race, sex or sexual orientation. The Equal Opportunities Act applies to employment activities, education, provision of goods and services, accommodation, the disposal of immovable property, companies, partnerships, “sociétés”, and registered associations, clubs and access to premises which the public may enter or use and sports. The Equal Opportunities Act applies to both the public and private sectors. It also includes within its ambit sexual harassment. Discrimination by victimisation is also prohibited.</p>
18.	Continue its efforts to finalise and submit the Children Bill (Indonesia);	A Children's Bill to consolidate the various pieces of legislation covering all aspects of child rights is in the process of being finalised by the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare with the Attorney General's Office.
19.	Continue its efforts in the protection of children including through the finalization of its Children’s Bill aimed at consolidating the various legislation on children’s rights and harmonising all laws in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Malaysia);	<p>The Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare has undertaken a review of all policy decisions pertaining to the Children’s Bill. This process is being finalised at the level of the Ministry.</p> <p>The Children’s Bill is expected to be introduced in the National Assembly in July 2016.</p> <p>With assistance from the European Union, a National Child Protection Strategy and Action Plan was prepared by an international consultant as from 05 May 2014. The final Action Plan has been revised based on phased-wise and prioritised basis, taking into consideration cost implications. The views and comments of stakeholders are awaited and approval of government is to be sought.</p>
20.	Finalise the National Child Protection Strategy and the Children’s Bill (South Africa 1);	
21.	Finalise the procedure of developing and adopting the Children’s Bill (Democratic Republic of Congo);	
22.	Continue finalising the process of	The Combatting of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Act was enacted in 2009 to give effect to the

reviewing the legal framework on prohibiting, preventing and responding to all forms of sale and sexual exploitation of children, and to ensure the effective implementation of the framework through, inter alia, the harmonisation of national legal and regulatory frameworks with ratified international instruments, accompanied by binding measures and mechanisms (Egypt);

United Nations Protocol, which Mauritius acceded to on 24 September 2003, to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children. The Act defines trafficking as:

- (a) The recruitment, sale, supply, procurement, capture, removal, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a person-
 - (i) By the use of threat, force, intimidation, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or abuse of a position of vulnerability; or
 - (ii) By the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to obtain the consent of a person having control or authority over another person; or
- (b) Adoption of a person facilitated or secured through illegal means, for the purpose of exploitation;

The penalty for offenses under the above Act is penal servitude for a term not exceeding 15 years.

In 06 November 2015, the Government set up an Inter-Ministerial Committee to look into the issue of Trafficking in Persons. The Committee met all the stakeholders to better understand stakeholders' obstacles, challenges in regard Trafficking in Persons issues, and subsequently prepare an action plan. The main objective of having a National Action Plan would be to comprehensively address the issues of human trafficking, and put in place measures to combat this state of affairs.

For the purpose of drafting the National Action Plan, an assessment is being made by the Inter-Ministerial Committee on the TIP problem in Mauritius. The outcome of this assessment will be part of the National Action Plan and will determine measures contained in the National Action Plan. A monitoring mechanism will be set up and the National Action Plan will be reviewed periodically in light of the monitoring exercise.

Moreover, at the level of the Police Department a Steering Committee on Human Trafficking has been put in place as a well as a fast track mechanism. Its main objective is to identify all cases of Human Trafficking and eventually putting them in shape for early prosecution.

Mauritius has participated in a Review Exercise on Trafficking in Persons carried out by SADC and the Country Assessment Report is awaited.

(Please also see Recommendation 47)

23.	Adopt and implement the Children’s Bill (Seychelles);	(See response to recommendations 18 – 21)
24.	Allocate adequate resources to the National Human Rights Commission (United States of America);	<p>The National Human Rights Commission consists of a Human Rights Division, a Police Complaints Division and a National Preventive Mechanism Division.</p> <p>The Police Complaints Division has the responsibility to investigate complaints made by the public against members of the Police Force. Cases of assault are referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions with a recommendation for prosecution. The Division is also empowered to investigate into any death occurring in police custody or as a result of other police action and to address any form of police misconduct.</p> <p>The National Preventive Mechanism Division enables the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment to discharge its functions under the Optional Protocol in Mauritius. The main function of the Division is to visit places of detention so as to examine the treatment of persons deprived of their liberty with a view to ensuring their protection against torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. It also investigates complaints which may be made by a detainee.</p> <p>The Division is fully operational as from 18 June 2014 and it has its own budget.</p>
25.	The Human Rights Monitoring Committee tasked with monitoring the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2012-2020, be given the necessary resources to ensure its effective functioning (South Africa);	<p>The Human Rights Monitoring Committee is composed of representatives of all relevant Ministries/Departments, National Human Rights Institutions, NGO and the private sector.</p> <p>A template has been worked out to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2012-2020. The Monitoring Committee meets twice or thrice per year to take stock of progress achieved on the implementation of recommendations made.</p> <p>A first progress report has been issued in November 2014. At least 82% of the recommendation have been initiated and reached different stages of implementation.</p>
26.	Strengthen the coordination within the new institutions for the protection of minors and persons with disabilities (Djibouti);	<p>Mauritius ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in January 2010. Government’s vision is that all citizens should have equal opportunities and that no discrimination should exist in the society.</p> <p>In Mauritius, the employment of persons with disabilities is specifically regulated by the Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Act (TEDP Act) enacted in 1996. Section 13 of the Act imposes on every employer, having a workforce of 35 or more workers, a duty to employ such number of persons with disabilities as is specified in Part I of the Schedule to the Act. The Schedule provides that the percentage of persons with disabilities employed out of the total workforce should be at least 3%. This legislation applies also to Parastatal Bodies, Statutory Boards and Committees and Companies in which Government is a shareholder. The Act was amended in 2012 to:-</p> <p>(a) better provide for the enforcement of the Act with a view to promote the access of persons with disabilities to employment;</p>

(b) provide for the setting up of a Hearing Committee which shall be vested with the responsibility to determine the contribution of employers and the exemptions from the Act; and

(c) increase the fine provided for non-compliance with the Act.

The Building Control Act which was passed in 2012 provides for enhanced accessibility for all categories of persons with disabilities to public infrastructure. Also, a new Copyright Act came into operation on 31 July 2014, domesticating the provisions of the 2013 Marrakech Treaty by making provisions, *inter alia*, for blind persons to have access to published works in an accessible format.

The Excise Act has been amended by way of the Excise (Amendment of Schedule) (No.3) Regulations 2013 which came into force on 25 October 2013, to provide for duty exemptions for the purchase of a motor car to new categories of persons, i.e. other than deaf or blind persons. Thus, parents of a child with disability under the age of 18 years and with 100% orthopaedic disability, as certified by the Medical Board of the Ministry responsible for the subject of social security, are eligible for the purchase. As from 2015, the age limit of 18 years has been removed.

Under the amendments of the Excise Act, qualifying parents who reside in Mauritius will be able to purchase a motorcar of a kind specifically designed for the conveyance of a person with disability of an engine capacity not exceeding 1,450 cc. The duty payable on such a car will be 15%. Qualifying parents who reside in the Island of Rodrigues will be able to purchase a motorcar of a kind specifically designed for the conveyance of a person with disability of an engine capacity not exceeding 1,450 cc with 15% duty payable or a double space cabin vehicle with 5% duty payable. This concession is granted once in every 7 years. Where the Director-General of the Mauritius Revenue Authority is satisfied that the motor car or double space cabin vehicle is damaged in an accident and is a total loss, he may grant concession for a replacement car.

In addition, Government provides a wide array of social benefits to persons with disabilities, for example:-

(a) **Social Aid:** people who have a disability of 60% benefit from a Basic Invalidity Pension. If they are severely disabled, they benefit from a Carer's Allowance on top of their Invalidity Pension;

(b) **Free provision of assistive devices:** assistive devices such as wheelchairs and hearing aids are provided free of charge to persons with disabilities;

(c) **Service to Mauritius Programme:** with a view to combating unemployment among persons with disabilities, paid placement are reserved for unemployed graduates with

disabilities in Ministries and Departments;

(d) **Loan Scheme to persons with disabilities:** the Employees Welfare Fund provides a concessionary loan with 4% rate of interest to persons with disabilities to purchase adapted equipment, adapted vehicles and retrofitting at homes;

(e) **Access to ICT:** the Lois Lagesse Trust Fund provides ICT training and access to up to date equipment to blind persons. The Ministry of Education and Human Resources provides free Braille computers to visually impaired students.

(f) **Duty-free facilities** are provided to eligible persons with disabilities to purchase cars; and

(g) **Free parking coupons** are provided to eligible persons with disabilities.

A Protocol of collaboration between the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions has been signed on 09 June 2015. Under the Protocol, the Disability Unit of the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions shall, *inter alia*:-

- assist in removing children with disabilities victims of violence to places of safety.

- provide specialized services, sign language interpreter, and assistive devices as appropriate to children with disabilities victims of violence.

- carry out sensitization and awareness for prevention and rehabilitation of children victims of violence including children with disabilities.

- carry out training and capacity building of carers, parents, staff at Day Care Centres, specialized schools and NGOs, to better identify abuse on children with disabilities.

Government is aware that there is still more to be done for the integration of persons with disabilities in the mainstream and, as enunciated in the Government Programme 2015-2019, Government intends to:- (i) amend sections 3 and 16 of the Constitution to include the concept of disability under these two sections and introduce a Disability Bill to provide further protection to persons with disabilities; (ii) encourage access to Tertiary Education for students from low income families and students with disabilities; and (iii) create a Rehabilitation Centre to cater for patients with disabilities following accidents and surgeries.

Moreover, the forthcoming Children's Bill makes provision for full protection of children including those with disabilities from all forms of corporal punishments in all setting and this has further been elaborated in the MOU signed with the Ministry of Social Security, NS & RI and the MGECDWF in June 2015

27.	Give continuity to the measures for the creation of a more inclusive, plural and cohesive society (Nepal);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Constitution prohibits discrimination on; <i>inter alia</i>, the ground of caste, colour, creed and race. It also provides that no law shall be discriminatory either in itself or in its effect. • The Equal Opportunities Act prohibits against any direct or indirect discrimination on the basis of status. Status means age, caste, colour, creed, ethnic origin, impairment, marital status, place of origin, political opinion, race, sex or sexual orientation. • In order to enable the citizens to practice their religion indiscriminately, the Government provides facilities such as religious subsidies and infrastructural facilities on religious festivals. • As regards the right to culture, with a view to allowing Mauritians of all cultural denominations the opportunity to participate in religious and cultural activities of their choice and to foster harmony and mutual respect, laws have been enacted to provide for the establishment of different Speaking Unions cultural centres. In the local Mauritian context, it remains very difficult to distinguish clearly between religion and culture as the two are inextricably linked, and therefore, often in practice, the rights ensuring protection of one's culture may be extended to the protection of freedom of one's religion and vice versa. In this respect, students as from primary level are taught oriental languages (according to their personal liking or cultural/religious background, they may choose between Hindi, Mandarin, Tamil, Urdu, Arabic and Kreol).
28.	Continue with its resolve to the promotion and protection of the human rights of all its citizens (Zambia);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Protection of Human Rights Act was amended in 2012 to enhance the role the National Human Rights Commission as a key institution in the protection and promotion of human rights at the national level and also provide for the setting up, within the NHRC, of a Human Rights Division, a Police Complaints Division and a National Preventive Mechanism Division. The functions of the Commission equally include the promotion of the harmonisation of national legislation and practices with the international human rights instruments to which Mauritius is a party, and ensuring their effective implementation. .
29.	Continue its reforms to improve policies and programmes towards promotion and protection of all human rights (Lesotho);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A National Human Rights Action Plan 2012-2020 has been prepared for continuous improvement of the human rights policies and programmes. • Training and sensitisation on human rights are ongoing in youth centres, Citizens Advice Bureaux and through media including programmes on the national television.
30.	Continue with the sensitisation programmes in order to increase human rights awareness among the citizens of the country (Nigeria);	<p>The Prime Minister's Office which has the responsibility for the portfolio of Human Rights, has since 2011 embarked on sensitization and training programmes targeting the whole population. The following programmes were organised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitisation on human rights in 35 Citizens Advice Bureaux around the whole island in collaboration with the National Development Unit and National Human Rights Commission.. Since August 2011 to end of October 2014, some 4160 participants from NGOs, women's associations and vulnerable groups have been sensitised.
31.	Extend its human rights education and awareness programmes to all sections of the population (Zimbabwe);	

32.	Continue and intensify its programmes of human rights mass education (Democratic Republic of Congo);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Rights education programme for around 350 – 500 youths (between 18-29 yrs) every year in 25 Youth Centres around the whole island in collaboration with Ministry of Youth and Sports. Since 2012 to end of November 2014 some 1555 youths have been reached through this programme. • A series of TV programmes has been broadcasted in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission and the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation on Human Rights in order to sensitise the population about their human rights. The programme was previously broadcasted once every fortnight. As from August 2015, the programme is being broadcasted on a weekly basis. • There is a Human Rights Portal (http://humanrights.gov.mu) on the Government website which contains all Human Rights Treaties ratified by Mauritius and Mauritius database. • Awareness raising campaigns on the social and the human rights model of disability are being conducted by the Disability Unit of the Ministry of Social Security, NS & RI at community level.
33.	Continue the efforts related to human rights education and awareness-raising (Algeria);	
34.	Continue its efforts in the area of human rights education and training, particularly by implementing relevant provisions of the United Nations Declaration in human rights education and training (Morocco);	
35.	Request the international community to provide assistance to the project of incorporating human rights in the school curriculum (Kuwait);	
36.	Intensify the efforts to integrate human rights education in the national curriculum (Sierra Leone);	At tertiary level, Human Rights Education (HRE) already forms part of the curriculum of LLB courses. Human Rights are essential components of training of Police and Prisons Officer. The University of Mauritius has also introduced a new Master degree in International Human Rights Law.
37.	Pursue its plans to integrate human rights across the curricula of primary and secondary schools (Zimbabwe);	With a view to promoting respect for human rights through teaching and education, the Commonwealth Secretariat was approached by the Prime Minister’s Office to ensure the integration of human rights across the curriculum in schools in the Republic of Mauritius as from 2015.
38.	Continue its efforts towards human rights trainings, capacity building and human rights education, especially through integrating human rights in the educational curriculum (Armenia);	The Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research is integrating human rights in the curricula of lower secondary school on a pilot basis as from January 2016.

39.	Consider providing appropriate human rights education and training to public servants and law enforcement officials (Philippines);	<p>Human Rights Training for Police and Prisons Officers is an ongoing process as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Human Rights courses are being dispensed to all recruits and refresher courses are being dispensed to all officers. <p>Human Rights is a module which is incorporated in the curriculum of the Police and Prison Training School.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) The Mauritius Prison Service has already produced a detainee’s booklet in Creole where the rights of detainees are properly spelt out. c) The Mauritius Prison Service with the collaboration of the Mauritius Police Force, organised a two-day workshop on Human Rights on 19 and 20 May 2015 at the Prison Training School in Beau Bassin. 72 participants comprising 42 police officers and 30 prison officers attended the course. <p>The course was designed to sensitise law enforcement officials on how to deal with individuals who are lawfully deprived of liberty and their responsibility to hold them in safe and secure custody. The participants were also exposed to international standards based on the recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of human beings.</p>
40.	Continue human rights training and awareness-raising activities, particularly for security forces (Côte d’Ivoire);	
41.	Continue implementing measures underway to intensify efforts in providing capacity building and training programs on human rights for its law enforcement officials as well as judicial and legal officials (Bhutan);	<p>The ICRC will organise a workshop on Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law at the Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies (IJLS) in October 2016.</p>
42.	Allocate adequate resources in order to strengthen the implementation of the Human Rights Action Plan 2012-2020 (Angola);	<p>Recommendations of the National Human Rights Action Plan are being implemented by respective Ministries/ Departments.</p> <p>Moreover, a Human Rights Monitoring Committee has been set up under the Chairpersonship of the Secretary for Home Affairs of the Prime Minister’s Office and comprising representatives of all relevant Ministries and Departments, National Human Rights Institutions, NGO and the private sector to monitor the implementation of all the recommendations of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2012-2020.</p> <p>(Please see response to Recommendation 25)</p>

43.	Share with other countries the good practice of holding broad consultations prior to the preparation of the report (Tunisia);	<p>With regard to the Universal Periodic Review of Mauritius held in October 2013, the following were held:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive national consultations across all relevant Ministries and Departments, national human rights institutions and NGOs (including those NGOs in Rodrigues); • A Workshop was also organised with the Mauritius Council of Social Service (MACOSS) with participation also from Rodrigues Council of Social Service, umbrella organizations for civil society organizations; • The public was also invited to submit their views through e-mail; and • Awareness campaigns on UPR were also broadcasted on MBC/TV on Saturdays just after the French News bulletin during peak time in order to reach maximum audience.
44.	Share the best practices in the implementation of the National Plan on Human Rights, and in the preparation of the UPR (Mozambique);	<p>Best practices were shared during the UPR in 2013 and also during conference held in Morocco in December 2013 through participation of Mauritius upon invitation of the Government of Morocco.</p> <p>Mauritius is ready to share its best practices with any other country. For example the then Senior Chief Executive of the Prime Minister’s Office participated in the Fourth Francophone Seminar on the Universal Periodic Review held on 11 and 12 April 2014 in Moldova and made a presentation on process adopted by Mauritius for the preparation on the UPR report to delegates present at the seminar.</p>
45.	Continue strengthening the government programme 2012-2015 to improve the situation in the areas such as education, health, disabled persons and the social integration of vulnerable groups (Kuwait 1);	<p>In May 2010, Government created the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment which has as main objective to eradicate absolute poverty. A three pronged strategy has been adopted and includes three main programmes, namely the Social Housing and Community Empowerment, Child Development and Family Welfare and Training and Placement. The National Empowerment Foundation, the executive arm of the Ministry, is already implementing a package of programmes with a holistic framework so as to provide immediate support to vulnerable groups, foster integrated community development, enable re-skilling of the unemployed and promote development of income generated activities.</p> <p>Inclusion and Integration are the keywords that guide the Ministry of Education and Human Resources and Tertiary Education and Scientific Research commitment to children with disabilities.</p> <p>The National Empowerment Foundation is implementing the School Materials Scheme (SMS) under its Child Welfare and Family Empowerment Programme has, as main objective, to empower and motivate children of school going age coming from vulnerable families below the poverty threshold, to attend school.</p> <p>Under that Scheme, school materials comprising bags, uniforms, shoes, copybooks, socks and stationery are provided to needy students of pre-primary, primary and secondary schools.</p>

		<p>During the period 2010 to 2014, an average number of 22,700 children per year have benefitted from that scheme. For the academic year 2015, 39,464 beneficiaries, including 5,926 in Rodrigues, have received school materials.</p> <p>Moreover, Learning Corners have been set up in deprived regions by the National Empowerment Foundation to provide additional support to students including access to IT facilities to boost up their interest in education. More than 24 Learning Corners have been set up by the National Empowerment Foundation which are operational across the island.</p> <p>(See also response to Recommendations 26 and 90-93)</p>
46.	<p>Continue and strengthen its efforts in favour of the elderly (Monaco);</p>	<p>All elderly persons aged 60 and above, satisfying residency requirements, are eligible for a Universal Basic Retirement Pension. Moreover needy elderly persons receive other allowances under the Social Aid Act as well as benefits in kind. The elderly also enjoy free transport facilities by bus.</p> <p>The Protection of Elderly Persons Act was enacted in 2005 and proclaimed in 2006, providing <i>inter alia</i> for a Protection of the Elderly Network, an Elderly Watch in every region designated by the Monitoring Committee for the Elderly, an Elderly Persons Protection Unit for a better protection to be afforded to the elderly. Awareness and sensitisation campaigns are ongoing among youth, women and elderly.</p> <p>With a view to eliminating cases of abuse on the elderly the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions has started to implement the following new measures to improve the security and protection of the elderly:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the Protection of Elderly Persons Act 2005 is being reviewed to reinforce the protection of the elderly; (b) relevant legislations are being strengthened to ensure that Residential Care Homes are equipped with CCTV Cameras. These institutions will also be required to ensure the presence of a full-time medical practitioner and recruit qualified and trained carers, as well as a psychologist; and (c) a National Strategy Paper on Ageing 2016-2020 is being finalised. <p>The Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions has also taken, <i>inter alia</i>, the following measures to improve the well-being of the elderly:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) a Senior Citizens Council has been set up under the Senior Citizens Council Act The Council has a network of Senior Citizens Associations in Mauritius which receive a yearly grant from Government to organise educational, leisure and cultural activities at regional level;

		<p>(b) provision of residential recreational activities at a highly subsidised rate in Recreational Centres for the Elderly and the Disabled;</p> <p>(c) legal Counselling on Property Rights; and</p> <p>(d) training of Carers to look after the elderly.</p> <p>An “Observatory” on Ageing has been set up to carry out action-oriented research on the socio-economic aspects of ageing. The first report was submitted in April 2014 on the following themes: (i) Housing; (ii) Protection; (iii) Health (Alzheimer’s disease and Dementia); and (iv) Leisure and Recreational facilities.</p> <p>It is also observed that more and more elderly persons are living alone. To further protect this category of citizens, concerned Ministry intends to start a Special Support Care Service to elderly persons with disabilities and those living alone as part of its strategy to provide a ‘service de proximité’ to them.</p>
47.	<p>Continue its efforts to enhance the protection of children and improve their well-being (Singapore);</p>	<p>The Office of the Ombudsperson for Children was established in 2003 and became operational in 2004. It is the first of its kind in Africa. The objectives of the Office are to ensure that the rights, needs and interests of children are given full consideration by public bodies, private authorities, individuals and associations of individuals; promoting the rights and interests of children; and to ensure compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Children, to which Mauritius is a party.</p> <p>The Mauritius Police Force has, at the request of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development & Family Welfare, set up a new unit styled “<i>Brigade pour la Protection des Mineurs</i>” in May 2004. One of the priorities of the Brigade is to act as a watchdog against all forms of exploitation and abuse against children. The Brigade is providing a meaningful and sound customer care service aimed at optimizing the protection of children and helping to alleviate the anxiety of parents whose children have been subjected to such abuses. The “<i>Brigade pour la Protection des Mineurs</i>” will continue its work with the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare, on the protection of the child from all forms of abuse including commercial sexual exploitation of children.</p> <p>Since January 2008, crackdown operations have been conducted island wise at regular intervals. Officers of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare, National Children’s Council, <i>Brigade des Mineurs</i> (Police Department), in collaboration with NGOs ensure that young persons and students are attending schools during normal school hours. Such operations are seen to contribute in an efficient way to prevent young persons from engaging in truancy and loitering and getting involved in illicit activities. Campaigns conducted are as follows:</p>

Education/Awareness/Sensitisation Campaigns of Brigade Pour la Protection des Mineurs for the year 2013-2015

Year	No. of sessions	No. of Attendees (Minors/Adults)
2013	390	28558
2014	337	25071
2015	436	32744
Total	1163	86373
<i>Statistics from the Mauritius Police Force</i>		

The Police, in collaboration with the Social Workers of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources and the Child Development Unit of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare also redirect children who drop out of school back to the education system. Police Officers refer children who have been abused, to the Child Development Unit for psychotherapy and placement to shelters. In addition, the Police provide the following services:-

- A 24-hour hotline service (Tel: 999).
- At divisional level, an Operations Room is open on a 24-hour basis.
- Likewise, at Line Barracks the Operations and Information Room is open on a 24- hour basis.
- A protocol of assistance to child victims ranging from protection to counselling exists, whereby all Police Officers serving in any part of the country, deal with reported cases of child abuse.

A Residential Care Drop-in-Centre for victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children has been constructed. Its purpose is to assist children victims of sexual abuse and exploitation and to help them to re-integrate society. A Hotline (113) is available to public for referral of cases of victims of child prostitution.

With a view to promoting Mauritius as a safe family destination, the Ministry of Tourism and Leisure has embarked on a sensitization campaign on the impact of the commercial sexual exploitation of children. A pamphlet on “Zero Tolerance to Child Exploitation” has been prepared.

However, Government is aware that there is still room for improvement in the management of shelters by non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Government is therefore working in close collaboration with the relevant NGOs with a view to improving the general conditions of shelters which are under the management of the latter. It is also being considered in the National Child

		Protection Strategy for these shelters to cater for children with disabilities; provide closer psychological care to children victims of abuse; further facilitate their access to the mainstream education system; and to ensure better planning of the development needs of these children.
48.	Continue strengthening the national democratic institutions (Nepal);	<p>In light of findings of the UN Human Rights Committee, Government is pursuing its discussions and consultations to work towards an electoral reform that will suit the long-term interest of the country and that will have five criteria as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) stability; (ii) fairness; (iii) inclusiveness to ensure representation of all components of the Mauritian rainbow nation; (iv) gender representation; and (v) transparency and accountability. <p>Government stands committed to reform the electoral system so as to introduce a dose of proportional representation in the National Assembly and guarantee better women's representation. The issue of mandatory declaration of community will be addressed in the wider context of the electoral reform. In this context a Ministerial Committee has been set up to examine the various implications of the proposed changes and make recommendations. Thereafter, appropriate consultations will be held with all the stakeholders prior to implementation.</p>
49.	Disseminate widely the recommendations which will be made to Mauritius at the conclusion of this review (Burkina Faso);	The recommendations have widely been disseminated to all stakeholders.
50.	Submit the required information to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Netherlands);	Already submitted by the Prime Minister's Office in June 2013.
51.	Consider extending a standing invitation to the Special Procedures Mechanism (Seychelles);	Mauritius did extend an invitation in 2011 to the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and is implementing the recommendations and has also extended support to a team of the Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Torture (SPT) in 2007.
52.	Consider issuing a standing invitation to the special procedures (Slovenia);	Consideration is being given to extending standing invitations on a case to case basis.
53.	Consider extending a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders (Tunisia);	An independent Human Rights Expert on older persons delegated by the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights, namely Mrs. Rosa Kornfeld Matte, visited Mauritius from 28 April to 8 May 2015.
54.	Consider extending a standing	

	<p>invitation to all Special Procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council (Montenegro);</p>	
55.	<p>Strengthen measures aimed at preventing and eliminating discrimination on the basis of race and ethnicity (Botswana);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Constitution prohibits discrimination on, <i>inter alia</i>, the ground of caste, colour, creed and race. It also provides that no law shall be discriminatory either in itself or in its effect. • The Equal Opportunities Act prohibits against any direct or indirect discrimination on the basis of status. Status means age, caste, colour, creed, ethnic origin, impairment, marital status, place of origin, political opinion, race, sex or sexual orientation. The Equal Opportunities Act applies to employment, education, qualifications for a profession, trade or occupation, the provision of goods, services, facilities or accommodation, the disposal of property, companies, partnerships, societies, registered associations, sports, clubs and access to premises which the public may enter or use. The Equal Opportunities Act applies to both the public and private sectors. It further contains provisions to fight sexual harassment.
56.	<p>Continue combating gender stereotypes and all forms of discrimination and violence against women (Tunisia);</p>	<p>In addition to the constitutional protection afforded to many of the relevant Covenants' obligations, some of these obligations are implemented through statutes (for example the Equal Opportunities Act) or administrative measures. Moreover, in line with the provisions of the ILO Convention No. 100 and Article 11 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Section 20 of the Employment Rights Act 2008 was amended in June 2013 to read as follows: -</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(1) <i>Every employer shall ensure that the remuneration of any worker shall not be less favourable than that of another worker performing work of equal value.</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(2) <i>Where an employer has recourse to the services of a job contractor, the job contractor shall ensure that the remuneration of any worker shall not be less favourable than that of another worker performing work of equal value.</i></p> <p>Section 30 of the Act was also amended in 2013 and contains a number of provisions protecting the rights of workers with family responsibilities as detailed below:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) 12 weeks' maternity leave on full pay, to a female worker who remains in continuous employment with the same employer for a period of 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the beginning of leave, to be taken either before confinement or after confinement provided that at least 7 weeks' leave is taken immediately after confinement. However, for those female workers reckoning less than 12 months' continuous service, the leave is without pay;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(b) where a female worker who has been in continuous employment with the same</p>

- employer for a period of 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the beginning of leave, gives birth to a still-born child, she shall, on production of a medical certificate, be entitled to 12 weeks' leave on full pay;
- (c) 2 weeks' leave on full pay in case of miscarriage irrespective of the length of service of the female worker;
 - (d) that an employer shall not require a pregnant female worker to perform overtime, two months before her confinement;
 - (e) that a female worker shall not be required to perform duties necessitating continuous standing; or that may be detrimental to her health and that of her baby, provided that there is a recommendation to that effect from a medical practitioner;
 - (f) that an employer is prohibited from giving a notice of dismissal to an employee on maternity leave or giving such notice which will expire during her maternity leave except on grounds that relate to the economic, technological, structural or similar nature affecting the employer's activities;
 - (g) that an agreement shall not be terminated by an employer by reason of a worker's absence from work during maternity leave; and
 - (h) for a female worker, who is nursing her breastfed child, to be entitled to a daily break of one hour, or a break of half an hour twice daily with pay for the purpose of nursing the child; for a period of 6 months from the date of confinement or such longer period as may be recommended by a medical practitioner.

As announced in the Government Programme 2015-2019 and in line with the ILO Maternity Protection Convention 2000, the Employment Rights Act was further amended in April 2015 to extend the duration of maternity leave from 12 to 14 weeks so as to better support working mothers fulfilling their family obligations.

The amendments brought to the Protection from Domestic Violence Act in 2007 have already entered in force. The Act was amended with a view to providing better services to victims of domestic violence and strengthening the enforcement mechanism of the Act as follows:-

- The Court may hear an application for a Protection Order in such manner as it thinks fit subject to such rules as may be made by the Chief Justice.
- The Court which has made the Protection, Tenancy or Occupancy Order, may make an ancillary as to alimony.
- Magistrates have been given the power to make an order as regards payment of alimony in respect of the aggrieved spouse and any child of the parties at the same

		<p>time as an order for Protection is made on such terms and conditions as the Court thinks fit.</p> <p>The Act was further amended in 2011 for rules to be made by the Chief Justice and for applications for Protection Orders to be heard in such manner as the Court thinks fit.</p> <p>An Advisory Committee was set up under the aegis of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare, in March 2014, to make recommendations on measures to reinforce the framework for the protection of women against domestic violence. The Committee in its report published in October 2014 observed that the Act as it stands still have several lacunas and weaknesses such as a narrow definition of domestic violence, not all acts of domestic violence are criminalized, and the weak support given to victim’s needs. In light of the report, Government intends to further amend the Act so as to introduce, among others, psychological and sexual abuses as well as economic deprivation within the definition of domestic violence.</p> <p>The Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare is considering amending the Criminal Code to make marital rape an offence. Furthermore, Article 242 of the Criminal Code will be also amended to remove from the Code that “<i>Manslaughter committed by any person on his spouse, as well as on his accomplice, at the very moment he finds them in the act of adultery is excusable</i>’.</p> <p>As spelt out in the Government Programme 2015-2019, Government has set up a National Coalition against Domestic Violence Committee under the aegis of the Prime Minister’s Office. The said Committee will liaise with the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions to ensure that victims of domestic violence are given immediate shelter in a Government institution and provided with a job and a house within a reasonable time frame to lead a normal life anew. The Committee has already examined measures that could be quickly implemented and, among others, has decided that all reported cases of domestic violence would be treated as an aggravated offence and that legislations would be amended in due course to that effect.</p>
57.	<p>Strengthen its policies of promotion and protection of the rights of women through public policies that foster gender equality in the country (Brazil);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare (MGECDWF) as the national machinery for mainstreaming gender equality and women’s empowerment, has adopted a rights based approach to implement its policies and programmes for women’s empowerment and the promotion of gender equality. • The MGECDWF has adopted a National Gender Policy Framework (NGPF) in 2008 which

		<p>calls upon all Ministries to formulate their sectoral gender policies. Since 2009, all Ministries have received technical assistance from the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare with the support of the United Nations' Development Programme (UNDP), for the formulation of their Sectoral Gender Policy.</p> <p>National Steering Committee on Gender Mainstreaming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure the coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the NGPF, a National Steering Committee on Gender Mainstreaming (NSCGM) has been set up since 2010 under the chairpersonship of the Hon Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare. <p>Gender Focal Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each Ministry has designated officers, both from technical and administrative cadre, as Gender Focal Points. These officers ensure as far as possible that the concept of gender permeates in all policies and programme of Government.
58.	<p>Continue to promote gender equality and work to remove all barriers to the full and active participation of women across all spheres of life (Australia);</p>	<p>The Government of the Republic of Mauritius has new legislation and has strengthened existing ones to ensure that the rights of each and every one are respected. These include, <i>inter alia</i>, the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The passing of the Equal Opportunities Act of 2008 which makes provision for an Equal Opportunity Commission and an Equal Opportunity Tribunal to be set up;
59.	<p>Strengthen its policies and measures on the promotion of gender equality in all socio-economic aspects as an effective tool to resolve unemployment and poverty (Viet Nam);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local Government Act has been amended to provide for a larger representation of women in the political arena. The Criminal Code has been amended for authorised termination of pregnancy under certain circumstances; • The Employment Rights Act has been amended and provides that every employer shall ensure that the remuneration of any worker shall not be less favourable than that of another worker performing work of equal value; • The Employment Rights Act has also been amended with effect from 21 May 2015 in order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to increase maternity leave from 12 weeks to 14 weeks; • The National Remuneration Board is ensuring through the review of Remuneration

Regulations, that job appellations and classifications are based on the principle of equal remuneration for work of equal value; and

In the same vein, the National Women's Council (NWC), through the Dressmaking section, also provides training in craft making to women to enable them to acquire necessary basic skills for them to start minor enterprises.

In a bid to provide immediate relief to vulnerable women, the NWC has, since 2010, been implementing the Rupees for Solidarity Scheme whereby a one-off grant is provided to the families ranging from Rs 1, 000 to Rs 3,000. Till date, some 195 families have benefited from this scheme.

This is done through a network of 15 Women Centres. Concurrently, the Special Collaborative Programme for Support to Women and Children in Distress Programme is allowing NGOs and Non State Actors (NSAs) to come forward with projects aimed at empowering the vulnerable to come out of the vicious circle of poverty.

Youth Empowerment Programme

- Launched on the 29th of January 2013 by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, the main objectives of the Youth Empowerment Programme (YEP) are:
- To enable unemployed youth to obtain training/placement for an initial period of one year, with the possibility of permanent employment thereafter on condition of satisfactory performance;
- To ensure that appropriate training is provided to youth to promote the development of necessary skills in the labour force;
- To assist employers in obtaining appropriate skilled manpower.

The YEP caters for youth between 16-30 years of age, with no education up to those with a doctorate. As from July 2014, the possibility to extend this placement up to two years has been included in the scheme.

Ongoing awareness campaigns have been organised targeting the 1177 Women's Associations, the four Regional Committees and the womenfolk in general to socially economically and politically empower them on various issues which include *inter alia* the Gender Concept, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Legal Rights of Women, Women and Climate Change; Gender Based Violence and Feminisation of Poverty, Leadership and Communication. For January 2015 to June 2015, some 51,758 women have been sensitised.

There are four Regional Committees exclusive of Rodrigues Regional Committee which

		<p>operate as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Port Louis/ Plaines Wilhems/ Black River; • Pamplemousses/ Riviere du Rempart; • Moka/ Flacq; and • Grand Port/ Savanne. <p>They are mandated to regroup all Women’s Associations operating within the above-mentioned regions as well as organise activities for the well-being of women. Each Regional Committee is registered with the Registrar of Associations and regulates its own proceedings. As at date, there are 1,177 Women’s Associations registered with the Regional Committees, exclusive of Rodrigues Regional Committee.</p> <p>Workfare Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up by the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training (MLIRE) since 2009, the Workfare Programme provides assistance to those workers/employees who, have been employed for at least 6 months by the same employer and have lost their jobs. A series of measures have been put in place to accompany these employees in the search of a new job or reskilling. A Transition Unemployment Benefit is also allocated to them as soon as they are registered with the MLIRE. These allocations are calculated on a percentage based on their previous salary and at as follows: • The first 3 months: 90 % of the last basic salary. 4th au 6th month 60 % of the last basic salary and from 7th to 12 months: 30 % of the last basic salary. <p>Back to Work Programme (BTWP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Back to Work Programme facilitates women above 30 years of age, after career break, to take up/continue employment, in private enterprises. <p>Dual Training Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This programme allows unemployed school leavers to follow formal training programmes in recognised training institutions leading to diploma/degree courses to join the labour market while getting exposure at the same time.
60.	<p>Continue the efforts in favour of the promotion of the rights of women and children, and in the area of the fight against discrimination (Algeria);</p>	<p>Many Awareness Campaigns including legal rights of women are regularly organised with different age groups using innovative tools such as interactive DVDs and movies. Seminars are also organised on amendments brought to relevant pieces of legislation.</p> <p>In a bid to ensure that women are fully aware of their rights, the MGECDWF has :</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organised legal literacy programmes on various pieces of legislation in favour of women • Organised workshops on international and regional human rights instruments on women's empowerment and gender equality. Their importance, thereof, is to encourage NGOs to use these instruments as tools that can effectively address gender inequality <p>Ongoing awareness campaigns have been organised targeting the 1135 Women's Associations, the five Regional Committees and the womenfolk in general on various thematic namely the Gender Concept, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Legal Rights of Women, Women and Climate Change; Gender Based Violence and Feminisation of Poverty amongst others.</p> <p>The NWC operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare has, since 2008, been implementing the Adult Literacy Programme (ALP) and the Adult Literacy Entrepreneurship Programme. These are dispensed to women of all age groups in Women Centres, Community Centres and Social Welfare Centres found in urban and rural regions.</p> <p>The National Women Council is sustaining its Information, Education and Communication Campaigns to sensitise women on their various issues pertaining to their wellbeing. It is to be highlighted that since 2012 a module on Legal Literacy has been included in the Adult Literacy Programme and same is being dispensed in kreol.</p>
61.	Continue to increase women's representation in all national decision-making positions to 30% in line with the SADC decision (Namibia);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Constitution does not provide for positive discrimination. • In a bid to address the deficit in women's representation in the political arena, Local Government Act of 2011 made provision for at least one of the 3 candidates at both the Municipal and Village Council elections be of the opposite sex. This has indeed proved to be a landmark in the history of Local Government Elections. For the Village Council Elections, the percentage of women elected rose from 5.9% in 2005 to 25.4% in 2012. For the Municipal Council Elections, the percentage is above 30% since 2012. For that year, the percentage rose from 12% in 2005 to 36.7%. In 2015, the percentage of women elected as councillors was 34%. • The Municipal City Council and Municipal Town Council Elections Regulations 2012 were amended in 2015 to provide for compliance with Section 11 (6) of the Local Government Act, which provides that any group presenting more than 2 candidates in an election shall ensure that the candidates are not all of the same sex.
62.	Strengthen the equal participation of women in public office (Ecuador);	<p>Despite the non-existence of some form of electoral quotas for women in Parliament, their representation in Parliament has increased from 3% in 1991 to 5.7% in 2000 to 17.1% in 2005 and 18.8 % in 2010. At the last General Elections in December 2014, this figure dropped to 11.4%. Government is nonetheless fully committed in promoting women's active participation in</p>

politics and decision making instances. The nomination of two women, one as President of the Republic of Mauritius and one as Speaker of the National Assembly, for the first time in the history of Mauritius, is testimony to the commitment of the Government to have women at the highest level of decision making.

Furthermore, the amendment to the Local Government Act in 2012 that “any group presenting more than 2 candidates in an electoral ward shall ensure that the candidates are not all of the same sex” has been an important step ahead. In terms of women’s participation at Municipal elections, there has been an increase from 12.5% in 2005 to 31.7% in 2015. At the Village Council level, the increase has been from 5% in 2005 to 30.3% in 2012. In terms of women’s representation at local government, Mauritius made a big leap from 12.7% to 34.2% between 2005 and 2015.

In a bid to ensure that women for all walks of life make their voices heard for an increased participation of women in decision making instances, the Ministry envisages to organise training on issues such as advocacy a leadership skills.

Noticeable progress has been made in the Public Sector and the Judiciary, where there have been an increasing number of women participating in higher level decision-making.

Women in Decision Making Position

GRADE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Ministers	3 out of 24	12.5
Members of Parliament	8 out of 70	11.4
Ambassadors	0 out of 16	0.0
Senior Chief Executives	3 out of 6	50.0
Permanent Secretaries	11 out of 35	31.4
Deputy Permanent Secretaries	31 out of 73	42.5
Assistant Permanent Secretaries	67 out of 126	53.2

			Judges	9 out of 22	40.9	
			Magistrates	27 out of 40	67.5	
			<i>Information from Statistical Unit (figures are after General Elections, December 2014)</i>			
63.	Strengthen its efforts to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women and children (Senegal);	(See response to Recommendation 56)				
64.	Strengthen the system of protection of the rights of the child by additional measures (Benin);	A pamphlet of the Articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in English and Creole was launched on the Day of the African Child 2015 on the 16 June 2015. The aim is to raise awareness of children and parents on their rights. (See also response to Recommendation 18)				
65.	Continue to address the concerns of disadvantaged and vulnerable persons as a matter of priority, through programs aimed at promoting their fundamental human rights (Philippines);	<u>SOCIAL AID SCHEMES</u> The Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions provides the following social aid schemes:- (i) Social Aid in Cash; (ii) Refund of exam fees;				
66.	Speed up the realization of equality in the exercise of human rights by disadvantaged groups (Gabon);	(iii) Allowance to discharges prisoners; (iv) Allowance to flood victims, fire victims; (v) Allowance to centenarians for the purchase of medicine; (vi) Assistance to twins/triplets; (vii) Funeral Grant; (viii) Rent allowance to needy beneficiaries of Basic Retirement Pension, living alone and paying rent; (ix) Carer's Allowance, in lieu of Child's Allowance and Compassionate Allowance, for a child between the age of 6 months and 15 years where the child suffers from a Permanent disability of at least 60% and is in need of constant care and attention as certified by a Medical Board. (x) Assistance in kind spectacles, wheelchairs, hearing aid; (xi) Income support scheme-Food Aid – Rice and Flour Allowance; (xii) Bad weather allowance to fishermen.				

		(See also response to Recommendation 90 – 93)				
67.	Continue to take all necessary measures to ensure that no person is discriminated against by the State, including persons affected by HIV/AIDS (Spain);	<p>The National AIDS Secretariat under the aegis of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life has formulated a National Strategic Framework (NSF) 2013-2016, with wide consultation and participation of all stakeholders from Government, Civil Society, the Private Sector, as well as key affected populations such as people who inject drugs, female sex workers, and men who have sex with men.</p> <p>(Please see response to Recommendation 17)</p>				
68.	Continue with actions aimed at improving the treatment of children with disabilities and children affected and/or infected by HIV/AIDS (Argentina);	<p>Children with Disabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Children’s Bill which is being finalised, will also provide for severe penalties to protect children with disabilities. • The issue of children with disabilities is looked upon by the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions, the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research and the Child Development Unit of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Child Development cater for children with disabilities. • A Protocol is being worked out with different Ministries to develop a concerted approach to provide added protection to children with disabilities. <p>HIV/AIDS</p> <p>The national HIV programme is led by the National AIDS Secretariat, Ministry of Health and Quality of Life. HIV services are fully decentralised and access to prevention, care and treatment is free and equitably dispensed to the population, including children, most at risk of HIV infection.</p>				
69.	Continue to address gender based violence (Rwanda);	<p>(See response to Recommendation 56)</p> <p>Following the launching of the Costed Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, the Ministry is pursuing with its implementation. Out of 108 Recommended Actions, 84 were implemented, which represent 77% implementation. Breakdown of Actions implemented are as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="785 1209 1661 1469"> <tr> <td>2012</td> <td>- 224 stakeholders reached during the Capacity Building Programmes (CBP) organised by the Ministry</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013</td> <td>- 634 stakeholders reached during CBPs - 8750 people reached during 176 awareness raising programmes</td> </tr> </table>	2012	- 224 stakeholders reached during the Capacity Building Programmes (CBP) organised by the Ministry	2013	- 634 stakeholders reached during CBPs - 8750 people reached during 176 awareness raising programmes
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2014	- 1155 stakeholders reached during CBPs - 6142 people reached during 135 awareness raising programmes
2015 (Jan-Aug)	- 177 Stakeholders reached during CBPs - 572 people reached during 15 awareness raising programmes
Statistics from Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare	

Awareness campaigns organised by the Mauritius Police Force:-

Education/Awareness/Sensitisation Campaigns of Police Family Protection Unit for year 2013-2015(Jan – May)						
Year	No. of sessions in Primary Schools	No. of Attendees	No. of sessions in Secondary Schools	No. of attendees	No. of session in Social Welfare centre etc.	No. of Attendees
2013	296	12104	28	923	82	2920
2014	281	9949	13	950	131	5110
2015	227	7510	8	327	45	1754
Total	804	29563	49	2200	258	9784
<i>Statistics from the Mauritius Police Force</i>						

Education/Awareness/Sensitisation Campaigns of Brigade Pour la Protection des Mineurs for the year 2013-2015 (Jan – May)		
Year	No. of sessions	No. of Attendees (Minors/Adults)
2013	390	28558
2014	337	25071
2015	230	19342
Total	957	72971

Statistics from the Mauritius Police Force

YEAR	CATEGORY	NO. OF CAMPAIGNS	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS
2012	Primary School	42	5501
	Secondary School	79	12289
	Youth Forum	28	2152
	Parental Empowerment Programme	34	1415
Total 2012		183	21357
2013	Primary School	26	4352
	Secondary School	49	9840
	Youth Forum	24	962
	Parental Empowerment Programme	49	2439
Total 2013		148	17593
2014	Primary School	53	7467
	Secondary School	58	11774
	Tertiary Education	3	230
	Youth Forum	21	701
	Parental Empowerment Programme	32	1241
Total 2014		167	21413
2015 (As at 31 st May)	Primary School	40	5743

		Secondary School	45	7807
		Youth Forum	6	269
		Parental Empowerment Programme	12	919
		Total 2015	103	14738
		GRAND TOTAL	601	75101
		<i>Statistics from the Mauritius Police Force</i>		

70.	<p>Continue with policies and plans aimed at eliminating domestic violence and violence against children (Ecuador);</p>	<p>The MGECDWF also launched the Victim Empowerment and Abuser Rehabilitation Policy (VEARP) in November 2013, in line with the Costed National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence (2012-2015)</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) To promote and make available VEARP services to stakeholders engaged in the fight against gender-based violence to assist both abusers and victims; (b) To set up guidelines for both the public and private sectors in the establishment of workplace initiatives to fight against gender-based violence; and (c) To provide the minimum standard required in the provision of VEARP services by all stakeholders. <p><u>Additional Policies and Plans aimed at Eliminating Domestic Violence against Children:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Protocol on domestic violence and child abuse are included in Police Manuals. (b) A National Coalition against Domestic Violence Committee has been set up in March 2015 under the aegis of the Prime Minister’s Office. (c) A Protocol of Assistance to Child Victims of Violence and Collaboration between the Police and the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare has been signed on 8th June 2015.
71.	<p>Continue its positive efforts in addressing the issue of violence against women including ensuring the effective implementation of recommendations made by its National Platform to end Gender Based Violence which was introduced in October 2011(Malaysia);</p>	<p>The Victim Empowerment And Abuser Rehabilitation Policy was launched in November 2013. In 2014, 205 (30 from the public sector and 175 from the private sector) officers of the human resources cadre in the public and private sectors were trained on the victim empowerment and abuser rehabilitation policy in order to establish workplace initiatives to address gender-based violence.</p> <p>An Advisory Committee on the reinforcement of framework for protection from domestic violence was set up in March 2014 with the aim to reinforce the framework for protection from domestic violence, including amendments to be made to the protection from domestic violence act. The report of the Advisory Committee was submitted in November 2014. The Report on the Advisory Committee was launched in 17 August 2015. A 3-day Consultative Workshop was held on 08, 09 and 10 September 2015 to elaborate a strategic plan and work at the budget for the effective implementation of the recommendations.</p>
72.	<p>Further increase its efforts in order to fully implement its own action plan to end gender-based violence (Netherlands);</p>	<p>In view of providing necessary support to victims to leave the abused relationship, they are provided with temporary accommodation at the shelter of SOS Femmes and the shelter for women and children in distress.</p>
73.	<p>Continue its efforts to implement the National Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence and to further promote gender equality (Singapore);</p>	<p>Six Family Support Bureaux (FSBx) are operational across the island to provide support services</p>
74.	<p>Effectively implement protection mechanisms for victims of domestic</p>	<p>Six Family Support Bureaux (FSBx) are operational across the island to provide support services</p>

	violence and provide them with the necessary funding (Spain);	in terms of:
75.	Improve emphasis and transparency in tackling gender-based violence by introducing specific measures to encourage more reporting by the public and increased investigations, prosecutions, convictions and sentences to deter those who commit gender-based violence (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Hand Counselling; • Psychological Counselling; • Legal Advice; • Assistance To Victims of Domestic Violence with regards to their application for a protection order, occupation order and tenancy order under Protection from Domestic Violence Act (PDVA); • Counselling services to adult perpetrators; • Site Visits for follow up of cases of domestic violence; • Assistance to victims of domestic violence for temporary accommodation in shelters pending their application for appropriate court orders under the PDVA; • Psycho-social assistance to families in distress (in cases of tragic deaths, natural disasters, accidents); • Assistance to adult victims of sexual assault; and • Referral to other institutions as appropriate, amongst others.
76.	Strengthen efforts to combat, prevent, and respond to domestic violence, including by ensuring that victims of domestic violence have access to the necessary support and services that will enable them to leave abusive situations, in particular means to sustainably support themselves financially (Canada);	<p>The Hotline 139 is operational on a 24 hr basis.</p> <p>(See response to Recommendations 69 and 70)</p>
77.	Strengthen the cooperation with civil society in the area of domestic violence, especially domestic violence against women and children and establish a more effective system of help to victims (Czech Republic);	<p>The Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare has conducted awareness raising campaigns with the aim to sensitise the general population on the root causes of gender-based violence (GBV) and the services available to survivors and perpetrators of domestic violence at the level of the FSBx.</p> <p>In the context of the Commemoration of the International Day Against Violence Against Women, the MGECDWF also raised awareness on the problem of GBV, particularly, domestic violence, through TV advertisement as from 2011.</p> <p>(See also response to Recommendations 69)</p>
78.	Improve existing measures on combating violence against children, as a key obligation under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and other international human rights instruments (Maldives);	<p>(See response to Recommendations 70)</p> <p>Community Child Watch Committee (CCWC) is a surveillance mechanism for children who are exposed to all forms of violence at a community level. It is being organised by the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare. The Police participates in those meeting which are conducted at different intervals throughout the year at different regions.</p>

Its objective is the prevention, reduction and elimination of violence against children. This is done through 32 CCWCs currently operating across the island that report cases, create awareness and encourage community action.

	2013	2014 (Jan-April)	2015 (Jan-June)
Meetings held	315	112	96
Activities carried out	51	6	-
Children reached	4,038	540	-
Adults reached	850	-	-

Statistics from the Mauritius Police Force

District Child Protection Committee (DCPC)

DCPCs act as a mediator between the community and the main institutions providing services for children, through meetings. Meetings are held every 2 months at the level of each district.

DCPCs have been set up to take cognizance, review and monitor Child Protection issues at District level.

	2013	2014
Meetings held	48	3
Activities carried out	24	2
Children reached	2,052	200
Adults reached	342	20

Statistics from the Mauritius Police Force

National Parental Empowerment Program

Campaigns/Sensitisation programmes organised by Ecole des Parents				
	2010-2011	2012	2013	2014 (Jan-April)
No. of Ecole des Parents	22	13	9	2
Parents Reached	480	404	324	54

Community Child Development Program – Children Attendance		
Year	Mahebourg Child Creativity Centre	Children’s Clubs
2012	9,749	3,260
2013	7,985	3,800
2014 (January to April)	1,618	5,060

79. **Put in place initiatives aimed at raising awareness, especially among professionals who work in the area, about violations of the human rights of children, including sexual abuse (Brazil);**

SENSITISATION CAMPAIGNS

- Information, Education and Communication (IEC) strategy has been initiated by the MGECDWF.
- Materials with respect to IEC for school going children, parents, school educators and community leaders are developed in a systematic and coherent manner.
- Programmes proposed also take the form of debates, elocution contests, publications, talks and multi-media interventions.
- Sensitization and awareness campaigns targeted towards children are carried out on a regular basis through media by way of radio and television programmes.

- Talks are delivered to school children at primary and secondary levels and to parents, in regions at risks; and to the community at large with a view to sensitizing them on the protective needs of children against all forms of harm and abuse.
- There is a standing arrangement between the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare and the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation for radio programmes on different issues including Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Mauritius.
- Information, Education and Communication Campaigns which are ongoing will be further enhanced in primary, secondary and tertiary educational institutions with a view to educating children about the problems associated with commercial sexual exploitation.
- For January 2014 to August 2015, some 13,399 children and 584 adults were reached through 157 schools (primary and secondary schools) through the School Child Protection Clubs.

80. **Redouble efforts to fight against ill-treatment of children, particularly by the investigation, trial and punishment of perpetrators (Uruguay);**

During the year 2015, forty nine (49) cases of child ill-treatment have been reported to the Police. The status of these cases is shown below:-

No. of cases of child ill-treatment reported in 2015	STATUS OF CASES						
	Enquiry	Pending Advice DPP	Pending Court	Dismissed	Struck out	Sentenced/ Fined	Number of Persons sentenced/fin
49	41	3	2	Nil	Nil	2	Nil

Whenever a case of child ill-treatment is reported to Police, the accused party is arrested promptly and an enquiry is carry out straightaway. After completion of the enquiry, the advice of the Director of Public Prosecutions is sought and the accused party is prosecuted before Court.

Training on Gender Based Violence and Child Interviewing Techniques and Trafficking in person are being imparted to Police Officer.
Statistics for 2013-2015(Jan-May).

Year	Gender Based Violence	Child Interviewing Techniques	Trafficking in Persons
2013	431	723	77
2014	587	428	328
2015 (Jan-May)	51	212	50

Statistics from the Mauritius Police Force

Overseas Courses followed by officers of the Mauritius Police Force for year 2013-2015 (Jan-May)

Year	Overseas Courses	Country	No. of Personnel
2013	3eme Rencontre de la Plateforme Regionale de la Lutte contre les violences Basees sur le Genre	Comoros	1
	Development of Effective Law Enforcement Responses to violence Against Women and Children	South Africa	2
2014	-	-	-
2015 (Jan-May)	Policing Gender Based Violence and Crime Scene Investigation Course	Botswana	2

Statistics from the Mauritius Police Force

81. **Continue its efforts to strengthening and combating child trafficking (South Sudan);**

Capacity Building

Family Welfare & Protection Officers, Child Welfare Officers, Police Officers, Probation Officers, Medical Social Workers and NGOs working with children have been trained by a local consultant with a view to providing better services to victims of CSEC.

In line with Government Programme 2015–2019, new policies on adoption are being prepared for alignment with the requirements of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Inter-Country Adoption. A new Adoption Bill is being worked out by the Prime Minister’s Office with Ministries/Departments concerned.

(See response to Recommendations 79, 82 to 84)

82.	Strengthen measures aimed at fighting human trafficking, including addressing its root causes and exploitation of women and girls (Botswana);	(See response to Recommendation 22) Protection against forced labour in Mauritius is guaranteed by Section 6 of the Constitution which provides as follows: “No person shall be held in slavery or servitude.”
83.	Establish a body to coordinate government efforts to combat trafficking in persons and the worst forms of child labour (United States of America);	“No person shall be required to perform forced labour.” The provisions of the ILO Forced Labour Convention 1930 ratified by Mauritius in December 1969 are also applied by the following pieces of legislation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 35 of the Reform Institutions Act 1988; • Regulation 16 of the Prisons Regulations 1989; • Combating of trafficking in Persons Act 2009; and • Community Service Order Act 2002.
84.	Provide adequate resources to enforce laws against human trafficking through the investigation, prosecution and, if found guilty, conviction of trafficking offenders, including in cases involving forced labour or commercial sexual exploitation (United States of America);	Mauritius has also ratified the Abolition of Forced Labour Convention 1957 which prohibits the use of any form of forced or compulsory labour. Moreover, following the ratification of the Maritime Labour Convention in May 2014, the Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping and Outer Islands is working on a Maritime Labour Convention Bill. A technical Committee on ‘Recruitment Licence’ has been set up at the Ministry of Labour, Industrial Relations, Employment and Training to assess and review the policies and procedures for the grant and monitoring of recruitment licences and licencees.
85.	Carry out training to identify acts of torture for law enforcement personnel, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, doctors, psychologists and any officials during the detention process. Additionally establish a complaints and follow up mechanism (Mexico);	(See Response to Recommendation 24) As provided for in the Government Programme 2015-2019, Government is in the process of reviewing existing legislations for the establishment of an independent Police Complaints Commission, separate from the National Human Rights Commission, and to be chaired by a former Judge of the Supreme Court. The Police Complaints Commission will replace the Police Complaints Division of the National Human Rights Commission. The purpose of this initiative is to expedite the determination of complaints concerning police brutality. Human Rights training is provided to Police Officers.
86.	Ensure the effective implementation of the new laws related to human rights protection, in particular the mechanism of prevention and sanctioning of brutal acts committed by the police (France);	Moreover, law enforcement personal are provided training on human rights as part of the basic training and also on ad hoc basis targeting all grades of officers. The Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies is planning to introduce a module on Human Rights in its training programme for the Academic Year 2015-2016. From January to October 2015, 395 paramedics have been sensitised by the National Human Rights Commission. The table below illustrate the sensitisation campaigns for 2015:

Regional Hospital	Date	No. of Persons
Jawaharlal Nehru Hospital	09.09.15	45
Dr. Jeetoo Hospital	16.09.15	85
SSR National Hospital	22.09.15	90
Victoria Hospital	30.09.15	105
Flacq Hospital	07.10.15	70
Total		395
<i>Statistics from the National Human Rights Commission for 2015</i>		

The National Human Rights Commission, after investigation, refers the cases to the Director of Public Prosecutions, if the complaint is substantiated, pursuant to Section 4(4)(a)(i) of the Protection of Human Rights Act.

The table below illustrates the number of complaints received at the National Human Rights Commission against Police brutality:-

Year	No. of of Complaints	Disposed off	Pending	Referred to the DPP
2011	23	23	-	Nil
2012	34	34	-	Nil
2013	339 (of which 229 were transferred from the CIB)	261	78	Nil
2014	168	56	110	2
2015 (As at September)	120	59	54	7
Total	288	115	164	9

87. **Amend the law concerning “certificates of character” so as not to hamper the rehabilitation and reintegration of former convicts in the labour market (Spain);**

The law provides for a person who has been convicted for a specified minor offence and who has been given a non-custodial sentence in specified cases or been granted a free pardon in respect of an offence shall be deemed not to have committed an offence for the purpose of being issued a Certificate of Character.

88. **Expedite the process of introducing a Media Bill to enhance freedom of expression (Sierra Leone);**

Section 12 of the Constitution provides for freedom of expression. The local media enjoy a long tradition of freedom and pluralism. The audio visual landscape consists of the national radio and television broadcaster, the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation, and private radio stations.

		<p>Though legislation providing for private radio and private television was voted in 2000, no private television station has been set up. To encourage companies to come forward and launch private television channels, Government is proposing to amend the Independent Broadcasting Authority Act, which currently limits foreign shareholding in companies applying for a television permit to 20%.</p> <p>Paragraph 258 of the Government Programme 2015-2019 clearly states that “<i>a Freedom and Information Act will be brought forward to promote transparency and accountability in public administration and more particularly in contract allocations.</i>”</p> <p>In a reply to a Parliamentary Question, the Hon. Prime Minister has informed that drafting instructions have already been given to the Attorney General’s Office to proceed with the preparation Bill and the drafting exercise is in progress. Moreover, relevant stakeholders would be consulted prior to the introduction of the Bill in the National Assembly.</p>
89.	<p>Continue to create employment opportunities and promote the development of income generating activities to uplift the poor (Namibia);</p>	<p>The Placement and Training Programme of the National Empowerment Foundation aims at enhancing the employability of unemployed persons in skilled and semi-skilled jobs through the provision of vocational and technical training to those with poor academic achievement so that they acquire technical knowledge and expertise to enhance their chances of employability and/or to start their own micro business. The objective of catering for all those with level of education is a preventive measure, because unless these young persons are trained at an early age, there is a high probability that they end up as beneficiaries of the NEF.</p> <p>To this end, the National Empowerment Foundation has been working with a number of organisations such as the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development, the National Computer Board, the Mauritius Institute of Education and the Fashion and Design Institute (under the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research) to dispense these technical training. These trainings usually range between 3 to 6 months including practical sessions.</p> <p>In order to encourage and empower these women, the training cost is completely sponsored by the NEF and a stipend of Rs 3,000 per month is paid to each trainee so as to enable them to cater for the transport cost to attend the training and for light meal during the day.</p> <p>From 2013 to 2014, some 2,618 women were trained including 97 in Rodrigues in diverse fields such as Domestic households, Child Care Givers, Food and Beverage, Pastry Basic Arc Welding, Creative textile, Masonry, Mechanic and Electric, Plumbing, Backyard Gardening, Beauty Care.</p> <p>The Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Board (TEDPB) has empowered 633 persons with disabilities and assisted them to find an employment. The TEDPB has placed 102 persons with disabilities in employment for 2014 and 65 for January to August 2015.</p>

90.	Continue its efforts to eliminate poverty, ensure the right to food and housing for its population, and promote harmony among various communities (China);	The Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment is compiling a national database of vulnerable households living below the poverty threshold through the Social Register of Mauritius (SRM), with a view to ensuring that only deserving families will henceforth benefit from the services provided by the National Empowerment Foundation. These families will be constantly monitored and provided with the required empowerment/support.
91.	Continue to make further inroads towards combating poverty and also ensuring that its population has an affordable access to a steady supply of water (Trinidad and Tobago);	This measure is expected to instill a fair and transparent process and at the same time ensure judicious use of public funds. It will also enable the Ministry to monitor the number of households in the process of moving out of the poverty trap. A Monitoring and Evaluation Unit has been set up at the level of the said Ministry to evaluate the impact of the pro-poor projects and programmes.
92.	Strengthen the measures aimed at alleviating extreme poverty (Côte d'Ivoire);	Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is the concept whereby companies act to balance their own economic growth with the sustainable social and environmental development of their areas of operation. A company performing highly in CSR is one that goes beyond compliance with the legal framework to actively pursue positive impacts on local communities and its environmental footprint. The Government of Mauritius has established a policy with the overall objective of mandating registered companies to pay 2% of their book profit towards programmes that contribute to the social and environmental development of the country.
93.	Continue the efforts in order to eradicate extreme poverty in the country (Cuba);	<p>In the Budget Speech 2015, a new concept, namely, ‘parrainage’, has emerged whereby, institutions that are contributing to CSR will be allowed to take under their wings those unsustainable pockets of poverty in our country. The concept of ‘parrainage’ makes provision for the medium and long term development in pockets of poverty. Companies are now free to allocate the 2 per cent of CSR according to their own set of priorities. Implementation of the project which includes the following has already started:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving living conditions generally; • Raising the level of employment; • Curbing social ills; • Ensuring that all children attend school and develop fully their talents; • Creating sports and leisure facilities; and • Improving quality of life generally. <p>At the strategic level, a Poverty Observatory to be set up in 2015 will serve as a permanent platform for all relevant stakeholders to sustainably address poverty in all its forms. It will also act as an advocacy group in the fight against poverty and create linkages with the SADC Regional Poverty Observatory for sharing of information and best practices.</p> <p>There still remain a few challenges that the Ministry has to address to be able to implement its</p>

poverty eradication projects and programmes. There is mainly a lack of motivation and interest shown by the vulnerable families receiving social aid to join empowerment programmes. There is also the need for a paradigm shift in the mindset of vulnerable groups to trigger the willingness to escape from the poverty trap and integrate mainstream society; and there is also budgetary limitation. The Marshall Plan on poverty alleviation which is under preparation is expected to address these issues.

Access to housing is via various schemes as detailed in Recommendation 94.

(See also response to Recommendation 45)

94. **Maintain its efforts in the context of the right to housing (Djibouti);**

Housing forms part of the basic social conditions that determine the quality of life and welfare of people. Social housing is one area where much is done to eradicate absolute poverty, economically empower vulnerable low income families, including women headed households, and foster their social inclusion to encourage their participation in the structural, economic, social and spatial development of the country. In its 2015-2019 Government Programme, the Mauritian Government has undertaken to increase housing supply and home ownership for the economically and socially disadvantaged. The current policy direction in social housing is to:-

- facilitate access to a variety of affordable housing to cater for the different and evolving needs of present and future generations;
- strengthen social and cultural integration through the provision of appropriate social and recreational facilities in social housing development; and
- create mixed housing development schemes to help inclusion and equality among the low income groups.

Social Housing Policy of the Government

The Ministry of Housing and Lands has among its objectives, a National Housing Programme for period 2015-2019. This include the construction of 10 000 concrete housing units of 50m2 each for households earning from Rs 6 200 to Rs 20 000 monthly. The housing units are meant to beneficiaries of the National Housing Development Corporation, with subsidy from Government as follows:-

Family Income (Rs)	Purchase price of the housing unit	Government subsidy
6 200-10 000	1/3 of the construction cost	2/3 of the construction cost
10 001-15 000	1/ 2 of the construction cost	1 /2 of the construction cost
15 001-20 000	4/5 of the construction cost	1/5 of the construction cost

The eligibility criteria for the applicants to be allocated a housing unit are as follows:-

- not be owner of a house (including NHDC or CHA house);
- not own a residential plot of land;
- not hold a residential plot of State Land by lease;
- not have been granted any Government sponsored loan by MHC Ltd;
- not have benefited from any Government grant for the casting of a roof slab; and
- not have received any financial assistance from Government for the purchase of construction materials.

The beneficiaries can settle the cost of the houses either by cash or through Government sponsored loans from financial institutions such as the Mauritius Housing Company or from other leading institutions. Also, all beneficiaries are granted a long term residential lease expiring on 30 June 2060, on the plot of land. Annual rentals for leases regarding sites built up with a housing unit are at a nominal rate based on the beneficiaries' income as follows:-

Household income (Rs)	Annual rent (Rs)	Remarks
<7500	1	
7501-10 000	1 000	50% increase for each subsequent period of 10 years
10 001-15 000	2 000	50% for each subsequent period of 10 years
15001-20 000	3 000	50% for each subsequent period of 10 years

Budget 2015 has allowed for the increase in size of the housing units to be constructed to 50m² to accommodate at least 2 bedrooms compared to previous schemes where the size of the housing unit varied from 36m² to 39m². More than 5 700 families have benefited from this scheme.

For families earning less than Rs 6 200 monthly, rather than providing land for the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment or the National Empowerment Foundation to

construct houses thereon, the Ministry of Housing and Lands would reserve 10% of the total number of housing units in all its new projects for the beneficiaries of the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment or the National Empowerment Foundation Financial assistance for roof slabs and purchase of building materials.

Government also encourages self-help construction of housing units by very low to low income families who already own a plot of land. These families are financially assisted through a grant scheme either for the casting of roof slabs to complete their construction or for the purchase of building materials to start their construction. As at end 2015, some 53,542 families have benefited from that scheme and Government has spent some Rs 2.21 Billion. Details of the scheme that has been reviewed in the Budget 2015/2016 are as follows:-

Existing Housing Schemes	Household Income Eligibility	Amount	Details of Scheme
Roof Slab Grant	≤Rs10,000	Maximum One-off cash grant of Rs 75, 000.	Households who own a plot of land but cannot afford to complete construction of their house and has reached up to the beam level. The grant is for casting of the roof slab for an area up to 110m ² .
	>Rs10,000-≤Rs 15,000	Maximum One-off cash grant of Rs 40, 000.	
Purchase of Building Materials	≤Rs10,000	Maximum One-off cash grant of Rs 65, 000.	Households who own a plot of land but cannot afford to start construction of a housing unit of up to 110m ² . The grant is for purchase of building materials to start construction.
<i>Statistics from the Ministry of Housing and Lands</i>			

Financial assistance for purchase of State Land within specific Housing Schemes

Government intervention in social housing in Mauritius dates as far as 1955, with the construction of the first housing estates comprising 1000 houses and the creation of the Ministry of Housing and Lands, responsible for matters relating to social housing management, in addition to, some years later, the setting up of a Central Housing Authority (CHA) for the construction of some 19300 low cost houses. These houses and the land on which they had been built, were leased to the tenants by the CHA. In order to empower families to take full responsibility of their assets, Government introduced the “Right to Buy” policy in 1989 for beneficiaries of CHA houses to become owner of their housing unit, against payment of around Rs 500-1000 per unit. As at date, almost all the CHA beneficiaries have become owners of their housing unit.

The “Right to Buy” policy introduced in 1989 was extended in 2007 to enable the sale of State Land on which stood the CHA houses, against payment of a nominal amount of Rs2,000 to Government. As at December 2015, some 10 632 families have become full owners of their land under that scheme. Yet, in year 2012, it was found that a number of vulnerable families, particularly lone mothers, could not benefit from this policy due to financial difficulties. Such vulnerable lessees of ex-CHA Housing Estates are now granted the land free of charge, through a waiving of the purchase price of Rs 2,000, and registration fees. Also fees for the Notary and for the survey of the plot of land are met by Government.

National Home Ownership Programme

The National Home Ownership Programme within Budget 2014 reiterated the aim of Government to ensure that all our citizens have a house that provides decent living conditions. The programme consists of the Housing Empowerment Scheme, which facilitates access to housing finance to middle income families earning up to Rs 50,000, a Social House Construction Programme aligned with the National Housing Programme already detailed, and the Home Ownership for Low Income Families which involves the extension of a ‘right to buy’ policy to lessees of building site leases over State Land.

In its 2015-2019 Government Programme, the Mauritian Government has undertaken to increase housing supply and home ownership for the economically and socially disadvantaged. This measure is being implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Lands via the construction of 10,000 housing units during that period. Financial provision has thus been made in the Budget

		<p>2015 for an amount of Rs 1.2Bn during the period 2015/2016 for projects to fulfill the said measure.</p> <p><u>Democratising access to land</u></p> <p>In line with Government's policy to democratise access to land, the State Lands Act was amended in 2013 to provide that where a person, holding a building site lease over a portion of State land of an extent not exceeding 422.087 square metres (10 perches), other than Pas Géométriques, on which stands a residential unit, is willing to buy the portion of land, the Minister may sell it to him by private contract at the price of Rs 2000.</p>
95.	Consider mainstreaming sexual and reproductive health education in schools and offering access to contraception to young people (Slovenia);	<p>Sexual and reproductive health services are available in all hospitals and health care centres and is fully accessible by any citizen, free of cost. Moreover, section 235 of the Criminal Code has been amended in order to allow for abortion in cases of therapeutic abortion as well as in cases where ensuing pregnancies is the result of rape or incest.</p> <p>Sexual education is already integrated in the curricular materials <i>at</i>-secondary levels and as such it is being embedded in the school programmes. The National Curriculum Frameworks (NCF) for the primary and secondary sectors is being reviewed. The NCF for Secondary provides learning competencies for sexuality education.</p> <p>Several components of sexuality education have already been introduced in the Teachers' manual and guides of Health Education for Standards V and VI.</p> <p>As regards the secondary sector, sexuality education will be introduced soon. The curriculum framework for secondary covers topics on sexuality education, namely in subjects like Integrated Science and Biology. Sexual and Reproductive Health is thoroughly dealt with in the Biology syllabus of Form III which is compulsory for all children in secondary schools and further expanded in Forms V and VI. Such topics are also integrated in the Home Economics syllabus.</p> <p>Contraception is not provided to young people below the age of 18 years, unless they are accompanied by an adult. Counselling on prevention and postponing of pregnancy is given to young people.</p>
96.	Continue with the current efforts to implement the national plan to combat HIV/AIDS (Egypt);	<p>The National AIDS Secretariat (NAS) of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life oversees the implementation of the National Strategic Framework for HIV and AIDS 2013 – 2016. This programme is mainly funded by Government and 22% of funds come from the Global Fund to Fight against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Mauritius has achieved Millennium Development Goal 6, that is, to halt and begin to reverse the trend of the HIV epidemic, as evidenced by the reduction in transmission of HIV.</p> <p>With the development of the New Funding Model Request to the Global Fund, the Investment</p>
97.	Adopt and implement a national plan to combat HIV/AIDS, with an emphasis on prevention (Thailand);	

		<p>Case, and evolutions observed in tracking the HIV epidemic, the National AIDS Secretariat is developing an Action Plan for HIV/AIDS 2015-2020 which is aligned to the UNAIDS vision of ending HIV transmission by 2030, and achieving the 90-90-90 treatment goals. These are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) 90% of people living with HIV diagnosed; (ii) 90% of those diagnosed put on treatment; and (iii) 90% of those on treatment achieve viral load suppression. <p>A National Plan is being implemented by the NAS and AIDS Unit of Ministry of Health and Quality of Life. Prevention is an integral part of the Action Plan.</p>
98.	Continue taking measures to further strengthen its education and health systems (Cuba);	<p>A National Steering Committee has been set up at the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research involving several partners including the Ministry of Health and Quality of life. Systematic strategies and techniques have been devised to promote health at all levels and health issues as well as to detect any visual, hearing and cardiac impairment among pre-primary, primary and secondary students.</p> <p>The Visual Screening exercise which is an ongoing exercise is provided to all primary students in the treatment of any positive visual acuity</p> <p>The help of the police department has been sought in cases of substance abuse as well as sexual abuse.</p> <p>The Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research in collaboration with the Ministry of Health & Quality of Life (Dental Department) has set up a project regarding dental problems within all schools. The Mauritius Dental Association is a close partner which campaigns against dental diseases. General health check-ups are carried out by the Ministry of Health among all Form III and Lower VI students for the detection of diabetes and obesity problems. Blood tests are carried out and any student at risk is recommended to doctors at the nearest health centres.</p>
99.	Strengthen its education policies to ensure that no child drops out of school at primary level due to structural reasons (Namibia);	<p>The education policies and the law already make provision for compulsory education up to the age of 16. There are enough primary schools (and seats) across the Republic of Mauritius to cater for all children. The Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research has made provision for Special Education Needs (SEN) schools to cater for the needs of Children with disabilities), while some other schools are operated by NGOs.</p>
100.	Step up efforts particularly in the educational system by taking additional measures to put an end to the phenomena of some students in being absent from school during the elementary and secondary level in	<p>The Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research has put in place the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tracking of Students <p>The tracking of student project started in late 2011, with the purpose of identifying out of school</p>

order to reach the desired goals in this friendly country (Oman);

children and to produce reliable statistics on children not attending school in both the primary and secondary sector.

- **Aim:**

Ensuring that children aged 5 to 16 years are attending school as per the law

- **Objectives**

- Identify children who are not attending school and take necessary action to encourage identified parents to enrol their wards in school.
- Ensure that there is no drop-out among children already enrolled in schools.
- Setup and maintain a database to monitor children enrolled at school and to produce related statistics.

- **Methodology**

The tracking of student involves the compilation of individual records of each child by school and grade together with other personal parameters. The total list of pupils in standard I is compared to the list of children born in the corresponding year to identify children not enrolled at school. Similarly, the children in standard II to VI and Form I to Form VI are monitored using comparative lists for any drop-out. The system covers State, Grant-aided and Fee-Paying schools; the pre-voc schools, PSSA and the MITD centres and institutions falling under the MQA.

- **Achievements**

1. Methodology of student tracking developed and is being implemented.
2. Awareness of Heads of school and concerned zone staff has been completed.
3. Standard form for registration of pupils and student developed and implemented.
4. Two versions of software for recording and capturing data have been developed in house for use by schools.
5. Training of staff involved in data collection and capture has been carried out twice in 2012.
6. Zone staff has been assigned responsibility for monitoring data capture and transmission.
7. A first database for state and Grant-aided school is available and is being refined.
8. A database of children born in Mauritius has been received from the Civil Status Office to enable comparison.
9. List of children taking part in CPE examination, ending the primary cycle has been obtained for comparison with Form I students.

		<p>10. Principle for collecting and storing of data and reporting of information are being implemented to be in line with Data Protection Act.</p> <p>11. Children not attending school in 2012 from the 2011 primary cohort were identified and successful action was taken to encourage parents to enrol their wards. A few difficult cases are being attended.</p>
101.	Consider adopting policies to encourage women and girls to choose non-traditional fields of education, including technical and vocational training (Egypt);	<p>All training programmes of the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development which is responsible for Technical and Vocational Training are also open to female trainees.</p> <p>In the prevocational training programme, all trainees including girls are given the chance to be initiated to the following trades: gardening, Basic Electricity, Bicycle and Motorcycle Maintenance, Pipe fitting, Fashion and Fabrics, Home Economics and Basic House Keeping.</p> <p>Training programmes traditionally geared towards female trainees are dispensed to both male and female trainees eg. Hair Dressing' Beauty Therapy, Body Massage' Arts and Crafts.</p> <p>Sensitisation through NGO's, local authorities and Women Centres has been conducted with the view to developing awareness of the MITD courses among women and girls. In the same line, open days have been organized and the MITD participated in events such 'Salon de la formation et des metiers', and science week. The MITD also participated in job fairs organised by the National Empowerment Foundation, the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Authority targeting more specifically women entrepreneurs and Bureau d'Education Catholique targeting girls colleges.</p>
102.	Adopt policies to encourage women and girls to choose non-traditional fields of education and work, including relevant technical and vocational training (New Zealand);	<p>Training programmes traditionally geared towards female trainees are dispensed to both male and female trainees eg. Hair Dressing' Beauty Therapy, Body Massage' Arts and Crafts.</p> <p>Sensitisation through NGO's, local authorities and Women Centres has been conducted with the view to developing awareness of the MITD courses among women and girls. In the same line, open days have been organized and the MITD participated in events such 'Salon de la formation et des metiers', and science week. The MITD also participated in job fairs organised by the National Empowerment Foundation, the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Authority targeting more specifically women entrepreneurs and Bureau d'Education Catholique targeting girls colleges.</p>
103.	Continue to raise the literacy rate amongst women, particularly those living in rural areas (Namibia);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Literacy Programme is carried out by the MGECDWF in Women's Association and Women Centres. • In a bid to make the Adult Literacy Programme more responsive, to the needs of women, a module on "Legal Rights" has been included therein, since September 2011 whereby women are being sensitized on their basic rights. • Furthermore, the National Women Centre has also included a component on the "Kreol Morisien" since January 2015, and aims at empowering women with the basic skills to write and read in Creole language.
104.	Expand activities to promote access to quality education for all children, in particular ensuring that children whose first language is different from the language of instruction are not at a disadvantage (Canada);	<p>Introduction of Kreole Morisien and Bhojpuri as optional subjects in all primary schools of the Republic as from:</p> <p>Year 2012: STD I Year 2013: STD I & II Year 2014: STD I, II & III</p> <p>Digital assistance for Teaching and learning exists for all levels of primary schools. In January 2014, the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research have sent through Zones DVDs with Pedagogical content prepared by MIE for Std. I – III. Std. IV – VI teachers are using the Sankoré interactive projectors. Each primary school also</p>

has an email address which enables swift and accurate exchange of information with the school.

105. **Promote the linguistic plurality through education (Djibouti);**

Inclusion of Kreol Morisien and Bhojpuri as heritage languages/mother tongues in the primary school curricula

- Kreol Morisien was introduced as an optional subject in Std. 1 in January 2012 along with Bhojpuri in primary schools at par with Asian languages and Arabic. Medium of instruction remains English, but the Ministry accepts that for the sake of making pupils and students learn better, Educators are free to use Kreol Morisien and in few case Bhojpuri.
- The MIE has created a Kreol Unit which has worked on the Curriculum KM for Primary schools and textbooks up to Std. 4. Textbooks for Std. 5 are under preparation.
- **182** Trainee Educators for Kreol Morisien have been recruited by the Public Service Commission for Government Schools and by the BEC for RCEA schools.
- Educators have been trained by the MIE to teach Kreol Morisien in Government and RCEA schools of Mauritius and Rodrigues.
- Updated statistics for enrolment in KM classes, as at 2016, are as follows:

Enrolment KM 2016

	Government schools	BEC schools	Total	Total
Std. 1	1674	1106	2780	2840
Std. 2	1687	1061	2748	3329
Std. 3	1863	1094	2957	3694
Std. 4	1852	1013	2865	3628
Std. 5	1862	975	2837	
Total	8938	5249	14187	13491

- Asian Languages such as Hindi, Urdu, Arabic, Modern Chinese, Tamil, Telugu and Marathi are also offered at primary and secondary school level.
- Number of pupils having opted for KM **in 2016**:- Std I: 2780 and Std II: 2748
- The MIE has created a Kreol Unit which has worked on the Curriculum KM for Primary schools and textbooks for Std. I to III. Text books for Std. IV and V are being worked out by MIE
- 220 Educators are presently teaching Kreol Morisien in Government and RCEA schools of Mauritius and Rodrigues.
- 5528 pupils are studying Kreol Morisien and 10298 are studying Bhojpuri in standards I and II.

		<p>It is to be noted that Bhojpuri is not taught as a stand-alone subject. It is integrated in the syllabus of Hindi Recruitment of Trainee Educators primary for Asian Languages/Arabic and KM is in process</p>
106.	<p>Make further efforts in increasing participation of persons with disabilities at all levels of political and public life, especially the electoral process (Maldives);</p>	<p>The following important measures were taken to make voting procedures disabled friendly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Access to a voting room situated on the ground floor and as near as possible to the entrance of a polling station; (ii) Provision of a wheelchair and construction of a ramp to facilitate access to that voting room; (iii) Provision of specially designated booths to accommodate wheelchairs in addition to the normal booths for persons not wishing to use the special booths; (iv) Any elector with disabilities may choose to vote either in person or with the assistance of a companion (father, mother, brother, sister, husband, wife, son or daughter of that person) or where he is not assisted by a companion and at his request, a poll clerk marks the vote of the elector in the presence of a Presiding Officer and another election officer; and (v) Explanations on voting procedures in Mauritius Sign Language on Television. <p>(See also response to Recommendation 107)</p>
107.	<p>Intensify the positive action already taken for improving the living conditions of persons with disabilities (Senegal);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD) is providing the following training opportunities to children of disadvantaged families or those with disabilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) free pre-employment training – no course fees charged (ii) Provision for scholarship for needy trainees (iii) Training programme open to disabled (iv) Special programme mounted for Disabled (eg. Training Course in Beauty Care) • The Training and Employment of Disabled Person Act has been amended to provide for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Hearing Committee to mediate between non-compliant employers and the Training and Employment of Disabled Person Board; b. Harsher penalties for non-compliant employers; and c. Aligning the provisions of the Act with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities • Basic Invalidity Pension has been increased from Rs. 3,267 to Rs. 5,000 as from December

		<p>2014.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A parity has been established between Basic Invalidity Pension and Basic Retirement Pension. • Free transport is provided to persons with disabilities attending primary, secondary and tertiary educational institutions. • The Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research had initiated an outreach exercise in 2010 to sensitize both parents and Heads of primary schools to facilitate the registration of Special Education Needs (SEN) children in an appropriate school. A Special Monitoring Team was set up at the Ministry to work together with the NGOs in tracking children with Special Education Needs and to facilitate their admission to schools that can best respond to the specific needs of these children. • The Ministry of Education & HR, T.E & S.R has scholarship scheme, to enable children with disabilities, to pursue secondary and tertiary studies.
108.	<p>Work to ensure inclusive, quality and free primary and secondary education to children with disabilities on an equal basis with other children (New Zealand);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since 2007, Government has adopted a policy of inclusive education and it is being implemented phase-wise. The Ministry of Education and Human Resources, T.E and S.R has already set up a High Level Committee comprising representatives of Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions, Mauritius Institute of Education, Ombudsperson for Children and Office of Public Sector Governance with a view to achieving parity on government funding of disabled and non-disabled children. The Committee has had consultations with all stakeholders concerned including NGOs looking after the disabled. • The Ministry of Education and Human Resources, T.E and S.R is also implementing the following measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The registration procedures for SEN children have been reviewed. An intensive campaign to persuade and encourage parents to register their wards in the nearest primary schools. - Schools are being retrofitted with ramps to facilitate access to the classrooms. - All new secondary schools constructed have already been provided with adapted toilets for the disabled. - Links between building blocks have been made to facilitate access, using wheelchairs

to the first floor where specialist rooms are located.

- A flexible approach is adopted towards parents who wish to call at school during the day to provide assistance to the physically disabled pupils.
- Facilities like music room, library, science laboratory, computer room are available on the ground floor where necessary. In primary schools, Head Masters usually make arrangements to move the whole class to the ground floor wherever necessary.
- Students with disabilities are released earlier than the other students so that they do not face any movement difficulties.
- School Attendants usually help students on wheelchair to move around the school compound.
- The same facilities are available in Private Grant Aided secondary schools to enable children with disabilities to move around the school compound and participate actively in academic activities.
- Educators are encouraged to provide individual extra assistance to children with disabilities so as to allow them to keep pace with their classmates.
- Children with disabilities are benefitting from extra time for the CPE examination;
- Enlarged print school books/manuals and question papers are produced for children suffering from visual impairment.
- A Mauritian Sign Language has been developed to ease communication for children with deafness.
- Children with hearing impairment are provided with the service of sign language interpreters for the purpose of examinations.
- Children with hearing impairment are provided specialist Teacher/Interpreters in the mainstream secondary school with the active collaboration of NGOs.
- Special Education Needs Resource and Development Centres (SENKDC) are being set up. One is already operational at Ferney. This centre provides support to children with disabilities in the mainstream.
- The SENKDC provide proximate, specialized and relevant services to children with

		<p>disabilities according to their needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Ministry has put up integrated units in government primary schools around the island so as to reach out to those who have to travel long distance. There are at present 13 such Integrated Units and the majority of them are run in partnership with specialist NGOs. - The Mauritius Institute of Education is providing courses to build capacity of Teachers/ Educators with the appropriate skills/knowledge to deal with children with disabilities.
109.	Support steps regarding the rights of persons with disabilities with administrative arrangements, in order to ensure that these rights are enjoyed by all persons with disabilities within the society, especially children with disabilities (Turkey);	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitization campaigns on the social and human rights model of disability are organized for the benefit of service providers. • Special queues for persons with disabilities have been put up in hospitals and health centres. • A number of services are provided online. • There is a dedicated website on the disability at the Ministry of Social Security, NS & RI. • The domiciliary medical visits have been extended to children with severe disabilities.
110.	Continue implementation of the National Plan of Action, including social programs that aim at carrying out information and education activities with regard to people with disabilities and their social protection according to the relevant Convention which the country has ratified (Cambodia);	(See responses to Recommendations 107 and 108)
111.	Continue increasing skill development programs to public officers and staff, hospital staff and police officers on how to assist persons with disabilities as well as to children with special needs (Ethiopia);	<p>The forthcoming Children’s Bill provides for the following: Any proceedings, action or decision in any matter concerning a child shall:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize any special needs of the child, which may be due to disability. • Children with disabilities are entitled to the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children. • Children with disabilities have the right to express their views freely on all matters affecting them, their views being given due weight in accordance with their age and maturity, on an equal basis with other children, and to be provided with disability and age-appropriate assistance to realize that right • Free services to disabled persons are provided in all Government Hospitals. • The M/Social Security, N.S & R.I and M/Education & H.R, T.E & S.R have recruited

		<p>Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists and Speech Therapists to conduct therapy sessions with children with disabilities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport companies have started low floor buses for the disabled and accessible taxis have been made available; • The M/Education & H.R, T.E & S.R has Special Education Needs Units in centrally located primary schools around the island to cater for children with special needs and Special Education Needs Resource Centre; • Free assistive devices such as wheelchairs and hearing aids are provided to all persons with disabilities by the M/Social Security, N.S & R.I; • Duty free facilities for the purchase of adapted cars have been extended to blind and deaf persons; • There is a National Monitoring Committee at the level of the Ministry of Social Security to ensure the implementation of the projects in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Committee has a strong disability representation as 7 of its members are representatives of NGOs working with persons with disabilities. • Awareness raising campaigns are targeted at service providers. • A module on special needs education has been included in mainstream teacher training programmes. • MIE has a training programme for staff working in NGOs. • MOUs have been signed with India, South Africa and China to enable officers working in the disability sector to learn from the experiences and knowledge of foreign colleagues. Exchange programmes are organised.
112.	<p>Consider deepening the measures taken for socio-economic promotion of the ethnic minorities (Cape Verde);</p>	<p>The Constitution prohibits positive discrimination and advocates equality of rights of Mauritian citizens. However, there are special policy measures put in place for all the communities which are in line with the objective of promoting racial harmony and unity in diversity for the preservation of our rich cultural heritage and promotion of languages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious Subsidies/grant <p>Section 11 of the Constitution provides for the protection of freedom of conscience. Under section 11(1), it is stated that no person shall be hindered in the enjoyment of his freedom of conscience and that freedom includes freedom of thought and of religion, freedom to change his religion or belief and freedom, either alone or in community with others and both in public and</p>

private, to manifest and propagate his religion or belief in worship, teaching, practice and observance.

In order to enable the citizens to practice their religion indiscriminately, the Government provides facilities such as:

- (i) Religious subsidies; and
- (ii) Infrastructural facilities on religious festivals.

- ***Subsidies to religious bodies***

Every year the National Assembly votes budgetary provision for “Subsidy to Religious Bodies”. There are two categories of religious associations benefiting from financial subsidies, namely, (i) Religious bodies affiliated to Federations, which receive an amount of subsidy based on the number of adherents as provided by Statistics Mauritius; and (ii) Religious bodies not affiliated to any Federation but which operate as branches of international religious organizations. They are paid a fixed grant. The objectives of the subsidies are meant to meet the following:-

- (a) the salaries of priests (including their travelling expenses);
- (b) expenses on construction and maintenance of places of worship; and
- (c) expenses incurred on training of priests.

There are two categories of religious associations benefiting from the subsidy. These are -

- (i) Religious bodies affiliated to Federations, which receive an amount of subsidy based on the number of adherents as provided by Statistics Mauritius. The per-capita is calculated on the basis of the yearly estimated population of Mauritius by religion based on the 1972 Census, which is the latest census that provides detailed information on religious distribution of the population.
- (ii) Religious bodies not affiliated to any Federation but which operate as branches of international religious organizations. They are paid a fixed grant.

Setting up of Cultural Centres and Speaking Unions

Apart from providing subsidies/grants to religious bodies, Government has, in line with its objective to promote racial harmony and unity in diversity for the preservation of our rich cultural heritage and promotion of languages, set up Trust Funds, Cultural Centres, Speaking Unions and Heritage Funds. These are expected to allow Mauritians of all cultural backgrounds the opportunity to participate in religious and cultural activities of their choice and to foster harmony and mutual respect. It must, however, be stressed that it is very difficult to distinguish clearly between religion and culture, in the

local context, as the two are inextricably linked and therefore often, in practice, the rights ensuring the protection of one's culture may be extended to the protection of freedom of religion and vice versa. In this respect, students as from primary level are taught oriental languages (according to their personal liking or cultural/religious background, they may choose between Hindi, Mandarin, Tamil, Urdu, Arabic).

An annual Government grant in the bracket of Rs 1m to Rs 4 m, meant for their activities and administrative expenses, is provided to each of the bodies which have been set up to promote languages and cultures in Mauritius. A list of the bodies is listed below:-

- (1) National Heritage Fund
- (2) AapravasiGhat Trust Fund
- (3) Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund
- (4) Islamic Cultural Centre Trust Fund
- (5) Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture Trust Fund
- (6) Mauritian Cultural Centre Trust
- (7) Malcom de Chazal Trust Fund
- (8) Mauritius Council of Registered Librarians
- (9) Mauritius Museums Council
- (10) Rights Management Society
- (11) National Library
- (12) Prof. Basdeo Bissoondoyal Trust Fund
- (13) President's Fund for Creative Writing
- (14) Ramayana Centre
- (15) Conservatoire National de Musique François Mitterrand
- (16) Mauritius Film Development Corporation
- (17) Mauritius Telegu Cultural Centre Trust
- (18) Hindi Speaking Union
- (19) Arabic Speaking Union
- (20) Bhojpuri Speaking Union
- (21) Chinese Speaking Union
- (22) Creole Speaking Union

		<p>(23) English Speaking Union (24) Marathi Speaking Union (25) Sanskrit Speaking Union (26) Tamil Speaking Union (27) Telegu Speaking Union (28) Urdu Speaking Union</p>
113.	<p>Continue its current efforts aimed at improving the fate of the Chagossians (Gabon);</p>	<p>The Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, forms an integral part of the territory of Mauritius under both Mauritian law and international law. Mauritius is, however, being prevented from effectively exercising its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago because of the unlawful control of the United Kingdom over the Archipelago. The United Kingdom illegally excised the Chagos Archipelago from the territory of Mauritius prior to its accession to independence, in violation of international law and United Nations resolutions.</p> <p>The illegal excision of the Chagos Archipelago also involved the shameful eviction by the United Kingdom of the Mauritians who were residing at the time in the Archipelago (“Chagossians”) in total disregard of their human rights, in order to pave the way for the establishment of a US military base in Diego Garcia. Most of the Chagossians were removed to Mauritius.</p> <p>Chagossians, being fully-fledged citizens of Mauritius, enjoy the same rights as other Mauritian citizens, including the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under Chapter II of the Constitution of Mauritius.</p> <p>Actions are being taken at the national level by the Government of Mauritius to promote and protect human rights, including through the national human rights institutions, the dissemination of human rights instruments, awareness campaigns and educational programmes. These actions are targeted at all Mauritian citizens, including those of Chagossian origin.</p> <p>However, with a view to improving the well-being of the Chagossians, the Government of Mauritius has taken special measures in their favour. These measures include the donation of land for the construction of houses and the setting up of the Chagossian Welfare Fund. The objects of the Chagossian Welfare Fund are to, <i>inter alia</i>, advance and promote the welfare of the members of the Chagossian community and their descendants, and develop programmes and projects for their total integration into Mauritius.</p> <p>The Government of Mauritius recognizes the legitimate right and claim of the former inhabitants of the Chagos Archipelago, as Mauritian citizens, to be resettled in the Archipelago. The Government</p>

		of Mauritius will continue to press for the early and unconditional return of the Chagos Archipelago to the effective control of Mauritius, whilst firmly supporting the right of return of the Chagossians and other Mauritians to the Archipelago.
114.	Maintain the philosophy of putting the people first in its development agenda (Nigeria);	Policy of Government that people come first in its development agenda.
115.	Sign and ratify ICRMW (Sierra Leone);	(See response to Recommendation 2)
116.	Accede to the second Optional Protocol of the ICCPR (Australia);	Following the enactment of the Abolition of Death Penalty Act in 1995, all death sentences imposed have been commuted to sentences of penal servitude for life. However, section 4(1) of the Constitution has not yet been amended to prohibit the imposition of death sentences. Amending the Constitution is not an automatic process. Alteration to section 4 (1) of the Constitution cannot be effected unless it is supported by the votes of not less than three quarters of the members of the National Assembly.
117.	Ratify the second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (Estonia);	
118.	Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (France);	
119.	Formally abolish the death penalty by ratifying second Optional Protocol of the ICCPR and support the next General Assembly resolution calling for a moratorium on the death penalty (Germany);	
120.	Proceed to the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) (Benin);	Ratification is under consideration. However, there are already a number of existing domestic remedies already available to Mauritian citizens. Mauritius being a welfare State, already provides free education, free access to health services, and social aid to vulnerable groups and pension benefits to the elderly.
121.	Proceed to the ratification the Second Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Benin 1b);	(See responses to Recommendations 116 to 119)
122.	Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CPED) (France);	This has been recommended in the National Human Rights Action Plan 2012-2020. However, since Mauritius has no case of enforced disappearance, ratification is not a priority for the time being. There are also a number of policy matters that are still being looked into. (See also response to Recommendation 9)

123.	Ratify the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (France);	Mauritius, being a small and densely-populated island with limited resources, has not yet adopted a policy or laws to grant refugee status to foreigners. It does, however, endeavour to treat applications for refugee status or political asylum on a humanitarian case-to-case basis by facilitating their settlement in a friendly country willing to receive them.
124.	Withdraw its reservations to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Togo);	Reservations regarding Article 11 – It is under consideration. There has been much progress on inclusive education. The Ministry of Social Security is liaising with the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, Tertiary Education and Scientific Research for the removal of reservation on Article 2(a) and 2(b).
125.	Withdraw its reservations to CRPD to articles 9 (accessibility) 24 (education) and 11 (situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies) (Uruguay);	Also, new accessibility regulations are being worked out by the Ministry of Public Infrastructure. Once they are enacted, reservation on Article 9.2(d) will be withdrawn.
126.	Ratify the Optional Protocol to CRPD (Australia);	The Optional Protocol will be ratified once the reservations are withdrawn.
127.	Ratify the Convention on the Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Estonia);	It is one of the recommendations of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2012-2020 and will be considered in due course. (See also response to recommendation 14)
128.	Sign the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol (Spain);	(See response to recommendations 15 and 123)
129.	Ratify the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the ICC (Estonia);	Although Mauritius is not yet a party to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the ICC, at national level, draft regulations for the implementation of the Agreement have already been circulated to relevant Ministries for discussions and comments.
130.	Ratify the Kampala Convention and create an adequate national and legal policy framework to effectively deal with internally displaced of people (Uganda);	Given the size and geographical topography of Mauritius, the country does not have problems associated with internally displaced people.
131.	Make further efforts to review the Constitution with a view to explicitly recognizing economic, social and cultural rights equally with other	Though the Constitution does not provide expressly for economic, social and cultural rights, yet these rights are catered for under other pieces of legislation (for example, the right to work is provided for under the Employment Rights Act, the right to health in the Mauritius Mental

	constitutional rights (Uruguay);	<p>Health Care Act and the Food Act, the right to education in the Education Act).</p> <p>Furthermore, Mauritius being a welfare State, already provides free education; free access to health services, social aid to vulnerable groups, pension benefits to the elderly.</p> <p>Should economic, social and cultural rights be specifically incorporated in the Constitution under Chapter II of the Constitution (which deals with the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual), the Constitution shall have to be modified and such alteration cannot be effected unless it is supported at the final voting in the National Assembly by the votes of not less than three quarters of all the members of the Assembly (Section 47 (2) (c) of the Constitution refers).</p>
132.	Grant a legal rank to the ICESCR that allows that its provisions be directly invoked in the domestic legal system (Uruguay);	As Mauritius follows the dualist system, international treaties cannot be directly incorporated in the laws of Mauritius.
133.	Review article 16 (4) (c) of its Constitution to ensure that such a provision is not discriminatory against women (Trinidad and Tobago);	Section 16 of the Constitution prohibits discrimination.
134.	Extend a standing invitation to the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations (Costa Rica);	In line with the recommendations in the National Human Rights Action Plan 2012-2020, Mauritius will consider extending standing invitations to the Special Procedures at an opportune time.
135.	Extend a standing invitation to the Special Procedures of the United Nations (France);	
136.	Extend a standing invitation to all Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council (Czech Republic);	
137.	Finalise issuing a standing invitation to the UN mandate holders, which was already declared to be considered after the first round of the universal periodic review (Turkey);	
138.	Remove norms, including at the constitutional level, that may be deemed as an exemption from the	The Constitution of Mauritius guarantees to all Mauritians the right to equal protection and benefit of the law without discrimination based on race, caste, place of origin, political opinions, colour, creed or sex, and this, in order to maintain and strengthen an environment conducive to

	prohibition of discrimination, and take practical measures for its implementation (Costa Rica);	equal opportunities and equality for all people.
139.	Promote concrete action to combat inequality and guarantee the participation of women in social, cultural, political and economic development through affirmative action programmes (Mexico);	(See response to recommendations 61-62)
140.	Continue to promote women's participation in decision-making and political participation by providing necessary assistance and capacity building, as well as gradually increasing proportion of women parliamentarians (Thailand);	
141.	Consider introducing temporary special measures in areas where women are underrepresented or disadvantaged and raise awareness among parliamentarians and Government officials about the necessity of such measures (Egypt);	
142.	Introduce special measures in areas where women are under-represented or disadvantaged and raise awareness among parliamentarians and other government organs (Uganda);	
143.	Adopt legislation that explicitly prohibits corporal punishment, and continue awareness raising campaigns on the negative effects of corporal punishment (Uruguay);	
144.	Ensure that the new Police and Criminal Evidence Bill fully addresses the practice of detention on the basis	Corporal punishment is prohibited in schools by virtue of regulation 13(4) of the Education Regulations, section 13(1) of the Child Protection Act and section 230 of the Criminal Code. However, the Children's Bill, which is currently under preparation, proposes to specifically prohibit corporal punishment in order to be in line with the international norms set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Children.
		The Government Programme 2015-2019, has made mention of the introduction of a Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Act based on the UK model. The Bill is presently under examination by the Attorney General's Office Amendments had been brought to the present

	of ‘provisional information’ by specifying that detention beyond a short time limit, defined in statute, is only possible once a suspect is formally charged (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);	<p>Police Act which dates back to 1974. The introduction of PACE will entail further amendment to the Police Act.</p> <p>Under the PACE Bill, provisions have been made for Codes of the practice to be observed by Police Officers, which include investigation, powers of arrest and stop and search., etc.</p> <p>As regards the practice of suspects being detained on the basis of provisional charges, the Bill makes provision for a police officer not to arrest a person on the basis of a mere allegation by a third party unless he has carried out necessary investigations to verify that an offence has been committed or is about to be committed.</p>
145.	Repeal the sections of its criminal code that criminalises consensual homosexual activity (Australia);	<p>Government has not yet taken any policy decision regarding the decriminalization of sodomy. In view of the sensitivity of the issue, further consultations are required.</p>
146.	Remove from the Criminal Code the penalization of same-sex conduct between consenting adults (Canada);	
147.	Repeal Section 250 of the Criminal Code which criminalises sexual conduct between consenting adults of the same sex (Ireland);	
148.	Enact legislation to provide for freedom of information requests (Ireland);	<p>Government is presently reviewing the media landscape with the objective of reforming the media law. In this context, a report on Media Law Reform had been commissioned. The aim being that an appropriate media framework be put into place by reviewing, updating and incorporating the latest developments and trends in media for the benefit of both the Government and the public.</p>
149.	Formulate strict legislation to prevent abuse and exploitation of children with disabilities by parents or other members of society; and provide necessary measures to assist them in their quest of justice (Maldives);	<p>The forthcoming Children’s Bill contains provision for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children with disabilities, and sexual exploitation • A child victim of or witness to a criminal offence <p>–shall be treated in a caring and sensitive manner that is respectful of his dignity throughout the legal proceedings, taking into account his personal situation and immediate and special needs, age, gender, disabilities, if any, and level of maturity.</p> <p>A Protocol of collaboration between Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Social Security has been signed on 9th June 2015. The protocol mentioned that the Disability Unit of the Ministry of Social Security shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assist in removing disabled children victims of violence to places of safety. - Provide specialized services, sign language interpreter, and assistive devices as

		<p>appropriate to disabled children victims of violence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carry out sensitization and awareness for prevention and rehabilitation of children victims of violence including children with disabilities. • The Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions Carry out training and capacity building of carers, parents, staff at Day Care Centres, specialized schools and NGO's, to better identify abuse on children with disabilities. • The Children's Bill which is being finalised will also provide for severe penalties to protect children with disabilities. <p>(See also response to Recommendation 26)</p>
150.	<p>Continue actions aimed at the return to the Chagos Archipelago of the Chagossians displaced from the island of Diego Garcia and the other islands of the Archipelago and to consider including in these actions processes for the reparation of victims (Mexico).</p>	<p>(See response to Recommendation 113)</p>