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### **Draft report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review\***

#### **Mauritius**

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\* The final document will be issued under the symbol A/HRC/25/8. The annex to the present report is circulated as received.

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## Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, held its seventeenth session from 21 October to 1 November 2013. The review of Mauritius was held at the 6th meeting on 23 October 2013. The delegation of Mauritius was headed by Dr. the Hon. Arvin Boolell, G.O.S.K., Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade. At its 10th meeting held on 25 October 2013, the Working Group adopted the report on Mauritius.
2. On 14 January 2013, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Mauritius: Botswana, Qatar, Austria.
3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Mauritius:
  - (a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/17/MUS/1);
  - (b) A compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/17/MUS/2);
  - (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/17/MUS/3).
4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Liechtenstein, Netherlands, Slovenia and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Mauritius through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the UPR.

## I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

### A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation headed by Dr. the Hon. Arvin Boolell, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade introduced the national report of Mauritius.
6. Mauritius reaffirmed its commitment and continued support to the work of the Human Rights Council and the UPR mechanism. It recalled that in July of this year, the Government of Mauritius, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Human Rights Council co-hosted a Seminar in Mauritius for the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing Countries to prepare them for the second cycle of the UPR.
7. Mauritius provided information on the actions taken to implement the recommendations, which it accepted during the first review. It noted that its mid-term Progress Report submitted in 2011 and its 2013 National Report contain comprehensive information on such actions. Mauritius highlighted numerous steps taken to consult the public regarding its national report including information made available through the media, awareness campaigns and collaboration with NGOs.
8. It announced that in October 2012, the Government had launched the National Human Rights Action Plan for the period 2012-2020. This Plan embodies all commitments taken by Mauritius to improve the human rights situation in line with international best practices. A Human Rights Monitoring Committee has also been established comprising

representatives of relevant Ministries and departments, National Human Rights Institutions as well as NGOs to ensure the implementation of the Plan.

9. It was indicated that the Human Rights Action Plan advocates a number of measures, including: strengthening of international cooperation on human rights through ratification of human rights instruments and domestication of human rights treaties; a greater realisation of economic, social and cultural rights; the strengthening of women's rights in the context of equal-opportunities; a better protection and safeguarding of the rights of vulnerable persons.

10. Additionally, a database of Human Rights Indicators with the assistance of the UNDP and the University of Mauritius is in the process of being finalised to monitor progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the National Action Plan.

11. Mauritius then noted that in 2012, the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, the Police Complaints Act and the National Preventive Mechanism Act had been passed so as to broaden the mandate and functions of the National Human Rights Commission in line with international best practices. It provided details in this regard.

12. It was highlighted that the National Preventive Mechanism Division of the National Human Rights Commission gives effect to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. It has the responsibility to visit places of detention in order to ensure that persons deprived of liberty are protected against torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and is also mandated to investigate into complaints made by detainees and to make recommendations on the treatment of persons in custody.

13. Mauritius then indicated that in 2012 the Equal Opportunities Act had been enacted to provide better protection against all forms of discrimination. This Act aims at eliminating direct or indirect discrimination on the basis of age, caste, creed, ethnic origin, impairment, marital status, place of origin, political opinion, race, sex or sexual orientation.

14. As regards political representation of women Mauritius highlighted that the Local Government Act, which was passed in 2011, provides that any group presenting more than 2 candidates in an electoral ward during Municipal Council and Village Council elections shall ensure that the candidates are not of the same sex. The Constitution was also amended in this regard. As a result, there has been a significant increase in the number of women standing as candidates and elected at the recent elections.

15. On the question of domestic violence, Mauritius stated that the Government was aware of the need to address the issue in all its forms and that it is endeavoring to curb Gender Based Violence by 2015. It provided detailed information on a number of initiatives adopted including, a National Action Plan launched in 2011, the undertaking of a series of awareness programmes and special programmes aimed at young people.

16. On the rights of the disabled, Mauritius recalled that it had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2010 and submitted its report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities last year. Various measures adopted to ensure that disabled persons are not deprived of their rights were outlined.

17. Mauritius noted that it had made a reservation on Article 11 of the Convention which deals with situations of risks and humanitarian emergencies. It explained that measures to include the needs and concerns of persons with disabilities in such situations are being addressed. It was added that the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Bill currently being prepared will make provision for the disabled. Once the law is passed the Government will remove the reservation.

18. Regarding the reservation to Article 24.2(b) on education, Mauritius indicated that it has engaged in a policy of inclusive education and expects to remove the reservation as

soon as this policy is fully implemented. As for the reservation on Article 9.2 (d) which requires the State “to provide in buildings and other facilities open to the public signage in Braille.” it was explained that reservation had been made in view of the costs involved and that the Government proposes to remove this reservation in due course.

19. Mauritius then stated that it is committed to the protection of children from any form of abuse and exploitation and that a National Child Protection Strategy has been initiated in this regard.

20. It was also highlighted that the Government is in the process of finalizing a Children’s Bill which will be introduced in the National Assembly shortly. Additionally Mauritius noted that it had invited the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography to visit Mauritius, ratified the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography in 2011 and signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on Communications Procedure in 2012.

21. Mauritius stated that educating the population on human rights at all levels and nurturing a culture of human rights remains a priority. It was noted that the Government has approached the United Nations for technical assistance in this regard. Detailed information regarding initiatives taken to promote a culture of human rights was then provided.

22. The delegation then indicated that a Ministry dealing with social integration and economic empowerment has been set up for the eradication of absolute poverty and to combat social exclusion. Moreover, the National Empowerment Foundation falling under this Ministry is already implementing a number of programmes in this regard.

23. With regards to the elderly Mauritius referred to the Government policy “*Moving the Nation Forward: pleasant and active retirement for our Elderly*”. It also highlighted a number of projects and programmes launched over the past years in this connection.

24. On AIDS, Mauritius noted that the National AIDS Secretariat has formulated a National Strategic Framework 2013-2016, following wide consultations with stakeholders. The Framework aims at achieving the Ten Targets of the United Nations Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS, 2011, to which Mauritius is signatory

25. Mauritius then explained that the report of Truth and Justice Commission had been presented to the National Assembly in 2011. The Government has set up an Inter-Ministerial High Powered Committee to look into the implementation of the recommendations of this Report which has decided to implement a first set of 19 recommendations of the Commission. In addition, a Land Research and Mediation Commission was set up to look in-depth into complaints made by persons aggrieved by dispossession or prescription of any land in which they claim to have an interest from colonial times.

26. Mauritius noted it had sent an update on the status of the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Justice Commission to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination following its review in 2013.

27. As regards the practice of suspects being detained on the basis of provisional information, Mauritius indicated that the Police and Criminal Evidence 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 the necessary investigations to verify that an offence has been committed or is about to be committed. It was also noted that the Police Force is already equipped with video recording system for recording of statements of suspects involved in high profile cases.

28. As regards the decriminalization of sodomy, it was stated that further consultations were necessary on this issue. It was indicated, however, that the Government intends to amend the Criminal Code in order to provide, *inter alia*, for the offence of marital rape.

29. The delegation stated that the Government is conscious that retooling for the future requires a review of the Constitutional regime including the reform of the electoral system. It will present a White Paper on electoral reform in the light of the various proposals made by constitutional experts, including proposals on gender balance. It highlighted the need to bring Constitutional changes through consultations by engaging the population in a national debate.

30. With regard to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, it was noted that although Mauritius is not yet a party to the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court, draft regulations for the implementation of the Agreement have been circulated for comments. Mauritius has already forwarded an instrument of ratification with regard to Article 8 of the Rome Statute.

31. Mauritius stated that it was still considering the Kampala amendments with regard to the crime of aggression and that any technical assistance in this regard would be welcome, once the decision to incorporate the crime of aggression in the International Criminal Court Act is taken.

32. In conclusion, Mauritius stated that the review would help it to evaluate how much has achieved whilst also enabling it to identify areas for improvement.

## **B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review**

33. During the interactive dialogue, 72 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

34. A number of delegations commended Mauritius for holding a wide consultation with civil society during the preparation of the national report as well as for the submission of the mid-term follow up report for the 1<sup>st</sup> cycle UPR recommendations.

35. India noted that Mauritius had launched the National Human Rights Action Plan, the Human Rights Portal and the Equal Opportunities Commission. It appreciated its commitment to ensuring the rights of women and children and combating violence against women. It commended Mauritius for ratifying the OP-CRC-SC.

36. Indonesia welcomed the adoption of the National Action Plan on Human Rights and legal measures to ensure children's rights. It applauded Mauritius on its chairmanship of the Global Forum on Migration and Development Summit in 2012, which demonstrated high commitment of Mauritius to the protection of the migrants' rights. It made recommendations.

37. Tunisia welcomed the sustained economic, social and human development. It noted the new Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment, the National Action Plan on Human Rights, the torture prevention mechanism and the incorporation of the provisions of the Rome Statute into national law. It made recommendations.

38. Kenya commended Mauritius for adopting and implementing long-term policies and actions. It noted that economic, social and political indicators pointed to a healthy environment conducive to an enhanced socioeconomic life. It welcomed recent efforts to strengthen its national human rights institution. Kenya made a recommendation.

39. Kuwait noted that Mauritius had implemented strategies for combating poverty, including the establishment of the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic

Empowerment. It observed the adoption of strategies on social housing, child development and training and employment. It made recommendations.

40. Lesotho commended Mauritius on adopting legislation to combat trafficking in persons, ensure equal opportunities, protect human rights and provide legal aid and encouraged it to continue in its efforts. It called on international community to continue supporting the Government's efforts to fulfil its human rights obligations. Lesotho made recommendations.

41. Madagascar welcomed the creation of the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment and the restructuring and strengthening of the National Human Rights Commission. It commended efforts to enhance policies on education, elimination of poverty, women's and children's rights and judicial reform. It encouraged Mauritius to continue its efforts to consolidate the achievements in improving human rights situation.

42. Malaysia commended Mauritius for considering progress in implementing its UPR first-cycle recommendations on addressing violence against women and protection of children. In particular, it welcomed the adoption of the National Action Plan to Combat Domestic Violence. Malaysia made recommendations.

43. The Maldives noted with appreciation the implementation of the recommendations of the first UPR cycle. However, it noted that further progress could be achieved in improving existing safeguards for children and child protection system and expressed hope that further consideration would be given during the implementation of the recommendations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> UPR. It made recommendations.

44. Mauritania noted efforts to strengthen the rule of law through judicial reforms. It commended measures to protect persons with disabilities, provide public access to government institutions and ensure stability and security.

45. Mexico commended the establishment of its National Action Plan on Human Rights and its related monitoring mechanism. It applauded its laws criminalizing domestic violence, while urging it to promote awareness campaigns to reduce physical, verbal and psychological aggression. It made recommendations.

46. Monaco congratulated Mauritius on the progress achieved in promoting and protecting human rights, especially those of the elderly, since the UPR first cycle. It asked for information on work and human resources of the newly established National Observatory on Aging.

47. Montenegro welcomed the establishment of a committee to monitor implementation of the National Action Plan on Human Rights. It shared the concerns of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children concerning the number of children in care institutions that failed to meet the required standards. It made recommendations.

48. Morocco congratulated the launch of the National Action Plan on Human Rights and associated monitoring committee. It asked for information on the development of a database containing human rights indicators. It commended the commitment to Small Island Developing States. It made a recommendation.

49. Mozambique applauded Mauritius for establishing the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment. It noted with satisfaction the strengthening of the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities. It commended the side event on the Equal Opportunities Act and the National Action Plan on Human Rights. It made a recommendation.

50. Namibia observed that Mauritius enjoyed a strong democracy and robust human rights framework, including the National Action Plan on Human Rights. It made recommendations.

51. Nepal commended the adoption of a “Maurice Ile Durable” policy and efforts to ensure the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly. It noted encouraging progress in raising female participation in politics and decision-making. It made recommendations.

52. The Netherlands commended the efforts to improve women’s rights and combat gender-based violence, and stated that the full implementation of the action plan to end gender-based violence would be an important step. It called upon Mauritius to submit the requested follow-up information to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. It made recommendations.

53. Singapore noted efforts to eliminate all forms of violence and abuse against children, including sanctions against child labour, and its special government unit providing psychotherapy and shelters for victims. It noted efforts towards gender equality and combating gender-based violence. It made recommendations.

54. Nigeria commended the participatory approach adopted in preparing the report. It further commended the authorities for the progress made in promoting and protecting human rights across a broad range of areas. It made recommendations.

55. Oman commended the ongoing commitment to strengthening the legislative and institutional framework geared toward legal protection for all without distinction. It recalled that Mauritius was committed to complying with its international obligations and implementing the National Action Plan on Human Rights. It noted the focus on the rights of persons with disabilities, equality for all and non-discrimination. It made a recommendation.

56. The Philippines was pleased with the enactment of several laws strengthening the human rights normative framework. It congratulated it’s the efforts made to safeguard the rights of women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities. It acknowledged Mauritius’ commitment to advancing the cause of migrant workers. It commended the formulation of the National Action Plan on Human Rights, and appreciated that the Office of the Prime Minister was leading its implementation. It made recommendations.

57. Rwanda commended Mauritius on enacting legislation in a number of areas, including human rights protection, equal opportunities, and combating trafficking in persons. It also commended the adoption of the National Gender Policy Framework. Rwanda made recommendations.

58. Senegal noted progress in implementing the recommendations of the first cycle. It further noted significant progress in promoting and protecting human rights, reflected in initiatives such as the adoption of the National Action Plan on Human Rights, the restructuring of the National Human Rights Commission, and measures to combat gender-based and domestic violence. It made recommendations.

59. Seychelles applauded progress on enhancing the rights and status of women, including implementation of the National Gender Policy Framework and the National Action Plan to Combat Domestic Violence. It made recommendations.

60. Sierra Leone congratulated Mauritius upon the recent ranking by the Economist Intelligence Unit at 18 compared to the previous rank of 26 in democracy. It welcomed policies adopted and institutions established to address the needs of vulnerable groups, poverty, human rights training, and the ratification of CERD and OP-CRC-SC. It made recommendations.

61. New Zealand welcomed the adoption of a policy of inclusive education and steps taken to improve equal access to education for children with disabilities. However, challenges remained in the implementation. New Zealand raised the issue of on-going



traditional attitudes and stereotypes concerning women in family and society. It made recommendations.

62. Slovenia noted positive developments in the area of children's protection, especially in the context of abuse and violence, but noted that there was no mention of sexual and reproductive health education in schools. It made recommendations.

63. South Africa noted the ratification of international instruments and the establishment of institutional protection mechanisms to enhance the promotion, protection and enjoyment of rights by children. It also welcomed the launching of the National Action Plan on Human Rights. It made recommendations.

64. South Sudan noted efforts to reform political and legislative systems, and increase women's participation in politics and decision-making. It welcomed the ratification of the OP-CRC-SC. It made a recommendation.

65. Mauritius then replied to questions raised. It stressed the relevance of the National Action Plan, and stated that the political will exists to implement it and that necessary budget will be allocated for the project. Steps taken to ratify or to accede to major international human rights instruments, especially those that are still outstanding were also referred to.

66. Mauritius again stressed the importance of respect for its territorial integrity. Mauritius reiterated that the Chagos Archipelago, including Diego Garcia, and Tromelin form an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius. Chagossians are full-fledged citizens of Mauritius, enjoying the same rights as other Mauritian citizens. With a view, with a view to improving the well-being of the Chagossians, the Government of Mauritius has taken special measures in their favour, such as donation of land for the construction of houses and the setting up of the Chagossian Welfare Fund.

67. With regard to the standing invitation to the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, Mauritius stated that although it has not yet extended the standing invitation, one of the recommendations of the National Human Rights Action Plan is to invite special procedures of the Human Rights Council. Mauritius indicated that it will therefore consider extending such a standing invitation to the special procedures.

68. On the ratification of the Convention on Rights of Migrant Workers, Mauritius noted as it is a small country with limited resources, it will not be able to allow migrant workers with the families. Mauritius explained that a series of measures were taken to protect the legitimate rights of migrant workers.

69. On the issue of the asylum-seekers, Mauritius indicated that it has not signed the 1951 Convention related to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, but Mauritius has always extended the necessary assistance to for those who applied for asylum through the UNHCR.

70. On the gender-based violence, Mauritius reiterated information already provided and highlighted some of the salient parts of the National Action Plan to combat domestic violence and gave detailed information in this regard.

71. On the human rights trainings relating to police officers, Mauritius provided information on the measures taken including a tailor-made training module on human rights.

72. On enforced disappearances, Mauritius explained that it has not yet ratified the Convention on the Protection of all persons from Enforced Disappearances (CEPD) as there are still a number of policy matters that are still being studied before a decision to ratify can be taken.

73. On the Media reform and freedom of expression of the press, Mauritius indicated that it is presently reviewing the Media landscape with the objective of reforming the media law. In this context, a report on media law reform has been commissioned with the aim of putting in place an appropriate media framework.
74. On the issue of school dropouts, Mauritius described numerous measures that have been taken, and stated that the results are tangible.
75. On children, Mauritius recalled information provided on the draft comprehensive Children's Bill under preparation and provided additional information.
76. Concerning the rights of persons with disabilities, Mauritius stated that many of the measures adopted had been highlighted in its opening remarks.
77. Spain enquired about measures to ensure that legislation on the electoral process had been amended in line with the Human Rights Committee's ruling that the requirement for citizens to declare their ethnic and religious status constitutes a violation of article 25 of the ICCPR. It made recommendations.
78. Thailand welcomed the efforts in adopting legislation and reforming institutions, and applauded the launch the National Action Plan on Human Rights and efforts to increase public awareness on human rights education through the media and school curricula. It noted the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence 2012-2015. It made recommendations.
79. Togo praised Mauritius on its strengthened democracy, nation-building activities and consolidation of the fundamental freedoms and rights of its people, despite the limited capacity and resources of the island. It noted the adoption of new laws and the ratification of international human rights instruments. It made a recommendation.
80. Trinidad and Tobago commended the commitment to raising public awareness of human rights and the international treaties through programmes, training and tertiary education courses. It was heartened to note the enactment of the International Criminal Court Act, which provided for implementation of the Rome Statute.
81. Egypt welcomed new legislation enacted to better guarantee the protection of human rights in the areas of equal opportunities, human trafficking and legal aid. It made recommendations.
82. Turkey noted the launch of the National Action Plan on Human Rights and welcomed the establishment of the Human Rights Monitoring Committee, the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Truth and Justice Commission. It made recommendations.
83. Uganda welcomed legislation on combating trafficking in persons, legal aid, equal opportunities and protecting human rights. It commended ratification of the OP-CRC-SC. It made recommendations.
84. The United Kingdom of Great-Britain and Northern Ireland urged the Government to prioritize efforts to tackle gender-based violence. With regard to the comments made by the delegation of Mauritius about the British Indian Ocean Territory, the United Kingdom stated that it had no doubts about its sovereignty over the territory, ceded to Britain in 1814 and which had been a British dependency ever since. It made recommendations.
85. The United States of America remained concerned about the commercial sexual exploitation of both children and adults, failure to designate persons aboard fishing vessels in Mauritian territorial waters as victims of human trafficking, dangerous agricultural practices involving children and child street vendors and domestic workers. It regretted that the NHRC was inadequately funded. It made recommendations.

86. Uruguay highlighted the adoption of the National Action Plan on Human Rights, the establishment of the Truth and Justice Commission and the enactment of legislation, including on reporting police violations, equal opportunities, legal aid, amendments to the Criminal Code on abortion and the adoption of a national mechanism on the prevention of torture. It made recommendations.

87. Viet Nam noted progress in ensuring the rights and freedoms of all people, not least through the adoption of new laws, programmes and action plans, such as human rights awareness-raising and training programmes, and the establishment of the Equal Opportunities Commission. It made a recommendation.

88. Zambia commended Mauritius on its institutional and legislative framework. It welcomed the enactment of new legislation such as the Employment Rights Act, Equal Opportunities Act and the subsequent establishment of the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment. It made a recommendation.

89. Zimbabwe noted that Mauritius was consolidating its legislative and institutional framework and amending policies and programmes to ensure greater enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights. It welcomed ratification of the OP-CRC-SC and CRPD and harmonization of its national laws with the provisions of those conventions. It made recommendations.

90. Algeria commended the inclusive process of consultation with other stakeholders in preparing the national report. It welcomed the National Action Plan on Human Rights, which it hoped would further the promotion and protection of human rights, and on ratification of CRPD and the protocols to CRC. It made recommendations.

91. Angola commended the creation of the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment and reform of the NHRC. It welcomed the adoption of legislation on the protection and promotion of human rights and on legal assistance to groups of people in vulnerable situations. Angola made a recommendation.

92. Argentina welcomed amendments to the legislative framework of Mauritius and the adoption of the National Action Plan on Human Rights. It commended the National Preventive Mechanism Act, which gave effect to the OP-CAT, and encouraged Mauritius to continue making progress in that area. It made recommendations.

93. Armenia noted the launch of the National Action Plan on Human Rights and the establishment of the Equal Opportunities Commission. It welcomed measures and initiatives taken to protect children's rights, not least the ratification of the OP-CRC-SC and the development of a national child protection strategy. It made recommendations.

94. Australia welcomed the Government's significant efforts to bolster its national human rights framework through the creation and resourcing of the human rights ombudsman, the Equal Opportunities Commission, the National Human Rights Council and the Truth and Justice Commission. It urged the Government to continue disability inclusive policies. It made recommendations.

95. Benin noted that many laws had been adopted since the first review with a view to enhancing human rights protection. It welcomed the existence of a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles, as well as the Equal Opportunities Commission, thus showing that promoting and protecting human rights was a government priority. It made recommendations.

96. Bhutan commended the enactment of new legislation on protecting human rights and combating human trafficking. It noted positive achievements in protecting the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities, combating domestic violence and providing

training for law enforcement officers. Bhutan also commended the launching of a National Plan of Action to combat domestic violence. It made a recommendation.

97. Botswana commended the implementation of most of the recommendations of the previous review, in particular legislative reforms in human rights. It also welcomed strengthened human rights institutions and the ratification of the OP-CRC-SC. It raised concerns about discrimination, especially on grounds of race, sexual exploitation and human trafficking. It made recommendations.

98. Brazil noted efforts to improve the functioning of the police. It welcomed public policies to eradicate poverty and hunger, namely the programs 'Eradication of Absolute Poverty' and 'Food Security Strategic Plan'. It expressed concern over women's and children's rights. It made recommendations.

99. Burkina Faso noted numerous measures taken to implement the rights protected by different international and national instruments, and encouraged Mauritius to continue in this direction. It urged Mauritius to adopt a legislation and national strategy for the protection of children, complete the construction of a new prison compliant to international standards and rules to ease overcrowding, and continue the process of amending the Penal Code to criminalize marital rape. It made recommendations.

100. Cambodia noted with appreciation the progress made in implementing most of the recommendations of the previous review. It welcomed the launch of the National Action Plan on Human Rights and the national platform to end gender-based violence. It made a recommendation.

101. Canada requested information on the status of plans to amend the Criminal Code to criminalize marital rape and decriminalize homosexuality, progress achieved, remaining steps and deadlines for completion. It welcomed the National Human Rights Action Plan and measures to promote human rights training and to facilitate access to information. It expressed concern about reports of sexual exploitation of children, and stressed the importance for the Government to intensify its commitment to programs that protect children from violence and sexual abuse. It made recommendations.

102. Cape Verde noted that Mauritius highlighted democracy and rule of law, adopted a consistent legal and institutional framework, and devoted significant means to its institutions. It noted the ratification of several international human rights instruments and the compliance of the national institution with the Paris Principles. It encouraged transposition of international instruments into domestic law. It made recommendations.

103. Chad noted that besides constitutional provisions, Mauritius had adopted laws related to human rights protection, complaints against the police, national prevention mechanism, equality of opportunities, and legal aid. It noted that the implementation of recommendations stemming from the action plan had been monitored by a committee for follow-up of human rights situation. It further noted that Mauritius has been implementing international conventions to ensure that its citizens enjoyed human rights. It made a recommendation.

104. China commended human rights achievements and stable democracy. It highlighted the National Action Plan on Human Rights to protect the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and migrants. It made a recommendation.

105. Congo welcomed the efforts in implementing legal reforms to take into account recommendations of the first cycle. It noted the establishment of a follow-up committee, the National Human Rights Action Plan, and the Equal Opportunity Commission. It was satisfied with Government initiatives that allowed awareness-raising of NGOs, women's associations, vulnerable groups and members of security forces. It commended amendments to bring domestic legislation in line with international instruments.

106. Costa Rica noted legislative and institutional measures, including restructuring of the National Human Rights Commission and implementation of the National Action Plan on Human Rights. It encouraged the Government to continue measures to eliminate domestic and gender-based violence. It made recommendations.

107. Côte d'Ivoire noted implementation of measures to prevent abuses, particularly those committed by members of security forces, protect persons with disabilities and minors, and protect vulnerable persons against gender-based and domestic violence. It welcomed the "Mauritius Sustainable Island" programme aimed at ensuring economic sustainability, and the law guaranteeing equal opportunity in the employment sector. It made recommendations.

108. Cuba commended the efforts made in implementing the recommendations of the first cycle, and measures taken to guarantee the rights to education and health. It noted progress in the justice system and efforts in eliminating poverty through the creation of the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment. It made recommendations.

109. The Czech Republic commended the adoption of the National Action Plan for Human Rights and the creation of the monitoring body. It raised concerns over continued domestic violence, especially against women and children. It made recommendations.

110. The Democratic Republic of the Congo commended the adoption of new laws and the establishment of institutions. It asked about the programme to combat sexual violence entitled "Men as Partners" and requested information on its structure and operation. It made recommendations.

111. Djibouti noted the creation of committees and institutional bodies in different areas, from the protection of minors to equal opportunities, and a coordination team to avoid overlap. It encouraged follow-up of these new bodies. It noted the introduction of a human rights culture through a broad awareness-raising programme, and welcomed effective commitment to persons with disabilities. It made recommendations.

112. Ecuador commended the efforts in implementing the recommendations of the first cycle, and the ratification of OP-CRC-AC and OP-CRC-SC. It highlighted new laws to prevent discrimination and violence against women. It made recommendations.

113. Ireland noted positive steps taken since the first review, including the restructuring of the National Human Rights Commission, the adoption of legislation transposing the Rome Statute, and the development of an action plan. It expressed concern about the criminalization of sexual conduct between consenting adults of the same sex. It commended the proposal for a media bill, yet underlined that no law currently enabled access to government information. It made recommendations.

114. Estonia encouraged Mauritius to continue to fully cooperate with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council. It encouraged Mauritius to increase protection of freedom of expression, assembly, association and Internet freedom, and to continue protection of children's rights and elimination of domestic violence. It made recommendations.

115. Ethiopia commended adoption and implementing legislation transposing the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. It highlighted efforts to change negative attitudes towards disability. It made a recommendation.

116. France welcomed the commitment to promoting and protecting human rights, reflected through the ratification of CRPD and the protocols to CRC. It welcomed legal achievements, particularly the 2012 law restructuring the National Human Rights

Commission, and the women-oriented policy. It further welcomed the submission of the mid-term report. France made recommendations.

117. Gabon noted the “Mauritius Sustainable Island” project, which had been implemented in a holistic and democratic manner. It noted efforts to eliminate racial discrimination and highlighted measures adopted in favour of the Chagossian people. It invited the international community and the OHCHR to support efforts to establish a sustainable respect of human rights. It made recommendations.

118. Germany requested information on measures to implement human rights for children with disabilities and on their inclusiveness in society. It asked how Mauritius strengthened implementation mechanisms for strategies on several human rights issues. It made a recommendation.

119. Mauritius answered additional questions.

120. With regards to recommendations to review section 16 of the Constitution, Mauritius explained that section 16 prohibits discrimination but provides an exception for personal laws. This measure has historical origins, whereby, prior to Mauritius obtaining independence, the Muslim community had requested that such provisions be included. However, consensus has not been reached among the different schools of thought in the Muslim community in the country with regard to Muslim Personal Law. Mauritius stressed the need to be culturally sensitive.

121. On the issue of sexual orientation discrimination, and specifically of decriminalization of the offence of sodomy, Mauritius reported that the government had introduced the Sexual Offences Bill. However, Mauritius explained that following the dissolution of Parliament in 2010 consideration of the Bill was deferred. After consultations it was decided in 2013 that the Sexual Offences Bill should not be proceeded with as further consultations were needed on the matter, and that Government had decided to introduce a Criminal Code Amendment Bill to provide *inter alia* for marital rape.

122. Regarding the activities to promote access to quality education, and ensuring that children whose first language is different from the language of instruction are not disadvantaged, Mauritius clarified that creole is a medium of instruction in some primary schools, and is also taught as a subject.

123. On the issue of trafficking in persons, Mauritius recalled measures taken including the setting up of a Committee under the Prime Minister’s Office to address this problem.

124. On the issue of death penalty, Mauritius stated that though the death penalty has been abolished by law the Constitution has not yet been accordingly amended which is the reason why the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights has yet not been ratified by Mauritius.

125. On the issue of overcrowding of prisons, Mauritius provided information on the 10-year strategic plan which had been developed with the assistance of a Consultant of the UN Office on Drugs and Crimes, to address the problem.

126. Mauritius then provided additional information about measures taken to combat violence against children and indicated further that it has taken the decision to include corporal punishment as an offense in the Children’s Bill in order to bring the laws even more in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

127. Mauritius concluded by thanking all who had participated in the discussions and assuring the Council that it would give serious consideration to all comments and recommendations. It underlined the importance of respecting different cultural practices in Mauritius. The delegation stated that Mauritius, being a multiracial, multi-ethnic, multi-religious, multicultural country, cannot be insensitive to the needs and cultural rights of

every Mauritian. It added that it would continue its policy of active cooperation with international organizations and their institutions in the field of human rights.

## II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

128. The recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue listed below enjoy the support of country Mauritius:

128.1. Take necessary steps to ratify or accede to other major international human rights instruments which are still outstanding (Lesotho);

128.2. Reconsider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICRMW) (Indonesia);

128.3. Endeavour to accede to ICRMW (Nigeria);

128.4. Consider ratifying ICRMW (Philippines);

128.5. Consider adhering to ICRMW (Cape Verde);

128.6. Consider ratifying ICRMW (Burkina Faso)<sup>1</sup>;

128.7. Consider becoming a party to ICRMW (Chad)<sup>2</sup>;

128.8. 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);

128.9. Consider the possibility of ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons against Enforced Disappearances (CPED) (Tunisia);

128.10. Continue efforts to ratify CPED (Argentina);

128.11. Consider ratifying CPED (Burkina Faso )<sup>3</sup>;

128.12. Consider ratifying the third Optional Protocol to the CRC (OP-CRC-IC) (Montenegro)<sup>4</sup>;

128.13. Consider ratifying the Third Optional Protocol on the Rights of the Child on Communications Procedure (Seychelles )<sup>5</sup>;

128.14. Consider ratifying the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia );

128.15. Consider ratifying the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocol (Rwanda );

128.16. Further enhance its efforts to ensure adequate legal protection for all segments of the population (Kenya );

<sup>1</sup> The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: "Ratify ICRMW (Burkina Faso)"

<sup>2</sup> The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: "Become a party to ICRMW (Chad)"

<sup>3</sup> The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: "Ratify CPED (Burkina Faso)"

<sup>4</sup> The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: "Ratify the third Optional Protocol to the CRC (OP-CRC-IC) (Montenegro)"

<sup>5</sup> The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: "Ratify the Third Optional Protocol on the Rights of the Child on Communications Procedure (Seychelles)"

- 128.17. 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 );
- 128.18. Continue its efforts to finalise and submit the Children Bill (Indonesia );
- 128.19. 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 );
- 128.20. Finalise the National Child Protection Strategy and the Children's Bill (South Africa 1);
- 128.21. Finalise the procedure of developing and adopting the Children's Bill (Democratic Republic of Congo );
- 128.22. Continue finalising the process of 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 );
- 128.23. Adopt and implement the Children's Bill (Seychelles );
- 128.24. Allocate adequate resources to the National Human Rights Commission (United States of America );
- 128.25. That 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 );
- 128.26. Strengthen the coordination within the new institutions for the protection of minors and persons with disabilities (Djibouti );
- 128.27. Give continuity to the measures for the creation of a more inclusive, plural and cohesive society (Nepal );
- 128.28. Continue with its resolve to the promotion and protection of the human rights of all its citizens (Zambia);
- 128.29. Continue its reforms to improve policies and programmes towards promotion and protection of all human rights (Lesotho );
- 128.30. Continue with the sensitisation programmes in order to increase human rights awareness among the citizens of the country (Nigeria );
- 128.31. Extend its human rights education and awareness programmes to all sections of the population (Zimbabwe );
- 128.32. Continue and intensify its programmes of human rights mass education (Democratic Republic of Congo );
- 128.33. Continue the efforts related to human rights education and awareness-raising (Algeria );
- 128.34. 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 );



- 128.35. Request the international community to provide assistance to the project of incorporating human rights in the school curriculum (Kuwait );
- 128.36. Intensify the efforts to integrate human rights education in the national curriculum (Sierra Leone );
- 128.37. Pursue its plans to integrate human rights across the curricula of primary and secondary schools (Zimbabwe );
- 128.38. Continue its efforts towards human rights trainings, capacity building and human rights education, especially through integrating human rights in the educational curriculum (Armenia );
- 128.39. Consider providing appropriate human rights education and training to public servants and law enforcement officials (Philippines );
- 128.40. Continue human rights training and awareness-raising activities, particularly for security forces (Côte d'Ivoire );
- 128.41. 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);
- 128.42. Allocate adequate resources in order to strengthen the implementation of the Human Rights Action Plan 2012-2020 (Angola);
- 128.43. Share with other countries the good practice of holding broad consultations prior to the preparation of the report (Tunisia );
- 128.44. Share the best practices in the implementation of the National Plan on Human Rights, and in the preparation of the UPR (Mozambique );
- 128.45. 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);
- 128.46. Continue and strengthen its efforts in favour of the elderly (Monaco);
- 128.47. Continue its efforts to enhance the protection of children and improve their well-being (Singapore );
- 128.48. Continue strengthening the national democratic institutions (Nepal);
- 128.49. Disseminate widely the recommendations which will be made to Mauritius at the conclusion of this review (Burkina Faso );
- 128.50. Submit the required information to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Netherlands);
- 128.51. Consider extending a standing invitation to the Special Procedures Mechanism (Seychelles );
- 128.52. Consider issuing a standing invitation to the special procedures (Slovenia);

- 128.53. Consider extending a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders (Tunisia)<sup>6</sup>;
- 128.54. Consider extending a standing invitation to all Special Procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council (Montenegro)<sup>7</sup>;
- 128.55. Strengthen measures aimed at preventing and eliminating discrimination on the basis of race and ethnicity (Botswana);
- 128.56. Continue combating gender stereotypes and all forms of discrimination and violence against women (Tunisia);
- 128.57. Strengthen its policies of promotion and protection of the rights of women through public policies that foster gender equality in the country (Brazil);
- 128.58. 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);
- 128.59. 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);
- 128.60. 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);
- 128.61. Continue to increase women's representation in all national decision-making positions to 30% in line with the SADC decision (Namibia);
- 128.62. Strengthen the equal participation of women in public office (Ecuador);
- 128.63. Strengthen its efforts to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women and children (Senegal);
- 128.64. Strengthen the system of protection of the rights of the child by additional measures (Benin);
- 128.65. 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);
- 128.66. Speed up the realization of equality in the exercise of human rights by disadvantaged groups (Gabon);
- 128.67. Continue to take all necessary measures to ensure that no person is discriminated against by the State, including persons affected by HIV/AIDS (Spain);
- 128.68. Continue with actions aimed at improving the treatment of children with disabilities and children affected and/or infected by HIV/AIDS (Argentina);

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<sup>6</sup> The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: "Extend a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders (Tunisia)"

<sup>7</sup> The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: "Extend a standing invitation to all Special Procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council (Montenegro)"

- 128.69. Continue to address gender based violence (Rwanda );
- 128.70. Continue with policies and plans aimed at eliminating domestic violence and violence against children (Ecuador );
- 128.71. 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 );
- 128.72. Further increase its efforts in order to fully implement its own action plan to end gender-based violence (Netherlands );
- 128.73. Continue its efforts to implement the National Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence and to further promote gender equality (Singapore );
- 128.74. Effectively implement protection mechanisms for victims of domestic violence and provide them with the necessary funding (Spain );
- 128.75. 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 );
- 128.76. 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 );
- 128.77. 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);
- 128.78. 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);
- 128.79. 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);
- 128.80. Redouble efforts to fight against ill-treatment of children, particularly by the investigation, trial and punishment of perpetrators (Uruguay);
- 128.81. Continue its efforts to strengthening and combating child trafficking (South Sudan);
- 128.82. Strengthen measures aimed at fighting human trafficking, including addressing its root causes and exploitation of women and girls (Botswana);
- 128.83. Establish a body to coordinate government efforts to combat trafficking in persons and the worst forms of child labour (United States of America);
- 128.84. 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)<sup>8</sup>;

128.85. 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)<sup>9</sup>;

128.86. 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);

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

128.88. Expedite the process of introducing a media bill to enhance freedom of expression (Sierra Leone)<sup>10</sup>;

128.89. Continue to create employment opportunities and promote the development of income generating activities to uplift the poor (Namibia);

128.90. Continue its efforts to eliminate poverty, ensure the right to food and housing for its population, and promote harmony among various communities (China);

128.91. 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);

128.92. Strengthen the measures aimed at alleviating extreme poverty (Côte d’Ivoire);

128.93. Continue the efforts in order to eradicate extreme poverty in the country (Cuba);

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

128.95. Consider mainstreaming sexual and reproductive health education in schools and offering access to contraception to young people (Slovenia);

128.96. Continue with the current efforts to implement the national plan to combat HIV/AIDS (Egypt);

128.97. Adopt and implement a national plan to combat HIV/AIDS, with an emphasis on prevention (Thailand);

128.98. Continue taking measures to further strengthen its education and health systems (Cuba);

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<sup>8</sup> The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: “Provide adequate resources to enforce laws against human trafficking through the investigation, prosecution and conviction of trafficking offenders, including in cases involving forced labour or commercial sexual exploitation (United States of America )”

<sup>9</sup> The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: “ Carry out training to identify acts of torture for specialized personnel of the security forces, public prosecution, doctors, psychologists and any other related to the different moments of the detention process. Additionally establish a complaints and follow up mechanism (Mexico)”

<sup>10</sup> The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: “Expedite the process of introducing a media bill to enhance freedom of expression and individual right s(Sierra Leone)”

- 128.99. Strengthen its education policies to ensure that no child drops out of school at primary level due to structural reasons (Namibia);
- 128.100. 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 order to reach the desired goals in this friendly country (Oman);
- 128.101. Consider adopting policies to encourage women and girls to choose non-traditional fields of education, including technical and vocational training (Egypt);
- 128.102. Adopt policies to encourage women and girls to choose non-traditional fields of education and work, including relevant technical and vocational training (New Zealand);
- 128.103. Continue to raise the literacy rate amongst women, particularly those living in rural areas (Namibia);
- 128.104. 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);
- 128.105. Promote the linguistic plurality through education (Djibouti);
- 128.106. Make further efforts in increasing participation of persons with disabilities at all levels of political and public life, especially the electoral process (Maldives);
- 128.107. Intensify the positive action already taken for improving the living conditions of persons with disabilities (Senegal);
- 128.108. Work to ensure inclusive, quality and free primary and secondary education to children with disabilities on an equal basis with other children (New Zealand);
- 128.109. 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);
- 128.110. 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);
- 128.111. 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);
- 128.112. Consider deepening the measures taken for socio-economic promotion of the ethnic minorities (Cape Verde)<sup>11</sup>;
- 128.113. Continue its current efforts aimed at improving the fate of the Chagossians (Gabon);

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<sup>11</sup> The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: “Consider deepening the measures taken for socio-economic promotion of the ethnic minority which is the Creole population of the country (Cape Verde)”

- 128.114. Maintain the philosophy of putting the people first in its development agenda (Nigeria );
129. The following recommendations will be examined by Mauritius which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the 25<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council in March 2014:
- 129.1. Sign and ratify ICRMW (Sierra Leone );
- 129.2. Accede to the second Optional Protocol of the ICCPR (Australia );
- 129.3. Ratify the second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (Estonia );
- 129.4. Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (France );
- 129.5. 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);
- 129.6. Proceed to the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) (Benin );
- 129.7. 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);
- 129.8. Ratify CPED (France );
- 129.9. Ratify the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (France);
- 129.10. Withdraw its reservations to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Togo);
- 129.11. Withdraw its reservations to CRPD to articles 9 (accessibility) 24 (education) and 11 (situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies) (Uruguay);
- 129.12. Ratify the Optional Protocol to CRPD (Australia);
- 129.13. Ratify the Convention on the Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Estonia);
- 129.14. Sign the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol (Spain);
- 129.15. Ratify the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the ICC (Estonia);
- 129.16. Ratify the Kampala Convention and create an adequate national and legal policy framework to effectively deal with internally displaced of people (Uganda);
- 129.17. Make further efforts to review the Constitution with a view to explicitly recognizing economic, social and cultural rights equally with other constitutional rights (Uruguay);
- 129.18. Grant a legal rank to the ICESCR that allows that its provisions be directly invoked in the domestic legal system (Uruguay);

- 129.19. Review article 16 (4) (c) of its Constitution to ensure that such a provision is not discriminatory against women (Trinidad and Tobago);
- 129.20. Extend a standing invitation to the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations (Costa Rica);
- 129.21. Extend a standing invitation to the Special Procedures of the United Nations (France);
- 129.22. Extend a standing invitation to all Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council (Czech Republic);
- 129.23. 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);
- 129.24. Remove norms, including at the constitutional level, that may be deemed as an exemption from the prohibition of discrimination, and take practical measures for its implementation (Costa Rica);
- 129.25. Promote concrete action to combat inequality and guarantee the participation of women in social, cultural, political and economic development through affirmative action programmes (Mexico);
- 129.26. 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);
- 129.27. 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);
- 129.28. Introduce special measures in areas where women are underrepresented or disadvantaged and raise awareness among parliamentarians and other government organs (Uganda);
- 129.29. Adopt legislation that explicitly prohibits corporal punishment, and continue awareness raising campaigns on the negative effects of corporal punishment (Uruguay);
- 129.30. Ensure that the new Police and Criminal Evidence Bill fully addresses the practice of detention on the basis 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);
- 129.31. Repeal the sections of its criminal code that criminalises consensual homosexual activity (Australia);
- 129.32. Remove from the Criminal Code the penalization of same-sex conduct between consenting adults (Canada);
- 129.33. Repeal Section 250 of the Criminal Code which criminalises sexual conduct between consenting adults of the same sex (Ireland);
- 129.34. Enact legislation to provide for freedom of information requests (Ireland);

**129.35. 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);**

**129.36. 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)<sup>12</sup>.**

**130. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

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<sup>12</sup> The recommendation as read during the interactive dialogue: “Continue action aimed at the return to their lands of the Chagossians displaced from the island of Diego Garcia and other islands from the Chagos archipelago, and that such actions include processes for the reparation of victims (Mexico)”



## Annex

### Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Mauritius was headed by Dr. the Hon. Arvin Boolell, G.O.S.K. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade and composed of the following members:

- Dr. the Hon. Arvin Boolell, G.O.S.K., Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Head of Delegation;
  - H. E. Mr. Israhyananda Dhalladoo, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Alternate Head of Delegation;
  - Mrs. Prameeta Devi Rasheela Goordyal-Chitto, Ag. Assistant Parliamentary Counsel, Attorney General's Office, Member;
  - Mrs. Bilkiss Rajahbalee-Cader, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Prime Minister's Office, Member;
  - Mr. Anandrao Hurree, Deputy Permanent Representative, Member;
  - Mrs. Dilshaad Uteem, First Secretary, Member
  - Mrs. Asha Muthusawmy-Pillay, State Counsel, Attorney General's Office, Member;
  - Mrs. Vimla Huree-Agarwal, Second Secretary, Member;
  - Mr. Hambyrajen Narsinghen, Economic and Trade Adviser, Member;
  - Mr. Subhas Gujadhur, Member.
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