UPR 17, Recommendations by Canada

October 23, 2013

**Mauritius**

**Question**

In February 2013, Mauritius decided to stop work on the Sexual Offences Bill. To address the issues contained in the Bill – notably criminalization of rape within marriage and the decriminalization of homosexuality – Mauritius has indicated it plans to amend the Criminal Code. Could the Delegation of Mauritius inform us on the status of this process of amending the Criminal Code, progress achieved so far, remaining steps and deadlines for completion?

**Recommendations**

Canada recommends that Mauritius:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Remove from the Criminal Code the penalization of same-sex conduct between consenting adults.

**Observations:**

We welcome the adoption of the 2012-2020 National Human Rights Action Plan as well as measures taken by Mauritius to promote training on human rights and to facilitate access to information about the human rights situation in Mauritius.

We are concerned about reports of sexual exploitation of children. We stress the importance for the government to maintain and intensify its commitment to programs that protect children from violence and sexual abuse.