**17th SESSION OFUNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) WORKING GROUP**

[21 October – 1 November 2013]

**UPR OF MAURITIUS - INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE**

[23 October 2013: 1430 – 1800 hrs.]

**INTERVENTION BY INDIA**

**Mr.President,**

India warmly welcomes the delegation of Mauritius led by Hon’ble Arvin Boolell, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mauritius. We express appreciation for the presentation today.

2. As a secular and pluralistic democracy that has had deep historical and cultural ties with Mauritius, India understands the complexities of Mauritius’ ethnic and cultural diversities and the consequent policy challenges for sustainable development as a result of its colonial experience of slavery and indentured labour. We applaud the efforts being made by Mauritius in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country through the consolidation of institutional and legislative frameworks as well as undertaking new policy measures and programmes.

3. We take positive note of the launch of the National Human Rights Action Plan 2012-2020 that chartsthe way forward in realising the human rights for all citizens in Mauritius. In this regard, we note with interest the creation of theHuman Rights Portal aimed at providing a common platform for the Government and other stakeholders to assist in implementation of the Action Plan. We are encouraged by the setting up of the Equal Opportunities Commission and the promise it has shown in its functioning. We hope this Commission will continue to work in an effective and independent manner to ensure equal opportunities for all persons.

4. Weappreciate the commitment shown by Mauritius in securing the rights of women and children. In particular, we note steps taken to address violence against women, such as the National Action Plan to combat violence, National Action Plan to end gender-based violence, the adoption of the Protocol of Assistance to victims of Sexual Assault and the new project of “Youth Empowerment Programme to end gender-based violence” to be launched shortly.

5. We also commend Mauritius for its ratification of the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.

6. We wish the delegation of Mauritius well in its future endeavours.

Thank you, President.

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