



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

CONSIDERATION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW REPORT OF GUYANA

28 January 2015

Mr. President,

Mauritius welcomes the delegation of Guyana to the 21<sup>st</sup> session of the UPR and thanks H.E..... for the comprehensive presentation of Guyana's national report.

*Ms Cardya Rodrigues-Birkett, Minister of Foreign Affairs*

We appreciate Guyana's efforts in conducting consultations on the preparations of its national report and in implementing the various recommendations received at its last review.

We note the ongoing process of enforcing legislations and policies that guarantees the full enjoyment of human rights of the Guyana's people despite the current political situation in the country.

Guyana's commitment to protect and promote the rights of its children is commendable. We are encouraged with the significant progress being made despite the limited resources, namely in the education sector. We congratulate Guyana for achieving gender parity in primary and secondary education and encourage it to pursue its Education Strategic Plan 2014-2018 and the Hinterland Education Improvement Project that will further enhance access to education for those children from the less fortunate areas of the island.

Mauritius fully understands the challenges faced by Guyana, a Small Developing Island State, for the inclusion of children with disabilities in the mainstream education system. We express our support to the efforts being made in collaboration with other institutions and NGOs with a view to eliminating discrimination against children needing special care.

With regard to women's rights, the amendment to the Sexual Offences Act, the implementation of the "TELL" campaign, the "No Tolerance for discrimination", amongst others, demonstrates the continued commitment of Guyana to work towards the improvement of the status of women in a hugely multi-ethnic society with inherent cultural beliefs. We encourage the strengthening of Guyana's anti-discrimination legislations to further promote the inclusion of women in the socio-economic development of the country in line with CEDAW recommendations.

Mauritius commends Guyana for the appointment of an Ombudsperson and calls for adequate resources to be provided to enable this Office to become fully functional. While taking note of the various Rights Constitutional Commissions established by Guyana to monitor and review existing legislations, policies and measures, we still believe in the establishment of a National in line with the Paris Principles and the adoption of a National Human Rights Action Plan to safeguard the promotion and protection of all rights of the Guyanese people.

We therefore recommend early action in the establishment of a National Human Rights Commission and in this regard, Guyana should be provided with necessary technical assistance.

I thank you Mr. President.