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

**AMBASSADE DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE MAURICE ET MISSION PERMANENTE AUPRES  DES  NATIONS UNIES**

**ET DES AUTRES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES**

**STATEMENT OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS TO THE UNITED NATIONS, GENEVA DURING THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF BELIZE**

**29 January 2024– 14 30 hrs**

**1 min 50 secs**

**Chair**,

The Mauritius delegation extends a very warm welcome to the high level delegation of Belize, attending this fourth cycle of the UPR.

Mauritius commends Belize, a SIDS like Mauritius, for its continuous efforts to promote and protect human rights, despite its inherent vulnerabilities and the challenges faced such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mauritius believes that education and the holistic development of children are key for the growth of any society. We, therefore, commend Belize for enacting legislation which raised the formal age of schooling from 14 to 16 years old. We welcome Belize’s Education Upliftment Project which ensures accessible and affordable education to children from vulnerable societies and prevents high levels of school dropouts.

In a constructive spirit, we would like to recommend that Belize:

1. Consider enacting appropriate legislation to ensure 12 years of free and compulsory primary and secondary education, as recommended by the UNESCO.

We wish Belize a successful review and continued progress.

**Thank you.**