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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**

**CONSIDERATION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF AUSTRALIA**

**20 JANUARY 2021 – 09 00 hrs**

Chair,

The Mauritius delegation extends a warm welcome to the high level delegation of Australia and congratulates Australia for the presentation of its UPR Report for the third cycle.

Australia has made a lot of progress since 2015 in many areas including health, education, cultural heritage rights and indigenous issues. We commend Australia for this and we commend Australia for ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT).

We recommend in a sisterly sprit that the legal status of the indigenous be recognized to ensure full protection of their rights. We also recommend that Australia enact federal laws to combat violence against women, the more so, as Australia is well-known for being a champion on gender issues.

We wish Australia a successful review. Thank you.