****

**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 GUATEMALA**

**25 January 2023– 14 30 hrs**

**Chair**,

The Mauritius delegation extends a very warm welcome to the high level Ministerial delegation of Guatemala during this fourth cycle of the UPR.

Mauritius appreciates Guatemala’s efforts in the promotion and protection of human rights, such as, the ‘*’Me Supero’’* (I am bettering myself) programme to support the development of women and men who are not in the education system, with a view to increasing their employability.

Further, Mauritius welcomes the decree which sets the minimum age of marriage to 18 years in Guatemala.

In a constructive spirit, Mauritius recommends that:

1. Guatemala continue to Strengthen efforts to ensure inclusive and accessible education to all; and
2. To consider raising the minimum age for employment at least to 16 years, as recommended by UNESCO, to prevent the high school dropout rates.

We wish Guatemala a successful review.

**Thank you.**