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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 BARBADOS**

**05 May 2023– 09 00 hrs**

**Thank you Mr. President**,

The Mauritius delegation extends a very warm welcome to the delegation of Barbados during this fourth cycle of the UPR.

Mauritius expresses its appreciation to Barbados in its efforts to promoting human rights, both nationally and internationally. We commend Barbados for its role in actively promoting the interests of SIDS, in the face of climate change.

In the field of education, we commend Barbados for providing free access to education till tertiary level, irrespective of sex.

We also applaud Barbados for enacting the Employment (Prevention of Discrimination) Act 2020, thus prohibiting discrimination, on the basis of race, origin, colour, sex, sexual orientation, social status, marital status, medical condition, disability and age. Further, we welcome Barbados’ ratification of the International Labour Organisation Convention 190 on harassment at the Workplace, thus ensuring a safe work environment for its people.

In a constructive spirit, Mauritius recommends that Barbados:

1. consider enforcing the application of the minimum age of marriage to 18 years, without any reservation; and
2. ratify the Convention Against Torture.

We wish Barbados a successful review.

**Thank you.**