**STATEMENT BY MAURITIUS –UPR OF VANUATU**

**24 January 2019-9.00 am**

**Mr.Vice-President,**

The Mauritius delegation extends a warm welcome to the delegation of Vanuatuled byHonourable Don Ken, Minister of Justice and Community Services and thanks the delegation for presenting its UPR Report.

We congratulate Vanuatu for its achievements so far in the protection and promotion of human rights, despite the various challenges as well as capacity and resource constraints that it faces as a Small Island Developing State.

Mauritius further commendsVanuatu’s commitment to realizing human rights through the implementation of its National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2030 and the enactment of various legislation to further promote and protect human rights.

As SIDS, Mauritius and Vanuatu share similar concerns, including, our extreme vulnerability to the far-reaching and adverse impacts of climate change. In this regard, we commend the Vanuatu authorities for adopting the National Policy on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction 2016-2030 which aims at providing a framework to ensure resilience to the effects of climate change and disaster risks.

In a constructive spirit, Mauritius **recommends**Vanuatu:

1. to further mainstream human rights in the formulation of policies and measures taken towards the mitigation and adaptation to climate change. In this regard, we urge the international community to provide the necessary technical assistance and capacity building to Vanuatu;
2. to ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and
3. to set up its National Human Rights Institution

We wish the delegation of Vanuatu a successful review.

Thank you, Mr.Vice-President.