REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

MAURITIUS' ENGAGEMENT WITH HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY BODIES

LDCs/SIDS Africa Workshop / Atelier PMA/PEID Afrique

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PRESENTED BY

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HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION

- Operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade.

- Responsible for Human Rights issues and State Reporting obligations as per Treaties acceded.

- The Government envisions a society where human rights and dignity are respected, and everyone enjoys their rights freely.

- Our mission is to promote human rights and international humanitarian law, and empower individuals to understand and claim their rights. We work to ensure Mauritius meets its international obligations and engages all stakeholders in addressing human rights challenges.

MANDATE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION

- Draft and prepare reports on human rights in line with State obligations.
- Facilitates consultations through the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-Up, with relevant stakeholders.
- Respond to questionnaires, surveys from United Nations Treaty Bodies and regional Human Rights organisations.
- Ensures that Mauritius fulfils its human rights obligations

HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTIONS

The State of Mauritius is party to:

- 7 International Human Rights Instruments;
- 6 Optional Protocols;
- 4 Multilateral Treaties; and
- 4 Regional Human Rights Instruments.

Accession to International Human Rights Conventions/Instruments

SN	International Treaty/Convention	Date of Accession
1	International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)	30 May 1972
2	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)	12 December 1973
3	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR)	12 December 1973
4	International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)	09 July 1984
5	Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	26 July 1990
6	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)	08 January 2010
7	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)	09 December 1992

Accession/Ratification of Optional Protocols

SN	Optional Protocols	Date of accession/ratification
1	Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPROP-1)	Acceded on 12 December 1973
2	Optional Protocol to the Convention against Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT- OP)	Acceded on 21 June 2005
3	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW-OP)	Ratified on 31 October 2008
4	The 2000 Optional protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict	Acceded on 12 February 2009
5	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (CRC-OP-AC)	Ratified on 12 February 2009
6	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (CRC-OP-SC)	Ratified on 14 June 2011

Accession/Ratification of Multilateral Treaties

SN	Multilateral Treaties	Date of accession/ratification
1	The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction	Acceded on 23 March 1993
2	United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime	Ratified on 18 April 2003
3	Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime	Acceded on 24 September 2003
4	Convention for the protection of individuals with regards to automatic processing of personal data (European Treaty 108)	Ratified on 17 June 2016

Ratification of Regional Human Rights Instruments

SN	Regional Human Rights Instruments	Date of ratification
1	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child	14 February 1992
2	African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights	19 June 1992
3	Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights	03 March 2003
4	Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa	16 June 2017

Responsibility of Mauritius as a State Party

- State Reporting
- Special Procedures
- Review Exercises, including submission of Follow-Up Reports
- Sensitisation campaigns
- Engagement with stakeholders

Collaboration with Treaty Bodies

- Beyond reporting:

- Dialogue with stakeholders

- Implementation being ensured through consultations/NMRF meetings

- Technical assistance to dispense training on the principles of the Conventions and the use of the NRTD

National Human Rights Institutions

- Mauritius has established 7 National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) to promote and safeguard the rights of citizens as listed below;

- Office of the Ombudsman,
- National Human Rights Commission,
- Ombudsperson for Children's Office,
- Equal Opportunities Commission,
- Independent Police Complaints Commission,
- Ombudsperson for Financial Services, and
- Ombudsperson for Sports.

Complaints may be reported to the NHRIs as they provide a platform for individuals to report incidents of human rights abuses and seek redress.

National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up

- Following Government approval in December 2017, the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow up was set up administratively.
- The Human Rights Division acts as Secretariat for the NMRF.
- It is a unique inter-ministerial structure mandated to monitor at national level implementation of measures pertaining to Human Rights, including those emanating from recommendations of Treaty Bodies; the Human Rights Council and the Universal Periodic Review.

COMPOSITION OF THE NMRF

The NMRF is chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade.

The NMRF comprises representatives of:

- 39 Ministries and Departments,
- 7 National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and;
- Around 30 Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up

- The NMRF meets at least twice yearly.
- The last meeting was held on 22 May 2024.





NATIONAL TRACKING RECOMMENDATIONS DATABASE (NRTD)

- Mauritius is the first country in Southern Africa to have implemented the NRTD system.
- A workshop was held on the use of the NRTD to strengthen Mauritius' monitoring of implementation of recommendations from human rights mechanisms on 24 -25 June 2024.
- It was organised by the Human Rights Division, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Regional Office for Southern Africa
- The workshop was facilitated resource persons from the main and regional Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

THANK YOU

