**Inputs for the Report on Human Rights Council Resolution 44/2**

1. The State of Mauritius was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. Since the first three cases were confirmed, the Government of Mauritius took a series of bold measures to protect the population while formulating appropriate national development policies that aim at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals, on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution of the benefits resulting therefrom.
2. A national confinement protocol was applied from 19 March to 15 June 2020 with the objective to protect citizens and slow the spread of the virus. The population abided by rigorous restrictions but with a collective, coordinated and comprehensive approach, engaging all stakeholders and the cooperation of one and all, the State of Mauritius was successful in breaking the chains of COVID-19 transmission. It was able to contain the virus in only six weeks. It did not have any locally transmitted cases of contamination for more than six months after 26 April 2020 but only some isolated cases since November 2020 to February 2021.
3. The Ministry of Health and Wellness with the assistance of the World Health Organisation published a report in October 2020 on the Management and Prevention of COVID-19 in Mauritius. Copy of report is at ***Annex I*.** The report highlights the control strategies, the operations of the health response processes, the management of the Quarantine Centres, the delivery of home services, the anti influenza immunization campaign, the screening and COVID-19 testing process, the training of frontliners and various health protocols put in place.
4. It is needless to say that the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on almost every sector in Mauritius similarly to every country around the globe. The pandemic has led to unparalleled severe socio-economic consequences at all levels including loss of employment, business income reductions, business closure, loss of purchasing power, increase in indebtment and difficulties for individual to meet their basic needs.
5. Statistics Mauritius has published a report in September 2020 entitled “Monitoring the socio-economic effects of COVID-19 on Mauritian Households” which highlights the effects of COVID -19 on households. Copy of report is at ***Annex II***.
6. The State of Mauritius had to experienced various challenges in responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic specially regarding the fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals. These include the right to freedom of movement, the right to education, the right to food, the right to return to the country of citizens, the right to education, the right to leisure, the right to information, the rights of persons with disabilities, the right to privacy, right of detainees, the right to a livelihood, the right to safety.
7. The State of Mauritius had an overarching principle in attending to those challenges, namely, non-discrimination, special attention to the most vulnerable and the collective wellbeing of its population.
8. Some good practices adopted included:
9. clear leadership and strong political commitment in COVID-19 response with the creation of a High-Level Committee (National Communication Committee) on COVID-19 chaired by the Prime Minister. The composition of the committee also evolved along with the needs of the response;
10. official diffusion of information from the National Communication Committee on COVID-19 via the daily press conference, resulting in direct and harmonized dissemination of information. Real time, credible and transparent information was shared, rumours were addressed and community engagement was encouraged during the daily press conference;
11. fake news on social media was sanctionable to dissuade the spreading of misinformation;
12. early intense sensitization campaign on COVID-19 by the Ministry of Health and Wellness across wide range of media with the close collaboration of key stakeholders for maximum reach;
13. mass testing of frontliners was done to ensure that there was no case of COVID-19 in Mauritius in preparation for the phased deconfinement;
14. distribution of foodpacks to households on the Social Registrar of Mauritius by the Government;
15. proactive mobilization from the NGOs and civil society to ensure food security and wellbeing of vulnerable households;
16. price control on essential food and hygiene commodities;
17. maintaining the food supply chains for fresh food products and investing in local food production;
18. continuity of education classes via distance learning strategies;
19. creation of the COVID-19 Solidarity Fund;
20. door to door distribution of pensions;
21. orderly repatriation of stranded Mauritius citizens;
22. rapid introduction of the Wage Assistance Support Scheme and the Self- employed assistance;
23. financial Support to economic operators;
24. evolving preparedness and response plans to adapt to the ever-changing global and local context and World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines
25. The support of the World Health Organisation and partnerships from friendly countries were critical in the national response to COVID-19 in Mauritius. Donations made by Canada, China, India, Japan and United States of America as well as assistance from the European Union (EU), Agence Française de Développement/Indian Ocean Commission (AFD/IOC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), International Agency for Atomic Energy (IAEA), African Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and Jack Ma Foundation are a few examples of such laudable international cooperation.
26. The State of Mauritius would welcome further technical assistance:
27. to develop a Preparedness and Contingency Plan for HIV services for implementation during any pandemic;
28. to set up a dedicated extra budgetary Fund supplied by overseas financial assistance for COVID-19; and
29. build capacity of health care personnel along with community workers to effectively and efficiently respond and manage vulnerable populations in pandemics
30. The State of Mauritius has started its national vaccination campaign against COVID-19 since 26 January 2021 and is expected to have 70 % of its population vaccinated by August 2021. The aim is to achieve herd immunity to minimise the transmission of the virus in the community.
31. There have been multiple COVID-19 variants that are circulating globally and the surge of COVID-19 infections in numerous countries recently.
32. The State of Mauritius is unfortunately experiencing a second wave of COVID-19 since 05 March 2021. The island is in lockdown since 10 March 2021 and based on the lessons learnt has adopted a stringent health response with massive testing, contact tracing as well as other socio-economic measures to accompany its citizens in the pandemic. It is continuing its vaccination programme and expecting to contain the virus once again successfully with the collaborative approach, determination and discipline of its citizens.

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