

UPR WORKING GROUP - FOURTH SESSION  
(2 - 13 February 2009)

UPR of MAURITIUS - INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE  
(February 10, 2009)

INTERVENTION BY INDIA

Mr Chairman,

HON'BLE MR. My delegation welcomes the delegation of Mauritius led by ATTORNEY GENERAL, JAYARAMA VALAYDEN and thanks them for a comprehensive overview of human rights issues in the country. As a country with which we share cultural heritage and deep historical ties, Mauritius is a unique experiment in democratic governance and socio-economic development in a highly diverse society that has geographical limitations of limited natural resources and distance from the rest of the world. We commend the progress made by Mauritius despite the odds, as is manifest in its democratic record as a welfare state, social harmony and high level of human development, along with an active civil society and media.

Mr Chairman,

The 2001-2003 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) noted enormous strides made by Mauritius in the areas of health and education. We note with appreciation that Mauritius has attained most of its targets related to the Millennium Development Goals and the steps it has taken to safeguard the vulnerable groups of society like women and the elderly people. In particular, we welcome the establishment of the Trust Fund for the Social Integration of Vulnerable

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Groups to provide access to economic resources to women living in poverty, as well as the launching of microcredit and microenterprise schemes to enable women to become self-sufficient and more economically independent. We also take positive note of its special provision of the office of the Ombudsperson for Children that was established in 2003 with the objective of ensuring the rights of the children and to promote compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We hope that the National Action Plan on Human Rights that Mauritius is currently drafting would further strengthen the various measures to protect the vulnerable groups.

Mr Chairman,

While Mauritius has a National Human Rights Commission that is governed in accordance with Paris Principles and has been recommended for grant of category A status, concern has been expressed on some elements relating to its organisational aspects that might impinge on its independence. We would request the delegation to share more information on this issue. We would also seek more information on measures taken to improve the living and working conditions of migrant workers. Lastly, Mr Chairman, we would request the delegation to clarify whether Mauritian Constitution contains any exemption to the prohibition of discrimination on any grounds.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.