



INFORMATION NOTE

2nd Universal Periodic Review of Mauritius (23.10.2013)

17th session of the UPR – Human Rights Council

Summary of child related issues

Troika: Austria, Botswana, Qatar

I- **Issues pertaining to juvenile justice and the rights of the child in general**

II-

1. **Issue n°1: juvenile justice**

Delegations	Recommendations	Responses by Mauritius
Maldives	Continue to promote safeguards for children in the legal system.	In the Children's bill, corporal punishment against children will be outlawed.

2. **Issue n°2 : child trafficking, exploitation and labour**

Delegations	Recommendations	Responses by Mauritius
Singapore	Continue to protect children and improve their well-being.	The Brigade for the Protection of Minors was set up in 2004, which acts as watchdog against all forms of exploitation and abuse against children.
Botswana, Egypt, South Sudan	Continue to adopt the legal framework to prevent the sale and trafficking of children.	The government has decided to set up a committee under the Prime Minister's office in order to solve the problem of child trafficking.
Armenia	Welcomes the ratification of Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, prostitution, and child pornography.	Mauritius extends a standing invitation to the special rapporteur on the sales of children, child prostitution, and pornography.

3. **Issue n°3: Education and health**

Delegations	Recommendations	Responses by Mauritius
Egypt, New Zealand	Encourage girls to pursue non-vocational forms of education	Measures are being taken to make sure that students are implemented into the economic mainstream.



Namibie	Strengthen primary school rules so that no child can drop out of school	There is a database of children in Mauritius schools that is being refined. The shortage of database capabilities and monitoring staff is being addressed.
Canada, Cuba	Ensure that children have improved access to education. Ensure that children whose first language is not the language of instruction are not at a disadvantage.	The Créole language is used in schools.
Cuba	Continue its efforts to strengthen the educational system.	Workshops are being organized. Incentives have been created to encourage the education of disabled children.

4. Issue n°4: Violence and poverty

Delegations	Recommendations	Responses by Mauritius
Canada, Ecuador, Senegal	Continue with its plans and policies to eliminate domestic violence against children.	The National Children's council was created in 1990, responsible for enforcing the Convention of the Rights of the Child. The Brigade for the Protection of Minors was set up in 2004, which acts as watchdog against all forms of exploitation and abuse against children. Mauritius will continue its human rights education program. There is a weekly television channel focused on human rights.
Estonia	Continue with positive steps to enhance the rights of children.	
Brazil	Put in place initiatives that spread awareness of the violation of children's rights, especially sexual abuse.	

5. Issue n°5: Convention on the Rights of the Child and other legislation

Delegations	Recommendations	Responses by Mauritius
DRC, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malasie	Continue to harmonize laws in line with the CRC. Continue to work on the Children's Bill.	Mauritius continues to work on its legislation.
Montenegro	Ratify the 3 rd Optional Protocol on the Rights of the Child	<i>*no comment*</i>

III- Other relevant issues with positive feedbacks by the States present at the review:

- States expressed appreciation that the Children's Bill is in process of ratification.



- States appreciate the harmonization of law with the CRC.

IV- Adoption of the report : recommendations accepted by Mauritius

- **114/150 Recommendations were accepted. The remaining recommendations are being considered and the decision will be given no later than the 25th session of the Human Rights Council.**
- **Recommendations adopted pertaining to children's rights:**
 - Consider ratifying the third Optional Protocol to the CRC [128.12], [128.13]
 - Continue its efforts to finalise and submit the Children Bill [128.18] – [128.21], [128.23]
 - Continue finalising the process of reviewing the legal framework on prohibiting, preventing and responding to all forms of sale and sexual exploitation of children, and to ensure the effective implementation of the framework through, inter alia, the harmonisation of national legal and regulatory frameworks with ratified international instruments, accompanied by binding measures and mechanisms [128.22]
 - Request the international community to provide assistance to the project of incorporating human rights in the school curriculum [128.35] – [128.39]
 - Continue strengthening the government programme 2012-2015 to improve the situation in the areas such as education, health, disabled persons and the social integration of vulnerable groups [128.45]
 - Continue its efforts to enhance the protection of children and improve their well-being [128.47]
 - Continue the efforts in favour of the promotion of the rights of women and children, and in the area of the fight against discrimination [128.60]
 - Strengthen its efforts to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women and children [128.63]
 - Strengthen the system of protection of the rights of the child by additional measures [128.64]
 - Continue with actions aimed at improving the treatment of children with disabilities and children affected and/or infected by HIV/AIDS [128.68]
 - Continue with policies and plans aimed at eliminating domestic violence and violence against children [128.70]
 - Strengthen the cooperation with civil society in the area of domestic violence, especially domestic violence against women and children and establish a more effective system of help to victims [128.77]
 - Improve existing measures on combating violence against children, as a key obligation under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and other international human rights instruments [128.78]



- Put in place initiatives aimed at raising awareness, especially among professionals who work in the area, about violations of the human rights of children, including sexual abuse [128.79]
- Redouble efforts to fight against ill-treatment of children, particularly by the investigation, trial and punishment of perpetrators [128.80]
- Continue its efforts to strengthening and combating child trafficking [128.81]
- Strengthen measures aimed at fighting human trafficking, including addressing its root causes and exploitation of women and girls [128.82]
- Establish a body to coordinate government efforts to combat trafficking in persons and the worst forms of child labour [128.83]
- Consider mainstreaming sexual and reproductive health education in schools and offering access to contraception to young people [128.95]
- Continue taking measures to further strengthen its education and health systems [128.98]
- Strengthen its education policies to ensure that no child drops out of school at primary level due to structural reasons [128.99]
- Step up efforts particularly in the educational system by taking additional measures to put an end to the phenomena of some students in being absent from school during the elementary and secondary level in order to reach the desired goals in this friendly country [128.100]
- Consider adopting policies to encourage women and girls to choose non-traditional fields of education, including technical and vocational training [128.101]
- Adopt policies to encourage women and girls to choose non-traditional fields of education and work, including relevant technical and vocational training [128.102]
- Expand activities to promote access to quality education for all children, in particular ensuring that children whose first language is different from the language of instruction are not at a disadvantage [128.104]
- Promote the linguistic plurality through education [128.105]
- Work to ensure inclusive, quality and free primary and secondary education to children with disabilities on an equal basis with other children [128.108]
- Support steps regarding the rights of persons with disabilities with administrative arrangements, in order to ensure that these rights are enjoyed by all persons with disabilities within the society, especially children with disabilities [128.109]
- Continue implementation of the National Plan of Action, including social programs that aim at carrying out information and education activities with regard to people with disabilities and their social protection according to the relevant Convention which the country has ratified [128.110]