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	In the Children's bill, corporal punishment
	for children in the legal system.	against children will be outlawed.

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

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

3. Issue n°3: Education and health

Delegati	ons	Recommendations	Responses by Mauritius
Egypt,	New	Encourage girls to pursue	Measures are being taken to make sure
Zealand		non-vocational forms of	that students are implemented into the
		education	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,	Continue with its plans	The National Children's council was created
Senegal	and policies to eliminate	in 1990, responsible for enforcing the
	domestic violence	Convention of the Rights of the Child.
	against children.	The Brigade for the Protection of Minors was
Estonia	Continue with positive	set up in 2004, which acts as watchdog
	steps to enhance the	against all forms of exploitation and abuse
	rights of children.	against children.
Brazil	Put in place initiatives	
	that spread awareness	Mauritius will continue its human rights
	of the violation of	education program. There is a weekly
	children's rights,	television channel focused on human 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,	Continue to harmonize laws	Mauritius continues to work on its
Madagascar,	in line with the CRC.	legislation.
Malasie	Continue to work on the	
	Children's Bill.	
Montenegro	Ratify the 3 rd Optional	*no comment*
_	Protocol on the Rights of	
	the Child	

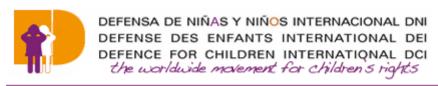
III- Other relevant issues with positive feedbacks by the States present at the review:

• 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 2012-1015 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]