



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND  
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE MAURICE AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES  
ET DES AUTRES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES

*44<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on Economic, Social and  
Cultural Rights*

*Palais Wilson, Geneva, 10 May 2010*

\*\*\*\*\*

EXAMINATION OF THE SECOND, THIRD AND FOURTH PERIODIC  
REPORTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION BY MAURITIUS OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC,

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

CONCLUDING STATEMENT

BY H.E. MR. S.B.C SERVANSING ,

AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MAURITIUS  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

*Please check against delivery*

**Mr. Chairperson,  
Distinguished Members of the Committee,  
Members of the staff of the Secretariat,  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Allow me on behalf of my delegation and in my personal name, to convey our sincere thanks to you and through you to all the Members of the Committee for the active and sincere engagement we have had in the context of the examination of the implementation by Mauritius of its obligations under the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. My delegation is particularly grateful for the genuine interest with which the Members of the Committee contributed to the productive deliberations of the meeting.

Please rest assured that we have taken good note of all the views and observations made by the distinguished Members of the Committee during our review. We are convinced that behind the insightful and constructive observations, made in a spirit of dialogue, lies a genuine call for Mauritius to do even better. This is your mission of which we are very respectful as I had underlined in my introductory statement on Friday. The Government of Mauritius will certainly reflect on them with an open mind and within the confines of our Constitution which has served Mauritius, a multiracial and multicultural country, very well since its independence.

In our humble view, the examination of the second, third and fourth periodic reports of the implementation by Mauritius of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has illustrated that Mauritius remains firmly committed to ensuring the enjoyment of the highest level of economic, social and cultural rights by its population.

## **Mr. Chairperson**

### **Distinguished Members of the Committee**

In one of his many statements on the issue of human rights, Dr the Honourable Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius, observed that

#### *Quote*

*"Human Rights for All" should not remain only a distant dream but become a reality for everyone, everywhere."*

#### *Unquote*

This vision of universality for the enjoyment of all human rights has underpinned his political engagements nationally and internationally. Therefore, it should be a surprise to no one if promotion and protection of human rights in all their aspects is one of the top priorities and an essential article of faith of the Government of Mauritius. Indeed, the continued maintenance of our welfare state system, our strict adherence to good governance and rule of law, our respect for labour, social and cultural rights, our institutional frameworks for protecting the rights of the child, of women, of the disabled, and of the vulnerable groups and the sanctity of our Constitution, which rests on the doctrine of separation of powers, all testify to our unflinching and deeply entrenched commitment to the full enjoyment of the rights of the person. As I had indicated on Friday, far from being complacent, the Government of Mauritius is fully engaged in expanding the breadth and depth of our rights-based approach to economic development, social justice and human rights, with the aim of making Mauritius a human rights island. Our development partners, including the international financing institutions, do recognize this fact.

**Mr Chairperson  
Distinguished Members of the Committee  
Members of the staff of the Secretariat,  
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In one of its General Comments (Comment No.9), the Committee noted that by requiring Governments to give effect "by all appropriate means" to the rights recognized in the Covenant, the Covenant adopts a broad and flexible approach which enables the particularities of the legal and administrative systems of each State, as well as other relevant considerations, to be taken into account.

In the light of this pertinent observation and considering the commitment of the Government of Mauritius, I can reassure this august body that Mauritius will live up to its responsibility with regard to its obligations under the Covenant,

It is fitting, Mr. Chairperson, for me to seize this opportunity to warmly congratulate you for your diligence and for the high authority you have exercised throughout our interactive session. This is gratefully appreciated by my delegation.

We would also like to acknowledge the seriousness and dedication with which the Members of the Committee have undertaken this review exercise and this in spite of the difficult conditions in which they have to operate. We are also thankful to the Secretariat of the Committee for its sense of service throughout this exercise.

We look forward to receiving with much interest the concluding observations of the Committee which, we hope, will reflect the spirit of dialogue and understanding that has prevailed throughout this important review exercise.

I thank you.