

**Curriculum Vitae of Ms. Pramila PATTEN**  
**Candidate of the Republic of Mauritius to CEDAW**

**Personal data**

**Name :** Pramila Patten

**Date and place of birth:** 29<sup>th</sup> June 1958, Mauritius

**Nationality:** Mauritian

**Working languages:** English, French

**Residence:** Avenue Les Capitaines,  
Albion,  
Mauritius.  
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**Academic qualifications:**

- LLB Honours (First Class) – University of London, United Kingdom;
- Diploma in Criminology – Kings College, Cambridge, United Kingdom;
- Professional & Vocational Bar - Council of Legal Education, United Kingdom;
- LLM –Master’s Degree in Law, University of London, United Kingdom;
- Member of the English Bar – called as a Barrister at Gray’s Inn, UK;

**Professional activities:**

- Practising Barrister-at-Law - 1982-1986
- Legal Advisor –Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations – Termination of Contract and Services Board – 1982 – 1986

- District Court Magistrate -1986 -1988
- Practising Barrister – 1988 –todate
- Lecturer in Company Law and Industrial and Intellectual Property law – University of Mauritius – 1987 -1992
- Head of law firm Patten & Co Chambers – 1995 to date;
- Adviser to the Ministry of Women’s Rights, Child Development and Family Welfare -2000-2004
- Adviser to the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights – 2005-2006

**International functions:**

- Member of CEDAW - January 2003 –December 2010 with the following functions: a) Member of Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol to CEDAW-2005-2010; b) Chair of Working Group on Communications under the Optional Protocol-2005 -2006;
- Commissioner in International Commission of Inquiry in the massacre in Conakry, Guinea –Nov –Dec 2009
- Consultant for the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ):
  - i) National Consultation on draft Bill on Domestic Violence –New Delhi, India (Mar 2003)
  - ii) Regional Consultation on Violence against Women –Egypt (May 2003)
  - iii) Head of ICJ Fact Finding Mission in Bangladesh on “Acid burning” and “Domestic violence” –(September 2003)
- Consultant for l’Assemblée Parlementaire de la Francophonie:
 

Training of Parliamentarians at sub-Regional level on CEDAW, its Optional Protocol and other treaty bodies in :

  - i) Madagascar (April 2005)
  - ii) Gabon (December 2005)
  - iii) Tunisia (October 2006)
- Consultant for Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) and ILO, Geneva:
  - i) Training of Parliamentarians and Chairperson of Parliamentary Committees on CEDAW –( Dec 2006)

- ii) Training of Parliamentarians on CEDAW and the Optional Protocol (Dec 2007)

**Provision of technical assistance to State Parties (CEDAW - related work):**

- **Timor Leste** – Implementation of CEDAW concluding observations – Presentation of CEDAW recommendations to Council of Ministers (Nov 2009)
- **Thailand** – CEDAW and Gender and Climate Change ( Sept 2009)
- **Japan** – Training on CEDAW and Optional Protocol to CEDAW ( June 2009)
- **Pakistan** – Preparation of National Action Plan on implementation of concluding observations of CEDAW (July 2009)
- **Turkmenistan** –
  - i) Training on CEDAW Implementation (August 2008)
  - ii) Training of Inter-Ministerial Committee on CEDAW reporting (April 2009)
  - iii) Resource person at International Conference on International Standards in Gender Policies (April 2009)
  - iv) Keynote speaker at Conference on the 30th anniversary of CEDAW - Ashgabat, Turkmenistan (September 2009)
  - v) Training on Optional Protocol to CEDAW and review of draft Family Code (September 2009)
- **Azerbaijan** –Training on CEDAW implementation (April 2008)
- **Haiti** – CEDAW reporting and implementation and mock session in preparation of examination of report by CEDAW Committee (Dec 2008)
- **Kyrgyzstan** – Training on CEDAW reporting (Nov 2007)
- **Polynesie Francaise** -Training of Parliamentarians and Government Representatives of Polynesie Francaise, New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna – Tahiti (Oct 2005)

**Regional functions:**

- Member of the Executive Committee of a Pan African network of Women's Rights organisations –WILDAF (Women in Law and Development in Africa) 1993 -1999

- Member of the Governing Council of African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies, Banjul, Gambia 1998 – 2010
- Vice-chair of the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (October 2004-2010)
- Member of Advisory Panel for the Africa Women’s Rights Observatory (AWRO)- appointed by United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) –March 2007
- Member of Committee on Women and Development (CWD) appointed in July 2008 by United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) –July 2008;
- International Observer at Presidential Elections in Comores –(March 1996)

**Selected Conferences and Seminars:**

- Keynote speaker and Resource Person at Global UNIFEM conference - Bangkok, Thailand (March 2009 )
- Resource person / Panelist in Expert Group Meeting on “Equality before the Law” organized by the Human Rights Council – Palais des Nations, Geneva (June 2009)
- Resource person at International Conference On Women- South Korea (November 2008)
- Keynote speaker and Resource Person at the launch of Regional Campaign of the Middle-East on “ Withdrawal of Reservations to CEDAW and the ratification of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW” –Rabat, Morocco (June 2006)
- Resource person at 9<sup>th</sup> World Interdisciplinary Congress on Women –Seoul, South Korea (June 2005)
- Resource Person at Global Consultation on the Optional Protocol to CEDAW- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (August 2005)
- Resource person on “Gender, Minorities & Indigenous Peoples” - Institute of Commonwealth Studies, London, UK (August 2004)

- Resource person at Expert panel discussion of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action on the issue of Complementary Standards to strengthen, update International Instruments against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, Related Intolerance – Palais des Nations, Geneva (October 2004)
- Resource person at Expert group meeting on Art 3 of IESCR – Toronto, Canada (July 2003)
- Resource person at Expert Group Meeting on “Using the Optional Protocol to CEDAW” - University of Michigan Law School and Equality Now – Detroit, U.S.A (November 2001)
- Resource person at WHO International Conference on Global Tobacco Law - New Delhi, India (January 2000)
- Resource person at 11<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Tobacco OR Health- Chicago, U.S.A (August 2000)
- Member of drafting panel on WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
- Resource person at British Council International Seminar on “Managing change : Strategic Management for Women leaders in NGOs” - London , UK (April 1999)
- Resource person at WHO International Assembly Conference on “Avoiding the Tobacco Epidemic in Women and Youth”- Kobe, Japan (November 1999)
- Resource person at Expert group meeting on the complementarity between CEDAW and CRC- New York (January 1998)
- Resource Person at several Training Courses in Africa on “*International Human Rights Procedures and the Protection of Women’s Rights in Africa*”, organised by the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies –(1997-1999)
- Resource Person and Chair of Drafting Committee of Declaration on “**Women and Trade**” at seminars on “ Women and Trade in SADC countries ” – Kwa – Zulu (June 1998) and Pretoria (April 1999)
- Resource person at UNESCO Expert Group Meeting on Racial Discrimination- Benin (1997)
- Member of Drafting Committee of the Beijing Platform for Action- Washington (March 1995)

- Participant at World Conference on Women –Beijing, China (August 1995)
- Co- Chair of Drafting Committee at Regional Conference on Women- Dakar, Senegal (November 1994)
- Participant at Social Summit –Copenhagen ( 1995)
- Participant at World Conference on Population and Development- Cairo, Egypt (1994)
- Participant at World Conference on Human Rights –Vienna (June 1993)
- Resource person at first All Africa Seminar on “Human Rights Education” launched by President Nelson Mandela – Durban, South Africa ( 1994)
- Resource person at second All Africa Seminar on “Human Rights Education” - – Cairo, Egypt ( 1995)

**National functions:**

- Deputy Mayor -1982 -1983
- Municipal Councillor – 1983-1986
- Founder and President of an NGO - Women’s Legal Action Watch (WLAW), Mauritius (1992)
- Chair of the National Advocacy Team of the Mauritius Family Planning Association (January 2000)
- Adviser to the Minister of Women’s Rights, Child Development and Family Welfare, Mauritius - 2000 - 2004
- Chairperson of Task Force instituted by the Government of Mauritius to review all discriminatory laws against women -2000-2002
- Chairperson of Task Force instituted by the Government of Mauritius to review laws relating to the protection of children- 2002-2004
- Report on the “Reform of the Family Justice System in Mauritius and the establishment of a Family Court” -2005

- Drafted the following Bills for the Government of Mauritius:
  - i) The Child Protection Bill – 1993
  - ii) Protection from Domestic Violence (Amendment) Bill
  - iii) National Children’s Council Regulations - 2003
  - iv) Sex Discrimination Bill – 2003
  - v) Ombudsperson for Children Bill - 2003
  - vi) Family Law Bill – 2006
  - vii) Family Court Bill -2006

**Selected Publications in the area of human rights:**

Sexual harassment at work -1993

Violence against Women- 1995

The rights of children – international, regional and national -1997

Guide on UN mechanisms and fundamental rights of women -1997

Marriage Laws in Mauritius - 1999

Articles :

- “Passport to Dignity” –published by PHRE
- “The Circle of Empowerment -25 years of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women”
- “Gender, Women and Tobacco” –WHO Report

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