



**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**

No. 184/2015 (MMG/HR/28/1)

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to its Note dated 31 March 2015 pertaining to the resolution 24/20 adopted on 27 September 2013 has the honour to attach herewith inputs by the Government of the Republic of Mauritius to the questionnaire by the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons to assess the human rights implication of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



**The Secretariat of the Office of the
High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva**

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SECURITY, NATIONAL SOLIDARITY & REFORMS INSTITUTIONS

UN Questionnaire to assess human rights implication of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing

<p>Question 1</p>	<p>Government of Mauritius has incorporated a human rights based approach in the implementation of MIPAA namely through the following:</p> <p>(a) Income Security</p> <p>Provision of income security to all elderly persons aged 60 years and above through a Multi-Pillar Pension System based on:</p> <p>(i) Universal Non-contributory Basic Retirement Pension (currently around 150 US \$ a month). Around 60% of the budget of the Ministry of Social Security, NS & RI is devoted to payment of this Pension.</p> <p>(ii) Contributory Pension through the National Pension Scheme for both public and private sector which provides various benefits to beneficiaries and a monthly pension on reaching the retirement age or an optional reduced pension at the age of 60.</p> <p>(iii) National Savings Fund Scheme which is a Provident Fund for both public and private sector which provides for the payment of a lump sum to beneficiaries on reaching retirement age.</p> <p>(iv) Private Occupational Scheme is on an optional basis and provides for different private pensions.</p> <p>(v) Provision of additional assistances in cash or in kind to low income groups. The main assistances for the needy elderly are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rent allowance to elderly persons living alone and in receipt of Social Aid • Allowance for dentures • Incontinence allowance to elderly aged 75 and above and bedridden • Income support • Funeral grants in respect of the beneficiary • Carer's Allowance
-------------------	--

(b) Health and long Term Care

- (i) Free Medical Services including tertiary health care.
- (ii) Free Vaccination Programme yearly.
- (iii) Free domiciliary visits to those aged 75 years and above who are severely disabled and to those aged 90 years and above.
- (iv) Carer's Allowance to elderly persons aged 60 years and above who are severely disabled.
- (v) Formal and Informal Carer's Training Programme with a view to improving quality of care to elderly.
- (vi) Operation of Health Clubs to provide preventive health care programme for the Elderly.
- (vii) Operation of a Specialised Residential Care Centre for Elderly persons with severe disabilities.
- (viii) Introduction of a "Service de Proximité" to elderly persons with disabilities and those living alone to improve the quality of life of the elderly persons.

(c) Enabling Environment

- (i) Free public transportation to all elderly persons aged 60 years and above.
- (ii) The establishment of a Senior Citizens Council under the Senior Citizens Council Act with a view to inter alia determine the areas in which the welfare of seniors citizens needs to be improved, to promote generally activities and projects for the well being of senior citizens.
Some 700 Senior Citizens Associations comprising 86,000 members are affiliated to the Council.
- (iii) Operation of a network of Elderly Day Care Centres where educational, adult literacy, handicrafts, proper cooking methods and keep fit activities are organized for the elderly.
- (iv) Operation of 3 Residential Recreation Centres where the elderly have the opportunity to enjoy two-night stay in a hotel type environment at a high subsidised rate. A fourth one will be constructed by 2016.

	<p>(v) The Protection of Elderly Persons Act, 2005 aims at providing adequate protection to elderly persons. A network of Elderly Watch comprising senior citizens, volunteers, and youngsters has been set up under the Act to ensure protection to the elderly at the grass-root level.</p> <p>(vi) Research is being carried out by the Observatory on Ageing with a view to facilitating policy and decision making in the elderly sector.</p>
<p>Question 2</p>	<p>Protection is provided to elderly persons under the Protection of Elderly persons Act 2005 and covers all elderly persons, including women and those who are disabled.</p> <p>Services are also provided by the Family Welfare Protection Unit of the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and family Welfare to elderly persons who are victims of violence.</p>
<p>Question 3</p>	<p>Seminars and workshops were organised at National and Regional Level with the participation of all stakeholders with a view to sensitizing all concerned about MIPAA and its implementation process.</p> <p>Senior Citizens Associations are represented on the Executive committee of the Senior Citizens Council by democratically elected representatives from 10 regions of the country.</p> <p>The Representatives play an important role in participating in the decision-making process concerning elderly issues.</p>
<p>Questions 4 & 5</p>	<p>In Mauritius, MIPAA has apposite impact on equality and non-discrimination of elderly persons and their right to an adequate standard of living.</p> <p>In fact, elderly persons feel much empowered in Mauritius and take full advantage of the various existing mechanisms in case of need for support. They have also access to a wide range of social services support, health care services, an enabling environment and proper family support.</p> <p>According to the Help Age International , Mauritius has been ranked 1st among African countries and 38rd Worldwide on the Global Age/Watch Index 2014, which measures the quality of life and wellbeing of Elderly persons in terms of income security, health , status, work and education opportunities and enabling social environment. Mauritius is the top African countries which has a universal noncontributory pension.</p>

<p>Question 6</p>	<p>The payment of a non-contributory Universal Basic Pension and provision of free public transport to every elderly person aged 60 years and above as well as the provision of free health care services up to tertiary level constitute three best practices in Mauritius from human rights perspective.</p> <p>These three practices help in providing to the elderly persons adequate income security, health care support, dignity, independence of movement and respect within the family unit. They constitute major ingredients for promoting the social inclusion of elderly persons.</p>
<p>Question 7</p>	<p>Continuous awareness campaign for the respect and protection of the elderly form an integral part of the strategy of the Mauritian Government.</p> <p>However, in the context of the rapid socio-economic development, the major challenges relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) The provision of specialized geriatric care services;(ii) The increasing number of elderly persons living alone with the related risks to security and care;(iii) The gradual disregard for the tradition of respect and care of the elderly;(iv) The increasing reluctance to recognize the traditional role of elderly persons in promoting human values, respect and intergenerational solidarity within society;(v) The charitable institutions will be required to install CCTV cameras for the security of the inmates.