G**overnment of the Republic of Mauritius**

**Submission of inputs for the Report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights of older persons in the context of climate change-induced disasters and building back better**

1. **Legislative Framework**

Legislation that provide for the protection of older persons include: -

1. The Constitution of the Republic of Mauritius
2. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act 2016
3. The Protection of Elderly Persons Act 2005
4. The Protection from Domestic Violence Act 1997
5. The Criminal Code
6. **The Welfare and Elderly Persons' Protection Unit**

The Welfare and Elderly Persons' Protection Unit (WEPPU) has been set up following the enactment of the Protection of Elderly Persons' Act 2005 to deal with complaints from elderly persons who are in need of assistance or protection and take such measures as may be necessary.

The WEPPU also organises public awareness and sensitization campaigns on the rights of the elderly and the need to provide them with assistance and protection.

1. **Measures taken to promote climate change mitigation and adaptation**

Various measures include, inter alia:

1. the proclamation of the Climate Change Act 2020, which establishes a legal framework towards making Mauritius a climate-change resilient, and low emission country;
2. the Inter-Ministerial council under the Climate Change Act which has the power to make climate change policies and set priorities for adaptation; and
3. a Department of Climate Change has been established to develop and coordinate policies, projects, strategies, programmes and action plans to address the adverse effects of climate change and oversee their implementation by relevant stakeholders.
4. **Contingency Plans prepared by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre (NDRRMC)**

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre (NDRRMC) has prepared Contingency plans to deal with any disaster in flood prone areas, including development of contingency plans for vulnerable areas, Community Disaster Response Programme (CDRP) and the development of contingency plans for Residential Care Homes (RCHs).

1. **Free Mobile App for protection of senior citizens - 'Sekirite'**

The Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity launched a new mobile app in 2022, geared towards the safety and protection of older persons.

The mobile app acts as a panic button on a person’s smartphone. With just one click, elderly persons can alert the closest police station, and get help as quickly as possible. The app allows the police to locate the user. Officers of the Ministry also receive distress signals from the app so as to provide required support to elderly persons.

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