



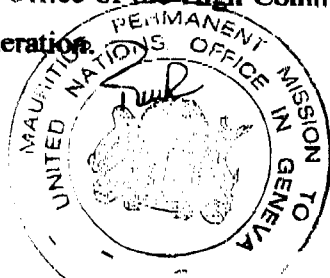
**MAURITIUS MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
GENEVA**

No. 12/2007 MMG/HR/3/D

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and with reference to the Office's Note GVA 2550 of 13 October 2006 has the honour to transmit, as attached, the comments of the Government of the Republic of Mauritius on the steps taken to promote and implement programmes to address HIV-related human rights of women, children and vulnerable groups in the context of prevention, care and access to treatment as described in the Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights.

The delay in submitting the information is regretted.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations 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.



Geneva, 11 January 2007

**Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais des Nations
8-14 Avenue de la Paix
CH-1211 Geneva 10**

Fax No: 022 917 90 10 (Attn : Mr. James Heenan)

OHCHR REGISTRY

11 JAN. 2007

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Resolution E/CN.4/RES/2005/84 : « The protection of human rights in the context of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) »

Steps taken to protect HIV-related human rights and to achieve public health goals with regards to guidelines elaborated to implement an effective, rights-based response :

1. A National Multi-sectoral Strategic Framework 2001 – 2005 has already been completed addressing issues pertaining to all aspects of HIV/AIDS including prevention, care and support. An evaluation of the Plan has indicated that 90% has been completed. The next National Multi-sectoral Strategic Framework 2006 – 2010 is being finalised.
2. The Government of Mauritius strongly believes in the Commitment for political support without which, no progress can be achieved in any field. Accordingly, a National AIDS Committee chaired by the Prime Minister and comprising 8 other Ministers, representatives of Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisations, the private sector, parliamentarians and people living with HIV/AIDS was set up to monitor and ensure smooth implementation of the Strategic Plan.
3. New legislation including a "Sex Discrimination Act" and a "Sexual Offences Act" have been enacted to protect women from sexual assaults thus reducing women's vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. Children are being protected by the «Child Protection Act».
4. An HIV and AIDS Bill is actually being finalised and will be brought to the National Assembly for enactment shortly. This Bill will be an important tool in the fight against HIV/AIDS : apart from making provision for effective prevention and care & support programmes, it will ensure an effective national framework with coordinated approach to eliminate all forms of

discrimination and ensure the full enjoyment of human rights by people living with HIV/AIDS :

- The latter's status shall not be used as a ground to discriminate against him
 - Testing facilities will ensure Counselling, Consent and Confidentiality
5. Clause 6 of the Bill made mention of HIV test cannot be imposed upon a person as a condition for employment, continued employment or for procurement of goods and services.
 6. As regards prevention, which remains the backbone of our control programme, strategic interventions have been identified and are being carried out to target the population at large and the vulnerable groups including student population and out of school children.
 7. In Mauritius, prevention, care, support and treatment have been integrated in a comprehensive and holistic package when dealing with HIV/AIDS. Antiretroviral therapy are being provided free of user's cost to all those in need.
 8. The Constitution of Mauritius guarantees appeal to free legal support, ombudspersons and human rights commission.
 9. A medium and long term media plan is being elaborated essentially to promote prevention strategies and behavioural change communication.
 10. In line with the UNAIDS guiding principles, a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework for HIV/AIDS responses has been elaborated and a National Strategic Framework is being finalised.