



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

MISSION PERMANENTE DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE MAURICE AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit herewith attached the inputs of the Government of Mauritius pertaining to resolution A/RES/69/146 entitled "Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing", which was adopted by the General Assembly in December 2014.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Division for Social Policy and Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, of the United Nations, the assurances of its highest consideration.



New York, 04 June 2015

**Division for Social Policy and Development
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations
New York**

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SECURITY, NATIONAL SOLIDARITY & REFORM INSTITUTIONS

INPUT OF ELDERLY SECTOR

Following the Madrid International Plan of action on Ageing (MIPAA) and the United Nations Principles for Senior Citizens adopted by the Second UN General Assembly in 2002, the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity & Reforms Institutions, launched a **National Policy on Ageing in 2008**, with major focus on the “developmental approach” to ageing and aimed at promoting a “Society for All Ages”. The ageing issue was thus considered from the following three-pronged perspective:

- Older persons and development
- Advancing health and well-being into old age
- Ensuring enabling and supportive environments

The Ministry in collaboration with relevant stakeholders had implemented a number of policy measures and recommendations contained in the National Policy on Ageing (2008) for promoting the social integration of elderly persons, ensuring their protection, encouraging their participation in society, recognizing their skills and experience and providing for their well-being.

Services and Benefits Provided To the Elderly

Mauritius has a five pillar pension system very much like the ideal pension model recommended by the World Bank – (*Old-Age Income Support In The Twenty-First Century*).

Following the accession of the new Government there has been a sizeable increase in all basic pensions as follows:

(ii) Senior Citizens Council

The Senior Citizens Council has been established under the Senior Citizens Council Act 1985 which operates under the aegis of the Ministry. It is now governed by the Senior Citizens Council Act 1995, amended on 6 July 2011. The Senior Citizens Council counts about 80,000 (aged 55 and over) members and 725 Regional Senior Citizens Associations. Educational, leisure and recreational activities are organised regularly by Senior Citizens Associations and the Senior Citizens Council also provides a grant to Senior Citizens Associations in Mauritius and Rodrigues at the end of the year for them to organize their own activities.

(iii) Residential Recreational Centres

The Elderly enjoys two-night stay in a hotel type environment at a highly subsidised rate of Rs 250 at the 3 Recreation Centres in the North, East and West. A fourth one will be constructed in the South of the Island.

(iv) Elderly Day Care Centres

20 Elderly Day Care Centres are run by the Ministry, where educational, adult literacy, IT Literacy, Handicrafts & Embroidery classes, proper cooking methods and health programmes are organized. The Elderly Day Care Centres are managed by Local Management Committee comprising of volunteers mainly elderly. Computer clubs have been set up in all the Elderly Day Care Centres and the elderly are being initiated in the use of computers and internet facilities. 25 Health Clubs have also been set up in Elderly Day Care Centres, Social Welfare Centres and Community Centres. Health activities are being carried out thereat.

(v) Elderly Village

An elderly village known as "Residence Bois Savon" consists of 24 living units which are meant for the widows over 60 years of age, who used to live alone in rented houses and for which they were in receipt of an allowance to settle the monthly rent. They should be childless and without

(x) Centre for severely disabled person - Foyer Trochetia

A centre for severely disabled persons named "Foyer Trochetia" for heavily dependent older persons is managed by the Ministry in collaboration with an NGO. Physiotherapists rehabilitate inmates in the Charitable Institution who are bedridden and disabled. Inmates are trained by Occupational Therapist to be independent and to carry out activities of their daily living. Most of inmates of charitable institution have mental problems such as Dementia and Alzheimer. Mental rehabilitation is carried out by trained nurses and occupational therapist.

(xi) Charitable Institutions

Medical visits are offered to elderly living in the Charitable Institutions. Moreover, Mental Rehabilitation Programme by nurses & Occupational therapist are provided to the Elderly. Physiotherapists rehabilitate inmates in the Charitable Institution who are bedridden and disabled. The Officers of the Ministry carry out regular visits in these Institutions to ensure that the grant in aid is well spent and that the residents are receiving proper treatment.

In addition, the Ministry provides Capitation Grant per elderly residing in the 22 Charitable Institutions

The Basic Retirement Pension is stopped for the elderly and in lieu an Inmates Allowance is provided to them as pocket money.

(xii) Protection of Elderly Persons

The Protection of Elderly Persons Act 2005 was proclaimed in 2006 for the protection and security of the elderly in Mauritius. The object of the Act is to ensure that adequate protection and assistance are made available to elderly persons in Mauritius and Rodrigues. The provision of the following institutional mechanisms have been set up to promote and sustain the physical, emotional, social, cultural and economic protection of elderly persons;

New Measures

To enhance the Protection, Security and Wellbeing of the Elderly, the Ministry is coming with new projects for the year 2015-2016 as follows:

➤ Protection of the Elderly

The existing legislations in respect of Charitable Institutions will be further strengthened and the Institutions will be required to install CCTV cameras on their premises, ensure the presence of a full-time Medical Practitioner and the recruitment of qualified and trained carers as well as a Psychologist.

Moreover, sensitization campaign for the need to value and protect the elderly will be enhanced at school & community level.

➤ Service de Proximité

A "Service de Proximité" will be provided to needy elderly and those with severe disabilities by providing special support care by trained carers, doctors, psychologists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and social care.

➤ Residential Recreational Centres

In view of the high demand for recreational facilities, the Government will set up a fourth Recreation Centre to meet the incoming demand for a stay at the Recreation Centres. Presently the elderly have to wait for one and half to two years to get a stay at the Recreation Centres.

➤ Activity Facility Centres

The Elderly Day Care Centres which will now be known as Activity Facility Centres where Elderly and Persons with Disabilities will be offered new and needs- related programmes to

Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare

Inputs to the General Assembly Resolution 69/146 of 02 February 2015 “Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing”

The Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare has provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity & Reform Institutions for the formulation of its Sectoral Gender Policy. The Gender and disability perspectives have been incorporated in all policy actions on ageing which are listed in that document. Data are also disaggregated by sex and disability. Moreover, a Gender Cell has been set up to ensure that policies for elderly, including women are framed with a gender lens.

The Ministry also regularly conducts Information, Education and Communication programmes and workshops to empower women of all age groups and to sensitise them on various issues related to health, poverty, legal rights, sports, environment and gender-based violence, amongst others. In addition, the National Women's Council, a parastatal operating under the aegis of the Ministry also conducts Information, Education and Communication Campaigns and workshops on social, economic and political issues. In 2014, 144,648 women have been reached through these activities.

Furthermore, the Ministry is implementing an Inter-Generation Relationship Programme, whose main objective is to consolidate ties within the family and promote family values among the three generations, that is, youth, parents and grandparents. National/Regional awareness programmes are conducted across the island with a view to sensitizing the three generations on the importance of the intergeneration relationship. The other objectives of the programme are to:

- (i) enhance a sense of family belonging and security;
- (ii) promote high values for family and traditions thereby creating a source of wisdom and stability;
- (iii) create a link between cultural heritage, and present day customs; and
- (iv) alleviate family and child stress thus diminishing inter-generational conflicts.

For the period January to December 2014, five regional workshops were organized and some 385 participants including children, parents and grand-parents have participated therein.