

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade
(Human Rights Division)**

**The Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights
and impeding the exercise of the rights of people to self-determination**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Mauritius has a well-organised Police, including a Paramilitary Force, to ensure the security of the Country. Moreover, there is neither any evidence of the existence of mercenary activities in Mauritius or its outer islands, nor the Mauritian Government has enacted any domestic legislation regarding such activities.

2. Legislative framework

- 2.1 There is no national legislative or regulatory framework providing for private military, private militia and/or security companies in immigration and border control/management.

3. Maritime security measures

- 3.1 The National Coast Guard (NCG) has various Protocols and good practices in terms of maritime security measures namely: -
- i. NCG undertakes surveillance of Mauritian waters from the aspect of Maritime safety and security. The Primary concern of the NCG is the detection of suspicious activities which may contribute to drug trafficking, IUU and other illicit activities such as piracy, arm trafficking, human trafficking and similar crimes at sea;
 - ii. the NCG ships regularly patrol territorial waters and beyond, to maintain vigilance against suspicious activities. The NCG interrogates merchant and fishing vessels at high seas and also undertakes random boarding of fishing boats and pleasure crafts during patrolling;
 - iii. the NCG Dornier aircraft undertakes aerial surveillance in different sectors on a daily basis. During their patrol/surveillance mission, they also communicate with vessels via radio (on MMB Ch 16) and they keep a database of the traffic and related activities;
 - iv. the NCG Posts are equipped with boats and crafts to keep watch on activities within the lagoons and territorial waters. There is at least one Fast Interceptor Boat in each area to undertake surveillance in areas outside the lagoon;
 - v. the Harbour Security Unit of the NCG carries out regular boarding of fishing vessels that enter Port Louis harbor. They also undertake boarding of merchant ships based on intelligence information;
 - vi. the NCG proactively engages with various Regional Maritime agencies like the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC) at Madagascar,

which provides inputs towards the maritime activities in the region. Additionally, NCG acquires specific information/inputs on various fishing activities in the region through the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) of Indian Navy in the context of Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA);

- vii. NCG Ops Room maintains close liaison with local and regional agencies like CROSS. Reunion Island and other adjoining MRCCs for the effective operation of the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre for management of maritime as well as aeronautical Search and Rescue (SAR) situations in the Search and Rescue Region (SRR) of Mauritius and;
 - viii. NCG also has a Coastal Surveillance Radar System which was commissioned in 2011. This system is used for monitoring on a 24 x 7 basis, the movement of vessels in and beyond the territorial waters of Mauritius. Any vessel found transiting in the territorial waters which is on the innocent passage are advised to keep clear of the coast via radio communication. The inputs such as Last Port of Call, Next Port of Call and Type of Cargo Onboard of these vessels are obtained.
- 3.2 In addition to the above, the following measures also strengthen maritime security:
- i. The requirements of the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code have been implemented for port facilities;
 - ii. Vessels registered under the Mauritius Flag are compliant to the requirements of the ISPS Code; and
 - iii. The Merchant Shipping (Security of Ships) Regulations and Piracy and Maritime Violence Act 2011 are also in force.

3.3 The Police Helicopter Squadron

Mauritius has acquired a Dhruv MK-III from India's Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. It covers the upgraded version of MK III, which features an all-glass cockpit, integrated architecture displays and automatic flight control systems. It will be piloted by the Mauritius Police Force.

The Dhruv MK-III is the second Dhruv helicopter that Mauritius will obtain after the Indian government loaned the country the Dhruv MK I in 2009 in order to strengthen maritime surveillance capabilities. The device also features the most advanced surveillance radar capable of detecting and identifying ships and boats up to a range of 120 nautical miles to aid the Coast Guard in their duty to protect the nation against the threats. The Dhruv MK-III will reinforce the fleet of the Police Helicopter Squadron which currently has six helicopters, namely, four Chetak, the Fennec and the Dhruv MK-I.

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