# government RESPONSE

**Questionnaire in relation to Human Rights Council resolution 53/6 on human rights and climate change**

1. **Impacts of climate change on the full enjoyment of human rights**

Mauritius as a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) is highly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change as highlighted in the 6th report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The frequency of extreme weather, heavy rains and tropical cyclones has increased significantly over the last decades as a result of climate change. The flash flood which occurred in March 2013 in Port Louis caused the death of 11 people. In January 2024, Mauritius was hit by heavy flooding in the wake of tropical cyclone Belal, which caused 2 casualties and extensive damage to infrastructure.

1. **Mechanisms and tools to measure, monitor, report on, and evaluate the impacts climate change**

The Statistics Unit of the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change collects, compiles and publishes environment related statistics based on the recommended UN Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics, 2013 (FDES 2013).

The FDES 2013 consists of around 458 statistics/indicators, of which around 175 are covered in the Digest of Environment Statistics published by Statistics Mauritius.

1. **Policies, legislation, practices, strategies, or institutional arrangements to undertake approaches and solutions.**

The Climate Change Act (2020) entered into force on 22 April 2021 and establishes a legal framework aimed at making Mauritius a climate-change resilient, and low emission country. The 2020 Act makes provision under section 8(2)(m) to take into consideration, inter alia, human rights, cultural heritage and gender issues.

In line with provisions of the 2020 Act, an Inter-Ministerial Council on Climate Change chaired by the Honourable Prime Minister was set up to set national objectives, goals, targets and make climate change policies with a view to making Mauritius a climate change-resilient and low emission country. In the same line, a Climate Change Committee was also set up at the level of the Ministry of Environment, for a multi-stakeholder approach in the preparation of national climate change strategies and action plans for mitigation and adaptation measures.

Under section 29(2)(b), the 2020 Act provides for the implementation or enforcement of an obligation under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement or any related instrument on climate change.

The climate change Act 2020, also provides at section 8(2)(m) for the Department of Climate Change to commission studies on climate change, taking into consideration, inter alia, human rights, cultural heritage and gender issues.

Presently through international support, Mauritius is exploring the possibility of developing a set of methodologies for assessing losses and damages at critical locations as well as capacity building to undertake assessment to quantify financial needs in the event of losses and damages.

1. **The COP28**

In relations to the COP28, during a panel titled “*Small Island Developing States: A Just and Equitable Energy Transition Towards A Climate-Resilient Future*.” , the Hon. Minister for Environment, Solid Waste Management, and Climate Change outlined the progress made in the fields of climate adaptation and the just transition in Mauritius focussing on the need for SIDS to access renewable energy technologies. He also highlighted the urgency for SIDS’ transition towards a climate-resilient future due to their inherent vulnerabilities.

Emphasis was laid on the importance of the operationalisation of the Loss and Damage Financing Mechanism for SIDS which aims to be responsive and to cater for both slow onset and extreme weather events.

1. **Challenges**

Challenges faced include the lack of a dedicated autonomous Disaster Statistics Unit, the lack of reliable baseline data for comparison for the Sendai Framework.

In this context, assessing the true impact of disasters is also a challenge with regards to the Methodology for assessment of Loss and Damage and the development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index.

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