**MAURITIAN government RESPONSE**

Call for submissions: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons

The State of Mauritius is not a party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees.

However, the State of Mauritius adheres to the principle of non-refoulement and collaborates fully with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees by authorising non-citizens to stay in the country on humanitarian grounds, pending their resettlement to another country.

**Climate change and internal displacement**

People may exceptionally leave their habitual residence for reasons such as landslide and flooding.

During climate related disasters structures and temporary shelters used by vulnerable groups that are usually made from corrugated iron sheets, wood and other materials may deteriorate and incur damaged. Following heavy rain/flood, those living in temporary structures may be compelled to leave the housing due to disaster risks.

Individuals without any adequate housing may seek refuge in in shelter that are opened across the island or in specific disaster struck regions.

During cyclonic weather, the affected population is relocated to community shelters and is provided with a basic subsistence allowance from the Ministry of Social Security, National Solidarity and Reform Institutions. The affected population may also be eligible for financial assistance provided by the National Housing Development Co. Ltd (NHDC) for the reconstruction of their house either through the purchase of building materials for Roof Slab Grant, if found eligible under the scheme.

**National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre**

The National Disaster Scheme of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre (NDRRMC), under the aegis of the Ministry of Local Government and Disaster Risk Management sets out the protocol to be followed by various entities for respective stakeholders to cater for emergency shelters, amenities such as water, food and medical assistances to be provided after environmental crisis such as cyclones, heavy rainfall, tsunami, high waves, water crisis, earthquakes, landslides and floods.

An Early Warning System (EWS) has been developed for storm surges to enable the coastal communities to evacuate in a timely manner and safely in case of predicted extreme water levels. A National Multi-hazard Emergency Alert System has also been developed with a Common Alerting Protocol.

A refuge centre was built at Quatre Soeurs to protect coastal community in event of severe storm surges and other natural calamities. The facilities provided at the Centre include foldable beds, blankets, tables, First Aid Kits, radio sets, etc.

**Repatriation**

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Mauritius assists with the return and reintegration of Mauritians in a vulnerable situation from various countries through different Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programmes. It provides assistance for basic necessities upon return, and sometimes the setting up of businesses for sustainable reintegration.

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