

**Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change
(Environment and Climate Change Division)**

COP27: Proposed National Position for Mauritius

Climate Change is the single most critical survival challenge for the Republic of Mauritius. While the world around us continues to debate and procrastinate on climate actions, Mauritius and other small island developing state are already suffering the disproportionate consequences of climate change while contributing insignificantly to it. The Republic of Mauritius has been an ardent supporter of ‘common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities’ but sadly notes that this principle is not being adhered to in its entirety by the developed world. Pledges made remain as such, commitments made are inadequate and insufficient, actions promised are delayed, while during this time, we, along with other developing countries, including, SIDS and Africa continue to walk down a path of no return. Geopolitical shocks add to the already precarious situation that we are facing and threaten to wipe out significant progress made through collaboration and partnerships over the last decades.

Mauritius celebrated its 50th years of independence in 2019. The last 50 years have been dedicated to building our nation. The next 50 years will be dedicated to saving our nation by addressing the adverse effects of climate change.

Mauritius remains committed to the pathway of a just, people-driven transition to a resilient and carbon-neutral Mauritius by 2070 while meeting our sustainable development goals. We intend to achieve this by protecting lives and livelihoods through adaptation and the decarbonisation of our economy through concerted mitigation actions. We actively acknowledge the differentiated impacts of climate change on the socially and economically underprivileged and at the same time encourage and look forward to the leadership provided by women and youth through community-driven approaches. At the same time, we urge the global community to seriously consider the differentiated impacts of climate change on Mauritius and other developing countries, including SIDS and Africa and the exemplary leadership that the smaller countries have demonstrated in spite of severe resource constraints. We

therefore **urge** that **adequate, accessible, predictable, timely and nationally guided** financing mechanisms be developed to support our efforts as well as our survival.

Climate finance

- a. We have **committed** in our NDC to provide unconditional 35% share of our financial needs to implement our NDC. We **do not consider** this a **just commitment** given our contribution of less than 0.01% to climate change, but we nevertheless **stand by it**. We will **make every effort to systematically enhance** our climate spending through incorporation of **climate-sensitive planning and budgeting in our National Budgets and incentivising the private sector to commit to enhanced climate financing**. We are **seeking and will continue to seek** innovative financing mechanisms to enable us to meet this commitment. We **welcome** any support, technical or financial, from the international community in developing such innovative finance mechanism.
- b. Internationally, we **regretfully note** that international climate finance mechanism has proved to be completely inadequate and instead of minor adjustments, the entire mechanism **needs to undergo radical transformation**. The present funding mechanisms are **cumbersome, extremely time-consuming with onerous demands on resources** and are **driven by agenda and capability of limited number of specific entities**. We **urge** that the climate finance mechanism be replaced by **nationally guided** mechanisms which will **allow for timely and predictable flow** of finance to national sectoral priorities as determined by Mauritius and other SIDS and developing nations.
- c. In the same line, we **urge** the international community to **consider climate vulnerability as the criterion** for concessional finance through non-climate financing mechanisms instead of GDP/ GNI. The present GDP based approach is unsuited in directing finance to the most vulnerable nations which are also historically the least developed.
- d. As a nation, Mauritius, along with other SIDS, **urge** the international community to take into account our specific vulnerability vis-à-vis our contribution to climate change and **provide** more funding in the form of **grants and reimbursable grants**

through the climate funds. The COVID crisis followed by geopolitical turmoil has significantly impacted our ability to raise finance through other means.

- e. *We **stand with our fellow SIDS nations in reiterating our demand** for a Loss and Damage financing mechanism which will be responsive and will **cater to both ex-post reactive needs as well as ex-ante proactive management of loss and damage**. Just climate action demands this and this can no longer be ignored in the wake of recent events in Pakistan or even Europe and the recent step taken by Denmark, which we whole-heartedly welcome.*

Adaptation

- a. *The impacts of climate change **are already apparent** in Mauritius. We are observing **accelerated** sea-level rise, average temperature rise and reduced rainfall pattern as compared to global averages. Adaptation to climate change is therefore **our immediate challenge**.*
- b. *We can no longer afford to see adaptation in isolation from sustainable development. Our development action plans hence **must consider and integrate** adaptation measures during the design, budgeting and implementation phases. At the same time, we **urge** the international community to understand that **adaptation and development** for Mauritius and other SIDS are conjunctive and an artificial divide between adaptation and development actions are counterproductive.*
- c. *While adaptation action is the urgent need of the hour, **promised international support has not been forthcoming**. Onerous requirement for establishing our vulnerability and adaptation needs **have been imposed on us** whereas it is **acknowledged** in all scientific as well as policy literature that SIDS are disproportionately vulnerable to the effects of climate change. We, along with other SIDS, **strongly urge** the international community to consider adaptation funding in SIDS to be **automatically eligible for grant-based financing** in consideration of our inherent and exacerbating vulnerabilities. We also **strongly urge** that mobilisation of finance for adaptation be expedited through **simpler, timely and more accessible** funding mechanisms.*

Furthermore, we **strongly urge** that a SIDS specific unconditional adaptation grant mechanism be operationalised at the earliest.

- d. While Mauritius has taken significant steps to establish a robust data collection system, we will **thrive** to include **desegregated climate change and disaster data** in our existing monitoring systems to enable better decision-making. We also **acknowledge** that our capacity to include data-supported climate change adaptation planning in our sectoral long-term plans is impeded by the absence of local climate models. We **request** the international community to support us to establish a data-driven sectoral long-term planning accompanied by technology transfer and capacity building.
- e. **Recognising** the role that could be played by the private sector, CSOs, NGOs and youth organisations in building a resilient Mauritius, we **will take active measures** to bring in more private sector engagement in adaptation activities. Youth and gender concerns will be central to our adaptation actions.

Mitigation

- a. While adaptation remains our key priority, being a responsible global citizen, Mauritius has revised its target to reduce its emission by 40% by 2030, up from 30% committed in our first NDC
- b. This is in spite of contributing less than 0.01% to global GHG emissions.
- c. We also **note with concern** that the present 2030 targets and long-term pledges committed to by developed nations **would be insufficient** to meet 1.5 °C target of the Paris Agreement which is crucial for our survival. This is no longer an aspirational target but a necessary one. We, along with other SIDS, **strongly urge** the global community **to commit and adhere** to a 1.5 °C emissions pathway, **phase out** coal and all other fossil fuel subsidies. Mauritius will follow the lead of developed nations and in keeping with the principles of 'Just Transition', Mauritius will also take a phased approach towards eliminating fossil fuel subsidies.
- d. In implementation of our mitigation targets, Mauritius **urges** the international community to **enable us** through institutional capacity building, technology transfer and simplified and scaled-up access to finance. Mauritius seeks **non-market-**

based financing to finance our NDC targets, 65% of which is conditional on external support.

- e. We will **continue to develop partnerships** with private sector, non-governmental organisations, youth, vulnerable communities and women organisations to mainstream mitigation planning in our development strategies.
- f. Mauritius will make efforts to transition towards a green economy addressing the demand side resource efficiency as well as supply-side sustainable consumption.
- g. We will continue to **strengthen** our data management system **to transparently monitor, report and verify** our emission data to national and international stakeholders.

Gender and climate change

- a. Effects of climate change are not gender neutral but are heavily disproportionate against women and other vulnerable groups. Gender actions on climate change hence will not suffice to be equal but requires to be equitable.
- b. Mauritius considers that gender is **not a biological construct but a social construct** and includes **all vulnerable population** including women, youth, children, aged and persons with disabilities within its gender, social and economic inclusion principles.
- c. No climate action will be complete without gender consideration. Mauritius will streamline its governance structure to **actively ensure** that all climate and development actions in all sectors **transparently address** contribution and leadership of women and vulnerable communities. All policies and programmes in Mauritius **will mandatorily consider gender and climate change issues** during formulation and implementation. To this extent, Mauritius has developed a National Gender Policy 2022-2030, which will be embedded into all sectoral policies. Mauritius would **request the international community to partner** with us in our efforts in gender responsive climate actions.
- d. Mauritius is **actively pursuing** a pathway of ensuring more leadership and political empowerment of women. We will **continue to ensure** higher political representation of the differential perspective of women and climate change in all

*national and international forums **through women-centred and women-led approaches and actions.***

- e. *At the same time, we **acknowledge** the existing societal biases which prevent effective participation of women in leadership roles. Our national gender institutions will continue to build capacity of **all stakeholders**, including men and women, to enable a wider, gender responsive approach to our climate actions as well as our sustainable development.*
- f. *Our approach would hence encompass a mix of top-down leadership and bottom-up innovation in communication, awareness, entrepreneurship, financing and capacity building to encourage and enable mainstreaming of gender issues.*
- g. *We will **make concerted efforts** to strengthen our data ecosystem to facilitate transparency of our gender actions. We **request international partners to support us** in this endeavour to make our data collection, analysis and reporting system gender responsive.*