**Annex 1**

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL INTEGRATION, SOCIAL SECURITY AND NATIONAL SOLIDARITY**

**Status on Concluding Observations in relation to the initial report of Mauritius (CRPD)**

| **SN** | **Paragraph No. as per UN Concluding Observations** | **UN RECOMMENDATIONS** | **Implementation Status** |
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|  |  | **General Principles and Obligations (arts. 1-4)** | |
| 1 | 6 | The Committee recommends that the State party amend the Equal Opportunities Act and the Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Act to reflect the human rights model of disability and that it eliminates the use of derogatory language throughout its laws, policies and discourse. | **Being Implemented**  Mauritius undertakes to review its legislations gradually so that they reflect the human rights model of disability.  New legislations that have been recently proclaimed reflect the human rights model of disability and are in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. One example would be the Special Education Needs Authority Act, which defines disability as “a long-term physical, intellectual or sensory impairment of a person which substantially hinders his ability to carry out normal day to day activities”. Moreover, the Workers’ Rights Act 2019 also takes into account persons with disabilities. Section 5(5) (a) of the Act states that, “discrimination includes affording different treatment to different workers attributable, wholly or mainly, to their respective description by age, race, colour, caste, creed, sex, sexual orientation, HIV status, **impairment**, marital or family status, pregnancy, religion, political opinion, place of origin, national extraction or social origin, which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation”. The forthcoming Children’s Bill will also be in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.  The State of Mauritius undertakes to review its legislations gradually so that they reflect the human rights model of disability.  The Equal Opportunities Act was amended in 2017 to provide for the prohibition of discrimination in employment on the grounds of a person’s criminal record, both at recruitment and promotion level, where a person’s criminal record is not relevant to the nature of his employment. The said amendment also includes persons with **impairment** as defined by the Equal Opportunities Act.  The Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Board was set up under the Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Act 1996. Its main objective is to promote training and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.  Following the amendments to the Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Act in 2012, employers who have a workforce of 35 or above are required to employ 3% of persons with disabilities. Failure to do so entails a statutory monthly contribution of Rs 4,000 (USD 100) for each person with disabilities not yet recruited. Furthermore, the amended Act provides for a Hearing Committee to examine cases of non-compliant companies. Furthermore, the Act provides that in case of prosecution before a Court of law, the non-compliant company is liable to a fine not exceeding Rs 75,000 (USD 1875). |
| 2 | The Committee also urges the State party to fully associate and regularly, transparently and meaningfully consult with organization of persons with disabilities in the design, implementation and monitoring of laws, policies and action plans, which have an impact on them, especially the draft Disability Bill and the Disability Strategy and Action Plan (DSAP 2015-2020) and to ensure that the DSAP contain clear goals, benchmarks and indicators and that necessary resources are provided for its effective implementation. | **Implemented**  Following the signature of the Convention by Mauritius, the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity came up with a “National Policy Paper and Action Plan on Disability” in December 2007. The National Policy Paper outlined a number of measures to facilitate the fulfilment of the economic, social, cultural and civil rights of persons with disabilities. The Action Plan had comprehensive timeframes, benchmarks, indicators and goals which have uplifted the quality of life of persons with disabilities. Through proper measurement and monitoring, enormous progress has been achieved.  With regard to the Action Plan on Disability 2015-2020, a comprehensive draft was prepared after consultation with all stakeholders which was held on 20 September 2015. The Action Plan comprised 6 strategic objectives, each with several specific objectives. Many of the measures proposed therein have been implemented and those which have not yet been implemented will be taken into consideration in the forthcoming Action Plan.  The Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity is coming up with a new Action Plan on Disability 2020-2025 which will chart out the way forward for an ambitious disability policy and programme for the five years to come. |
| 3 | 8 | The Committee recommends that the State party withdraw all its reservations to the Convention and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention without further delay. | **Being Implemented**  While signing the Convention, Mauritius made reservations to the Convention on the following 3 articles:-  (a) Article 9 (2) (d) on the provision of public signage in buildings and other facilities in Braille and easy-to-read and understandable forms;  (b) Article 11 on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies; and  (c) Article 24 (2) (b) on the access of persons with disabilities to inclusive, quality and free primary and secondary education.  **Article 9 (2) (d) on the provision of public signage in buildings and other facilities in Braille and easy-to-read and understandable forms**  In 2017, the then Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport promulgated the Building Control (Accessibility and Gender Compliance in Buildings) Regulations as from 01 November 2017, providing for universal design requirement in respect of new buildings and buildings under major renovation works. The regulations provide for the following:  (a) audible features and visual (including Braille) signage for automated teller machines (ATMs), lifts in buildings where services are provided on upper floors to persons with disabilities including museums, banks, cinema, and police stations;  (c) visual and audible systems shall be provided to lifts, lobbies and fire alarm systems;  (d) assistive listening system for persons who are hard of hearing in places such as conference rooms and assembly areas; and  (e) tactile cues to indicate different in level in buildings.  As a result of the progress that has been made, the withdrawal of the said reservation is being considered.  **Article 11 on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies**  The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act was proclaimed on 1 July 2016 and a National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Centre was set up to coordinate efforts of various agencies responsible for disaster mitigation and management activities.  This Centre carries out regular sensitisation campaigns on disaster risk reduction and organises frequent simulation exercises and activities. These campaigns and simulation exercises take into account the special needs of persons with disabilities. Safe evacuation procedures are tested for implementation in case of occurrence of disasters.  In light of the progress that has been noted in this area, withdrawal of the reservation is being considered.  **Article 24 (2) (b) on the access of persons with disabilities to inclusive, quality and free primary and secondary education**  Since 2006, Mauritius has officially adopted a policy for inclusive education. The Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology has since taken a series of measures towards an inclusive schooling system. They are as follows:   1. the provision of adapted textbooks for learners with visual and hearing impairments; 2. the provision of personal computers fitted with Screen Reader and Screen Magnifier Software for visually impaired learners; 3. the provision of Braille displays for blind learners; 4. the support of assistant teachers as well as carers; 5. extra assistance from the class educators and support teachers; 6. assistance for assessments and examinations as well as the provision of extra time for examinations; 7. assistance of specialist teachers/interpreters for learners with hearing impairment in secondary schools and for examination purposes; 8. provision of adapted furniture and wheelchairs; 9. refund of bus and taxi fares for the conveyance of students with disabilities 10. specialised rooms such as computer rooms, science laboratories, music rooms and libraries are situated on the ground floor; and 11. all primary schools having learners with disabilities have been retrofitted with ramps to provide easy access to classrooms and other spaces.   The following infrastructural works have also been carried out in various state secondary schools having learners with disabilities:   1. ramps and handrails to facilitate access to the classrooms; 2. covered links between building blocks to facilitate access to specialised rooms located on the first floor for learners using wheelchairs; 3. adapted toilets; and 4. alighting bays for safe access in the school yard.   The above initiatives are being carried out in a phased manner in all remaining secondary schools.  It should be noted that, in 2018, the Special Education Needs Authority (SENA) Act 2018 was passed and a Special Education Needs Authority was set up. This authority is responsible for monitoring and facilitating the implementation of special education needs policies of the Government.  In view of the fact that infrastructural works to improve accessibility in school are still underway, and will be carried out in phases, the reservation on Article 24 (2) (b) will be withdrawn in due course. |
|  |  | **Equality and non-discrimination (art. 5)** | |
| 4 | 10 | The Committee recommends that the State party ensure that all its legislation is aligned with the Convention and define the concept of reasonable accommodation in line with article 2 of the Convention and recognizes the denial of reasonable accommodation as a form of disability-based discrimination, as well as intersectional discrimination and discrimination by association. | **Being implemented**  The Constitution is the supreme law of the Republic of Mauritius and it provides that no law shall make provision that is discriminatory either of itself or in its effect. Section 16 (3) defines “discriminatory” as “affording different treatment to different persons attributable wholly or mainly to their respective descriptions by race, caste, place of origin, political opinions, colour, creed or sex”. Both sections 3 and 16 of the Constitution guarantee protection from discrimination.  There are other national legislations which make provisions against discriminatory practices. For instance, the Workers’ Rights Act2019already addresses the issue of discrimination and ensures that persons with disabilities enjoy the same rights and protection as other workers.  According to Section 5(5) of the Workers’ Rights Act (2019), “discrimination includes affording different treatment to different workers attributable, wholly or mainly, to their respective description by age, race, colour, caste, creed, sex, sexual orientation, HIV status, impairment, marital or family status, pregnancy, religion, political opinion, place of origin, national extraction or social origin, which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation”.  To render the above provision more specific, in 2017, Government promulgated the Building Control (Accessibility and Gender Compliance in Buildings) Regulations as from 01 November 2017, providing for universal design requirement in respect of new buildings and buildings which will undergo renovations requiring a permit. The regulations make provision for the following:   1. audible features and visual (including Braille) signage for automated teller machines (ATMs), lifts in buildings where services are provided on upper floors to persons with disabilities including museums, banks, cinema, and police stations, etc; 2. visual and audible systems shall be provided to lifts, lobbies and fire alarm systems; 3. assistive listening system for persons who are hard of hearing in places such as conference rooms and assembly areas; and 4. tactile cues to indicate different in level in buildings.   In line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Government of Mauritius has sensitised and encouraged many employers and Federations of Employers to provide adapted infrastructure and reasonable accommodation to persons with disabilities in order to recognise their rights to work on an equal basis with others. |
|  |  | **Women with Disabilities (art. 6)** | |
| 5 | 12 | The Committee recommends that the State party, in full cooperation with organizations of women and girls with disabilities, include their rights into all laws, policies and programmes and take all necessary measures to protect them from multiple and intersectional discrimination and violence to enable them to fully enjoy all their rights under the Convention. | **Implemented**  Efforts are made to ensure that women and girls with disabilities through their representative organisations are involved. For example:   1. The National Council for the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Board comprising persons with disabilities and their representative organisations meet every month to discuss policies and action plans; 2. The Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Board (TEDPB) also comprises persons with disabilities and their representative organisations and they meet monthly to discuss policies and action plans regarding training and employment opportunities for persons with disabilities; 3. The Special Education Needs Authority, which was set up in 2018, meets regularly to discuss and make recommendations pertaining to inclusive education. The Authority involves representatives of persons with disabilities; 4. The National Women’s Council and the National Women’s Entrepreneur Council provides a platform for women, including women with disabilities, to contribute to policies and action plans regarding their empowerment. |
| 6 | The State party should ensure that laws against gender based discrimination and violence provide for proportionate enforceable sanctions and effective remedies. | **Being Implemented**  In order to provide for the empowerment of women, eliminate discrimination and achieve gender equality and equity through the development and implementation of gender responsive legislations, policies, programmes and projects, and the implementation of various international and regional human rights instruments on gender equality and equity as well as ensuring the protection of women’s rights (including rural women, elderly women, and women with disabilities), a gender equality bill is being drafted by an EU Consultant under the 11th EDF Scheme. The Gender Equality Bill will provide inter alia for nondiscrimination on the basis of gender, sex, sexual orientation, origin, colour, marital status, disability, HIV status.  Protection from Domestic Violence Act amended in 2016 and includes the following provisions:  (a) increasing the powers of Enforcement Officers;  (b) widening the definition of term “domestic violence”;  (c) providing that a person who does an act of domestic violence against  his spouse, a child of his spouse or another person living under the  same roof shall commit an offence; and  (d) empowering a police officer not below the rank of Assistant Superintendent to arrest a person where, following an act of domestic violence, physical injury has ensued.  The Workers’ Rights Act 2019 further protects women from various forms of discrimination and from violence at the workplace. According to Section 114 (5), any person who contravenes the violence at work prohibition shall commit an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding Rs100, 000 (USD 2500) and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years.  The right to participate in political life and the right to vote, irrespective of gender and disabilities is provided for under section 33, 34 42 and 44 of the Constitution of the Republic of Mauritius, respectively. Besides, Regulation 33 of the National Assembly Elections Regulations also provides a series of voting facilities to electors with disabilities irrespective of gender |
|  |  | **Children with Disabilities (art. 7)** | |
| 7 | 14 | The Committee recommends that the State party take effective measures to ensure provision of quality inclusive services for boys and girls with disabilities both in public and private sectors in compliance with the Convention and allocate the necessary resources to these services. | **Being Implemented**  Provisions are being made for the rights of children with disabilities in Children’s Bill.  The Ministry of Education ensures that children with disabilities attend schools and those residing in institutions are also sent to an educational institute.  Furthermore, an array of services is provided to boys and girls with disabilities by various Ministries as follows:   1. Presently there are 11 integrated Units (IUs) and 7 SEN Resource Development Centres (SENRDCs) to cater for learning needs of SEN Children. Number of children attending IUs and SENRDC stands at 197. 2. Furthermore, the Ministry of Education provides Grant-in-Aid to all NGOs running SEN Schools to carry out educational activities. 3. An amount of Rs 138M has been earmarked for the financial year 2019/2020 for the 44 NGOs running 54 SEN Schools. 4. All schools whether run by NGOs or Government are provided with all textbooks to enable the learning and teaching process. 5. Refund of taxi fares for wheelchair bound and blind students both at primary, secondary and tertiary levels are refunded by the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity. 6. Refund of bus fares for accompanying parent.   Seven vans (High roof 15 Seated van) are presently servicing SENRDCs for the conveyance of children attending the Centres and for therapy purposes (on referral) |
| 8 | Furthermore, the Committee recommends that the State party ensure that NGO run programmes be regulated and closely supervised and that staffs of these NGOs undergo specific monitoring. | **Implemented**  The National Social Inclusion Foundation which operates under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Integration, Social security and National Solidarity and the Special Education Needs (SEN) Unit of the Ministry of Education which provide grants to NGOs closely monitor them.  The Ministry of Education is also implementing the follows:   1. The NGOs use the same curriculum as the mainstream. There are at present 2 Inspectors who visit the SEN schools on a regular basis. 2. Capacity building programmes have been run for all staff servicing the SEN sector. 3. In a bid to professionalise the SEN sector, Mauritius Qualification Authority has developed Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) to provide an opportunity for staff with no formal qualification in the field but having at least three (3) years of experience therein to be qualified for the National Certificate Level 2 or Level 3 or Level 4 in Special Education Needs. 4. With effect from 19 December 2018, the SEN Authority has been set and has as objectives: 5. Monitoring and facilitating the implementation of SEN policies of the Government 6. Advising the Minister on the formulation of policies and on the criteria for the registration of SEN institutions, teaching and non-teaching staff, and any other resource person thereof; 7. Providing guidelines for the design and development of curriculum for special education needs; 8. The harmonization and promotion of programmes and policies for the education and holistic development of persons with special education needs.   Following the setting up of the SEN Authority, more emphasis is being laid on administering payment of grants to NGO s running SEN Schools. |
| 9 | The Committee also recommends that the State party amend the National Children’s policy and the National Child Protection Strategy with the view to incorporating targeted measures for children with disabilities to enjoy their rights on an equal basis with other children. | **Being Implemented**  A National Children’s Policy was developed in 2004 and an Action Plan up to 2015, to enable initiatives and government programmes and many of which have improved provision of services in the areas of health, education, child protection, social security, among others.  The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare received assistance from the European Union for the development of a National Child Protection Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2022. The National Child Protection Strategy is a visionary framework for child protection and sets up goals and priorities to be carried out during 2015-2022. The Strategy aims at strengthening the main “gatekeeping mechanism” of the child protection system of Mauritius by placing greater emphasis on prevention, early intervention, family rehabilitation, provision of alternative family substitute care and also provides for primary and secondary prevention actions.  In its Mid-term Strategic Engagement Plan for Gender Equality and Family Wellbeing 2020-2023, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare intends to come up with the formulation of a National Children’s Policy Paper and Costed Action Plan which will encompass all issues regarding children, including specific targeted measures for children with disabilities. The National Children’s Policy Paper and Costed Action Plan will focus on the following elements:   1. identify constraints that hamper inter-sectoral integration of child related policies and programmes at all stages; 2. identify capacity gaps of duty bearers and right holders that constrain effective delivery of services at national level; 3. And consider a life-cycle approach to identify specific needs related to each age group.   Government has approved the introduction of the Children’s Bill that will provide for added protection to children with disabilities as it covers universal services to which every child has access and more targeted services for those with additional needs.  The main object of the Children’s Bill is to repeal the existing Child Protection Act and replace it with a more appropriate, comprehensive and modern legislative framework so as to better protect children and to give better effect to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. The term “physically /mentally handicapped is being changed to “physically/mentally disabled” in the Children’s Bill and the term “handicapped” is being changed to disability. |
|  |  | **Awareness-raising (art. 8)** | |
| 10 | 16 | The Committee recommends that the State party design, develop and conduct together with persons with disabilities, and their representative organisations:  (a) Campaigns targeting specific discrimination issues in the aim of cultural transformation, for the general public and with the support of the mass media. | **Implemented**  Mauritius recognises that Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) remain a major provider of services to persons with disabilities. They were the pioneers in the field and till now they are still playing an important role in this sector. In fact their numbers have increased and they are providing a wide range of services. To- day there are some 70 NGO’s in the Republic of Mauritius which operates in the disability sector. Some provide highly specialized services like special education, parent counselling, early intervention, sheltered employment and home-based services. Many of them are community-based and provide basic facilities like day-care services. In fact, all of them play a crucial role in alleviating the burden of parents and bringing disabled persons out of the four walls of their homes. There is commitment and dedication in their work.    NGO and Disabled Persons Organisations have been very instrumental in raising awareness and in mounting workshops and talks on the rights of persons with disabilities with much emphasis on the slogan “valuing people with disabilities”. Resource persons with different types of disabilities are invited to deliver talks and share success stories and role models. The resource persons also use the slogan “Nothing about us without us” which has been a great source of inspiration for persons with disabilities. But they are also able to effectively participate in the socio economic development of the country and more importantly living meaningful lives.  The Committee of Employers under the Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Board (TEDPB) conducts regular meetings with employers to:   * 1. disseminate information on TEDP Act and employment of persons with disabilities; and   2. discuss employment opportunities present in the organisation.   A National ‘dis’Ability Excellence Award is organised every year in the context of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities to recognise the effort of employers in integrating persons with disabilities in their organisation and to recognise persons with disabilities who have excelled in their respective field of work.  The Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Board (TEDPB) also conducts presentations, workshops and other sensitisation campaigns to encourage integration of persons with disabilities in the open labour market. Business Mauritius organized a high level conference in 2015 on the employability of persons with disabilities led by an ILO specialist.  The Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Board (TEDPB) engaged in a massive sensitisation campaign in August 2020, where persons with disabilities were invited to register themselves with the Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Board (TEDPB) so that they can benefit from the services offered by the organisation. The registration process was facilitated by all Social Security Offices across the island. A Communiqué was launched in newspapers, television, radio and through the Website of the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and Reform Institutions.  In order to promote awareness among the Mauritian population regarding the vulnerable groups of society including persons with disabilities and to encourage respect for the rights and dignity of the vulnerable groups, the National Human Rights Commission of Mauritius (NHRC) conducts informative sessions on a weekly basis through the Citizens Advise Bureau (CAB) offices throughout the country. During these sessions, the rights of the vulnerable groups are addressed with the aim of fostering respect for society’s vulnerable groups, promoting broad-mindedness to their rights and encouraging positive viewpoints towards the vulnerable groups including persons with disabilities. During these public awareness sessions, particular emphasis is laid on existing legal provisions and other measures to protect people with disabilities from various forms of discrimination, abuse and violence. In addition, talks are organised for the benefit of persons with disabilities with the aim of educating them of their rights and protecting them from all forms of violence and discrimination.  Furthermore, sensitisation campaigns are regularly conducted by relevant stakeholders through mass media so that people are continuously made aware of their rights and their obligation to respect the rights of the other citizens including persons with disabilities.  Informative sessions are also conducted by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) at private and state secondary schools in order to raise awareness amongst students, *inter alia,* about their responsibilities and the need for them to respect the rights of others, in particular the rights of vulnerable groups such as the elderly and people with disabilities. The NHRC promotes such awareness programs in schools with the aim of nurturing in children at an early age, an attitude of respect for persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.  As part of its external actions to promote democracy and respect for human rights in developing countries, the European Union (EU) has granted funds over a period of three (from-to) years to the NHRC to finance the implementation of a project entitled ‘Promotion of Respect for Human Rights in Mauritius and Rodrigues’. The Project aims to educate and raise awareness amongst different sections of the Mauritian population on their human rights and on respect for human rights, thus contributing towards the prevention of human rights violations and abuse in the country. In this regard, various activities are being organised, including seminars, workshops, talks, lectures and forum debates. The Project has reinforced the NHRC’s mandate to promote human rights under the Protection of Human Rights Act 1998 by providing it with the resources to reach out to a larger public, including youth, students, public officers, media, law enforcement officers, NGOs as well as vulnerable including and persons with disabilities.  In an endeavour to enhance governance by promoting transparency, accountability, fairness and the rule of law, Mauritius had embarked into a ten-week awareness raising campaign around the island in line with the provisions adopted under the Paris Principles in 2019. In order to facilitate the flow of communication, pamphlets were designed (in three languages i.e. English, French & Creole) containing general information on the role and powers of the Ombudsman including procedures to be followed to lodge an alleged complaint of maladministration. A total of 9,500 pamphlets have been distributed to the public in general both in Mauritius and Rodrigues with a view to educating and sensitizing them on the services offered by the Office of the Ombudsman. During the campaign, a session was also carried out with the ‘Association pour la protection de droit des Handicapés’, an NGO in the Disability sector. The distribution of the pamphlet is being maintained on an on-going basis to visitors who call at the Office of the Ombudsman for assistance and same is also available on its website.  The Equal Opportunities Commission is mandated by law to work towards the elimination of discrimination and conduct and foster research and educational and other programmes for the purpose of eliminating discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity between persons of different status. For the period 2015 to 2019, a total of 89sensitization campaigns/training programs have been held with several stakeholders to address the various forms of discrimination based on the statuses as provided in the Equal Opportunities Act 2008. Emphasis was also laid on **"*Impairment***" as one of the statuses to promote respect for the rights of persons with disabilities, hence, eliminating stigmatization against them. |
| 11 | (b) Training for persons with disabilities, their families and their representative organisations as well as all relevant civil servants and key areas of the private sector in order for them to apply a human rights based approach to disability |
|  |  | **Accessibility (art. 9)** | |
| 12 | 18 | The Committee recommends that the State party proceed to the announced revision of the Building Act, the Roads Act, the Morcellement Act and the Town and Country Planning Act and to adopt a legally binding accessibility action plan, with benchmarks, indicators and timelines, to cover all aspects of the built environment, public service provision, information and communications, including sign language interpretation as well as assistive listening systems and air and sea transport, as referred to in the Committee’s general comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility | **Implemented**  The Building Control Act 2012 provides, *inter alia*, that every building should, among others, satisfy functional requirements such as accessibility, in order to ensure that persons with impaired mobility and communication, elderly persons and pregnant women are able to access and use the building and the facilities within the building comfortably.  To render the above obligation more specific, in 2017, the Government, the Building Control (Accessibility and Gender Compliance in Buildings) Regulations which came into operation on 01 November 2017,to make provision to new designated building; or existing building which will undergo extensive alterations, additions, repairs, or reconstruction and a permit will be required before commencing those building works to contain inter alia the following features-  ramped approach;  Stepped approach;  Handrails;  Passengers lift;  Communication Aids  Thus as regards the accessibility of public infrastructure, the regulations provide inter alia  (a) audible features and visual (including Braille) signage for automated teller machines (ATMs), lifts in buildings where services are provided on upper floors to persons with disabilities including museums, banks, cinema, and police stations;  (b) visual and audible systems shall be provided to lifts, lobbies and fire alarm systems;  (c) assistive listening system for persons who are hard of hearing in places such as conference rooms and assembly areas; and  (d) tactile cues to indicate different in level in buildings.  As regards to the Roads Act, the Morcellement Act and the Town and Country Planning Act there is no need to amend them as the Planning Policy Guidelines (PPGs) includes a special Technical Sheet on Access for Persons with Disabilities. The Technical Sheet provides that the need of people with disabilities should be considered as an integral part of the development process especially with respect to car parking, ramps, steps and paths. The technical sheet may be reviewed and improved so as to cater for new types of infrastructure including public transport system. |
| 13 | A regular monitoring and evaluation of the plan with the participation of organizations of persons with disabilities should be conducted within specified periods of time and sanctions provided in case of non- compliance. | **Being Implemented**  The legally binding accessibility Action plan will form part of the forthcoming Action Plan on disability 2020-2025. |
|  |  | **Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies (art. 11)** | |
| 14 | 20 | The Committee recommends that the State party closely consult and actively involve persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations, in the drafting process of the National Risk Reduction Disaster Management Bill, in order to ensure accessible and disability inclusive disaster risk management. | **Implemented**  Government has come up with a comprehensive policy for the safety of people in times of humanitarian emergencies and situations of risks and disasters. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act was proclaimed on 1 July 2016 and a National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Centre (NDRRMC) was set up to coordinate efforts of various agencies dealing with disaster mitigation and relief, assist agencies in initiating necessary actions to deal with disasters, both natural and man-made and harmonize decisions of various agencies for coordinated approach.  This Centre carries out regular sensitization campaigns on disaster risk reduction and organizes frequent simulation exercises and activities. During these campaigns and simulation exercises, the special needs of persons with disabilities are taken into consideration. Safe evacuation procedures are tested for implementation in case of occurrence of disasters.  The NDRRMC is in the process of implementing a National Multi Hazard Emergency Alert System (NMHEAS) for the Republic of Mauritius. The NMHEAS provides a reliable high performance system with the necessary infrastructure to disseminate warnings and alerts to a maximum number of people and stakeholders within an acceptable time frame by broadcasting warnings and alerting messages through a number of channels, namely telecom networks, television, radio, internet including (social media), display signs and public broadcasting systems. The system has been designed to deliver alert message via various formats including audio/usual/text so that people with disabilities are not left behind and when it comes to disaster/emergency alerting.  Community Disaster Response Teams have been provided training in handling persons with disabilities for safe evacuation during emergencies.  During the development of contingency plans for vulnerable areas emphasis is laid upon the identification of persons with disabilities through household surveys. Contingency plans have also been developed for Residential Care Homes in vulnerable areas. The development, implementation and monitoring of emergency plans and procedures is in accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. |
|  |  | **Equal recognition before the law (Article 12)** | |
| 15 | 22 | The Committee recommends that the State party abolish guardianship measures in law and practice and to ensure recognition of the legal capacity of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, and introduce supported decision-making mechanisms, in line with the Committee’s general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law. | Articles 492 to 510 of the Code Civil Mauricien, in relation to guardianship and the substituted decision making process for persons with disabilities, make provision for cases of *tutelle* i.e. guardianship for cases of minors, persons who have attained the age of majority but whose mental state does not allow them to administer their state of affairs in their everyday life, and, under Article 494 alinea 2, in the case of a person who has attained the age of majority but because of his physical disability is unable to express his will and has to be represented for the administration of his affairs. The physical or mental disability must be confirmed by at least one specialist doctor.  The process for the placement of a person under guardianship is examined by the *Ministère Public* (under of the Attorney General’s Office), when its conclusions is sought prior to making an order of guardianship by the Court.  Thus, subject to the above, persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, exercise their legal capacity on an equal basis with others, including with respect to their rights to enter into contracts, access to justice, vote, marry, exercise parental rights, work, choose their place of residence and consent to medical treatment.  Mauritius does not consider it as necessary for the time being to remove the guardianship regime. As at date no adverse judgement to the present system of *majeure en tutelle* has been delivered by the Supreme Court.  We also have the regime of majeure en curatelle where the curateur will assist/ support decision making of the person. Based on the recommendation of a medical specialist it is a court of law that will decide whether a person will be placed under tutelle or curatelle |
|  |  | **Access to Justice (Art. 13)** | |
| 16 | 24 | The Committee recommends that the State party provide for disability-related and age-appropriate accommodations in all legal proceedings. | **Partially Implemented**  A new Supreme Court has been constructed and is accessible to persons with disabilities where provisions have also been made for juvenile and family courts as it is actually the case in the judicial system.  Cases involving children and domestic violence are heard in chambers and not in open court. |
| 17 | The State party should ensure that accessibility measures such as braille, provision of sign language interpretation, alternative modes of communication, easy to read format, and enforcement measures are available and free of charge in all courts and that personnel in the justice and prison system are properly trained on the application of human rights standards specifically for persons with disabilities. | **Partially Implemented**  If a person, including a person with a disability cannot afford to retain the services of a legal representative, there is the possibility for him under the Legal Aid and Legal Assistance Act to apply for legal aid or legal assistance provided that he makes a sworn statement to the effect that (except for his “wearing apparel and tools of trade and the subject matter of the proceedings”), he is not worth 500,000 rupees, and his total monthly earnings are less than 15,000 rupees.  The Courts Act allows for the appointment of interpreters to enable the interpretation of evidence in sign language or allow a person with speech impairment to express himself through an interpreter trained in Mauritian Sign Language.  For those with visual impairment, the Government has already initiated measures to facilitate communication process, for example, the Constitution itself has already been translated into Braille so that they know about their rights as a citizen of Mauritius. |
|  |  | **Liberty and security of the person (Art. 14)** | |
| 18 | 26 | The Committee recommends that the State party amend legislation to prohibit involuntary placement and promote alternative measures in line with the Convention | **Implemented**  A person may be admitted a declared mental health care centre where he suffers from a mental disorder requiring admission and he or his next of kin consents to the admission. Where the person has not consented to his admission and treatment, within 24 hours of his admission in a declared mental health care centre, the Superintendent or other person in charge of the centre has to forward to the Magistrate of the District where that patient ordinarily resides a copy of the admission report with a request for validation of the admission In this context, the Mental Health Care Act was amended in 2019 in order to enhance the legal framework for the proper functioning of mental health care centre to inter alia prevent indefinite and prolonged hospitalisation of any individual. Reference is made to the provisions of the Mental Health Care Act referred to under Article 14 in the Country Report. |
|  |  | **Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse (Art. 16)** | |
| 19 | 28 | The Committee urges the State party to take urgent measures to prevent violence against women, men, girls and boys with disabilities, to protect those who are subjected to violence and to ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice. | **Implemented**  With regards to the steps taken to address the heightened risk of abuse, violence and exploitation on women and children with disabilities, the Protection from Domestic Violence Act was passed in 1997. This Act provides for the issue of protection orders, occupation orders and tenancy orders. The Protection from Domestic Violence Act has subsequently been amended in 2004 and 2007 to make it more responsive to the needs of victims of domestic violence. The amendments brought in 2007 allow the Courts to have wider discretionary powers, including the issue of an ancillary order as to alimony in respect to an aggrieved spouse or child. Further amendments brought in 2011 provide for uniformity and consistency in the procedure for the hearing of application for protection orders, occupation orders and tenancy orders. The Act was further amended in 2016 to widen the definition of Domestic violence and provide for the criminalisation of certain acts of domestic violence and for harsher punishments to perpetrators of domestic violence.  Furthermore, the Child Protection Act imposes heavy penalties on those found guilty of sexual offences on children with disabilities. |
| 20 | The State party should in particular:  (a) Provide fully funded, accessible helplines and shelters for persons with disabilities who experience violence, whether inside or outside the home; | **Implemented**  The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare has a team of Family Welfare and Protection Officers and Enforcement Officers dedicated towards conducting regular monitoring visits at the Shelters and Residential Care Institutions where children under court orders are placed. The team ensures that these places uphold a high standard of care and service provision to all children therein, in line with the Child Protection Act and the Child Protection “Place of Safety for the Welfare and Protection of Children” Regulations 2019. A reporting system has also been developed.  The Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity has amended the Welfare of the Elderly Protection Act in 2016 for the better protection of the elderly, including those with disabilities to better look into and attend to cases of abuse and violence against the elderly person.  The Residential Care Homes Board which functions under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity already has a monitoring mechanism for all registered residential care homes in Mauritius. It operates under the Residential Care Homes Act (2003) and exercises general supervision and control over residential care homes against any malpractices or abuse on their residents including persons with disabilities. The Licenses of Homes are cancelled, if they are non-compliant with the prescribed terms and conditions. |
| 21 | (b) Provide specific training for all respective personnel to detect and report violence against persons with disabilities; | **Implemented**  Respective personnel of the Ministry of Gender Equality were trained by professionals of the International Social Services from Geneva and conducted training of caregivers working with children victims of abuse. |
| 22 | (c) Ensure that persons with disabilities, who are subjected to violence, have access to effective remedies and receive all the necessary support for their mental and physical recovery. | **Implemented**  Several measures have been taken by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare to provide psychological support to victims of violence as to enable them to overcome emotional and psychological trauma associated with incidents of abuse on their person. Support is also provided at their residence in case they are unable to attend the outstation for same. Information about existing facilities and support are already provided to them by the Family Welfare and Protection Officers and Family Counselling Officers of the said Ministry.  The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare has enlisted the services of a Psychiatric Nurse since January 2019, especially to assist the residents with specific mental health issues placed in Shelters and Residential Care Institutions. The Officer forms part of the multi-disciplinary team attending to emergency cases and she is also involved in the monitoring of regular cases, especially for residents suffering from psychiatric problems.  Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare in collaboration with the“Association des Handicapées de Malherbes”, a non-governmentalResidential Care Institutions is providing accommodation and care to all disabled children who have been victims of violence and abuse. This institution is equipped and has adequately trained staffs that are well-prepared to cater for the special needs of all disabled children in its care. Currently, there are 29 disabled children, victims of violence with different impairments, placed thereat. The NGO is financially assisted by the Ministry of Gender and Family Welfare through the payment of a Grant-in-Aid. |
|  |  | **Protecting the integrity of the person (Art. 17)** | |
| 23 | 30 | The Committee recommends that the State party unambiguously prohibit forced treatment of persons with disabilities, as well as the forced sterilization women and girls with disabilities, in the absence of the individual’s free and informed consent. | **Implemented**  Section 7 (1) of the Constitution of Mauritius stipulates that “No person shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading punishment or other such treatment.  Mauritius does not perform any forced treatment or forced sterilization on any person with or without disabilities, particularly women and girls with disabilities.  It is apt to note that as per section 235A of the Criminal Code, a termination of pregnancy can only be carried out in specific circumstances and with the informed consent of the pregnant person. Where the person is severely mentally disabled to such an extent that she is incapable of understanding the nature of, or the consequences of undergoing the treatment to terminate her pregnancy, her pregnancy may be terminated upon the request and informed consent of her partner, spouse, parents or legal guardian. Furthermore, it is an offence to coerce, intimidate, compel or induce a pregnant person to undergo treatment to terminate a pregnancy against her will. Any person who contravenes this section of the Code is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years and a fine not exceeding Rs. 100,000.  The Ministry of Health and Wellness has an established protocol for treatment of any individual in hospitals, consequently any individual who refuses to accept the treatment being proposed by the Doctor, has a right to refuse so by signing a form where it clearly states that he/she refuses to undergo any treatment. |
|  |  | **Living independently and being included in the community (Art. 19)** | |
| 24 | 32 | The Committee recommends that the State party urgently remove children with disabilities from the “*Centres de Sauvegarde”* (“Abris des Enfants en Détresse”) and develop family and community-based alternatives for those deprived of a family environment. | **Implemented**  The Back-to-Home programme set up by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare since October/November 2018 has as main objective to re-insert residents, children victims of violence who are placed in Shelters/RCIs, within their own family setting, thereby ensuring the proper follow-up and the provision of psycho-social support, and also empowering their parents/relatives to better care for them through referral to services offered by key stakeholders.  From July 2018 to January 2020, 143 children have been returned to their biological families/next to kin, out of which there was one girl, suffering from cognitive and speech disorders.  Furthermore, the Foster Care Section aims to give children victims of abuse and/or neglect, the opportunity to live in a substitute family on a temporary basis. Such children have been removed under a Court Order and they are placed in Shelters/RCIs, and for the period where they cannot be re-inserted into their biological families. The role of the foster parents is to give support to the child and help him/her to grow physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually. From 2009 till January 2020, 117 children have been placed in 108 foster families.  The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare will consolidate the Foster Care System with better financial packages by offering them supplementary payment as per children with varying degree of conditions, such as physical, mental, behavioral and emotional condition. It is envisaged that a greater number of children with disabilities will be placed into Foster Care as opposed to RCIs.  Officers at the Ministry ensure that children with disabilities who are re-integrated within a family setting receive the best possible care by making appropriate referrals to relevant stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity, for social grants and other aid.  The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family Welfare also work in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Wellness to prevent institutionalisation of persons with disabilities. Reinsertion in the family is encouraged at the earliest possible once the situation of crisis is over |
| 25 | The State party should initiate without delay a transition from private unregulated Day Care Centers to inclusive early childhood education and education settings and in the interim, regulate and closely monitor these Centers. | **Implemented**  Pre-primary schools are inclusive and are regulated by the Early Childhood Care and Education Authority (ECCEA). |
| 26 | The State party should adopt urgent measures directed to the deinstitutionalisation of persons with disabilities and to develop mechanisms at the community level to promote choices, autonomy and inclusion, for persons with disabilities. | **Implemented**  In Mauritius, the majority of persons with disabilities are in family settings. |
| 27 | The Committee also recommends that the State party develop effective quality support services for parents caring for children with disabilities and for persons with disabilities to live independently in the community as well as effective protection systems. | **Implemented**  A host of social benefits are provided to parents to cater for children with disabilities in the community:  • On top of Basic Invalidity Pension payable to children with disabilities, a Carer’s Allowance is provided to parents who cater for severely disabled children under constant care.   * A parent or legal guardian of a disabled person with permanent orthopaedic disability of 60% or above; having severe mobility problem; and heavily dependent on others for activities of daily living benefit from 100% duty free facilities to purchase adapted cars.   •Refund of equivalent to bus-fares, and refund of taxi fares are provided by the Ministry of Social Integration, SS and NS to parents of severely disabled students attending primary, secondary and tertiary institutions. |
|  |  | **Education (Art. 24)** | |
| 28 | 34 | The Committee recommends that the State party reconsider clause 11 of the draft Disability Bill and renounce to the creation of integrated units in schools but promptly engage in the creation of a fully funded and inclusive quality education system while ensuring that those who have been deprived of education can access lifelong learning education and vocational training. | **Being Implemented**  Integrated units are transitionary. They help to prepare the children to full integration.  A number of measures have been implemented to promote inclusive education, including the retrofitting of schools, provision of adapted toilets, links between building blocks, sign language interpreters, extra time for examinations, extra assistance, books in large print, provision of low-vision aids and braille computers. The Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD) responsible for vocational training are accessible to persons with disabilities.  With a view to further improving access, the Ministry of Education has set up 11 Integrated Units (IU) in mainstream primary schools and 7 SEN Resource and Development Centre (SENRCD) around the island with a view of reaching out to SEN Children who usually have to travel long distances to go to SEN Schools.  The SENRDC operates as a One-Stop-Shop to provide specialized services, such as those of psychological services, occupational therapy, physiotherapy and speech therapy to learners with special needs. |
| 29 | The State party should ensure tailored education plans for all students with disabilities, the provision of mandatory pre-service and in-service specific training to all teachers on inclusive education and the availability of assistive devices, individual support in classrooms, of accessible educational materials and curricula, and of accessible transport, equipment and school environments, with the corresponding budget allocations. | **Implemented**  The MIE provides ongoing training in special needs education to SEN teachers.  This Ministry of Education in collaboration with MIE and Centre International d’Etudes Pédagogiques (CIEP) has already started a collaborative programme for training of trainers at the MIE as well as in Reunion Island to empower participants in the context of inclusive Education. The main objective of the training programme is to build capacity among staff from different sector of education. The duration of the training is scheduled to be 3 years.  Accessible material is provided, such as large print and books in braille. This is being done phase-wise. |
| 30 | The State party should also promote the enrolment of all children with disabilities in quality inclusive education. | **Implemented**  In view of the fact that education is compulsory up to the age of 16, the majority of children with or without disabilities attend mainstream schools, specialised schools (run by NGOs), Integrated Units and SEN Resource and Development Centres (run by the Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology).  Presently, there are 2365 SEN learners attending 54 SEN Schools run by NGOs, 190 SEN Learners attending Special Education Needs Resource and Development Centres of the Ministry which are not in an inclusive setting. However, 90 SEN learners are attending SEN Integrated Units in primary schools. They are not in the same class as other non-disabled students but in a separate class in the same school premises where they enjoy the same facilities and activities as other students.  With a view to promoting training and employment of persons with disabilities, the Training and Employment of Disabled Persons Board (TEDPB) has been partnering closely with the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD) to provide vocational training in jewellery making, craft works, pottery, garment making, electronics and others. Currently, trainees with disabilities are following Housekeeping and waitering training courses through the MITD at “Ecole Hoteliѐre Sir Gaetan Duval”. |
|  |  | **Health, habilitation and rehabilitation (Art. 25 and 26)** | |
| 31 | 36 | The Committee recommends that the State party adopt clear procedures for the early intervention services for persons with disabilities to appropriate and accessible habilitation and rehabilitation services, including services for parents with disabilities, with special regard to parents of all children with disabilities. | **Implemented**  The Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) of the Ministry of Health and Wellness carries out regular and ongoing outreach and community based rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities. A total of 224,098 regular visits have been effected by CBR officers around the island since the year 2015 to date.  Moreover, the Foyer Trochetia operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity provides rehabilitation services in the form of physiotherapy and occupational therapy to persons with disabilities. Habilitation and rehabilitation services are also offered by various Non-Governmental Organisations free of charge. |
| 32 | The Committee also recommends that the State party ensure that health, rehabilitation and other disability-related expenses for children with disabilities be covered. | **Implemented**  In Mauritius, health service in public hospitals is free of charge for all citizens including persons with disabilities. As regards to private health amenities, the patient would have to pay for the facility. The onus of having a health insurance and the premium to be paid lies on the individuals and the companies providing the health insurance scheme.  Financial assistance from the Ministry of Health and Wellness has been increased for patients who require treatment abroad, but do not have enough resources. Furthermore, the National Solidarity Fund, under the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity, also provides assistance to patients who may require surgical operations which can only be performed abroad or in a private health institution. |
|  |  | **Work and Employment (art. 27)** | |
| 33 | 38 | The Committee recommends that the State party develop effective legislative and policy measures to promote the transition from sheltered employment to the of employment of persons with disabilities in the open labour market and ensure protection from discrimination in employment, including explicit recognition of the obligation to provide reasonable accommodation. | **Implemented**  The forthcoming Disability Bill shall prohibit any employer to discriminate against any person with disability in any matter relating to employment, including recruitment, rights to labour and trade union activities and other related issues.  Moreover, the Workers’ Rights Act 2019 also takes into account persons with disabilities. Section 5 prohibits discrimination in employment and occupation and section 5(5)(a) of the said Act states that, “discrimination includes affording different treatment to different workers attributable, wholly or mainly, to their respective description by age, race, colour, caste, creed, sex, sexual orientation, HIV status, **impairment**, marital or family status, pregnancy, religion, political opinion, place of origin, national extraction or social origin, which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation”. |
| 34 | The State party should extend affirmative actions to the public sector and monitor compliance, establish programmes to facilitate inclusion of young persons with disabilities in the open labour market in close consultation with organisations of persons with disabilities and ensure that penalties are applied to employer who fail to comply with the quota | **Implemented**  The TEDPB Act was amended in 2012 with the provision to set up a Hearing Committee to deal with non-compliant companies with the legal quota for recruitment of persons with disabilities. The Penalty Fee has been amended for employers who fail to comply with the prescribed quota of 3% under the TEDPB Act. The employers who fail to comply with the 3% quota now have to pay a monthly contribution of Rs.4, 000 for each of the number of disabled persons not employed. Further, in case of prosecution at court, they can be liable to a fine of Rs. 75,000. |
|  |  | **Participation in political and public life (Art. 29)** | |
| 35 | 40 | The Committee recommends that the State party repeal the discriminatory provision contained in articles 34 (1) and 43 of the Constitution as well as related regulations and ensure that all persons with disabilities enjoy their rights to vote and to be elected. | Amendment of Constitution and relevant laws not warranted at this stage.  Section 34(1)(e) of the Constitution of the Republic of Mauritius provides of that no person shall be qualified to be elected as a member of the National Assembly if he is a person adjudged to be of unsound mind or detained as a criminal lunatic under any law in force in the Republic of Mauritius. Likewise, section 43 of the Constitution provides no person shall be registered as an elector under the same grounds as mentioned above.  Subject to the above and to the other grounds for disqualification, every person enjoys his right to vote and to be elected in the Republic of Mauritius. Persons with disabilities enjoy the same rights under our laws.  It is therefore not proposed to amend sections 34(1) and 43 of the Constitution. |
| 36 | 42 | The Committee recommends that the State party  (a) Accede to the Marrakesh treaty as soon as possible; | **Implemented**  Mauritius is a signatory member of the Marrakesh Treaty. With a view to acceding to the Marrakesh Treaty, the Copyrights Act has been amended in 2014. It allows for the transcription in braille and large print of textbooks, subject to certain conditions, without the authorization of authors.  This Ministry of Social Integration, SS and NS considered the ratification of the Treaty by Mauritius and consulted the Secretary to Cabinet and Head of the Civil Service, Ministry of Arts and Culture and Ministry of Foreign Affairs for all relevant information pertaining to same. The Ministry of Justice as well as the Attorney General’s Office was consulted and the latter raised no objection to the ratification of the said Treaty.  Steps are being taken to ratify the Treaty. |
| 37 | (b) Ensure accessibility of libraries, audiovisual materials and broadcast services to persons with disabilities; | **Implemented**  All public libraries and audiovisual materials are disabled friendly. Broadcast services are also accessible to persons with disabilities.  Important communiqué in Mauritian Sign Language such as voting instructions, household surveys and disaster risk management are broadcasted for persons with hearing impairment.  A weekly news bulletin is also broadcasted for the deaf population. |
| 38 | (c) Ensure that tourism policies and practices are accessible to and inclusive of persons with disabilities, and disseminate the World Tourism Organization Recommendations on Accessible Tourism for all among travel agents and tourism agencies. | **Being Implemented**  An exercise of categorization of hotels is being carried out and one of the criteria being considered is accessibility for persons with disabilities.  Regulation 5 and the Schedule of the Tourism Authority (Hotel Classification) Regulations 2015, provide for the consideration of provisions for facilities for disabled persons at hotels as a rating criteria for the award of a star rating certificate.  All 5 Star hotels, irrespective of the number of rooms, have to implement a minimum of one fully equipped disabled-friendly room. There are 26 Five Star hotels. All of them have made provision for at least 1 disabled-friendly room. |
|  |  | **Statistics and data collection (Art. 31)** | |
| 39 | 44 | The Committee recommends that the State party strengthen the 2012 data collection on persons with disabilities in order to collect data disaggregated by gender, age, rural/urban population and impairment type on all areas covered by the Convention in order to develop coherent policies and monitor the enjoyment of human rights by persons with disabilities. | **Implemented**  Statistics Mauritius conducts a population census every 10 years in order to collect data on all citizens. A house to house visit is conducted in order to ensure that all persons concerned are interviewed personally. The last census was conducted in 2011 and the data on disability is disaggregated by gender, age, type of disability, locality, marital status and other criteria such as school attendance, educational attainment, activity status and employment.  Statistics Mauritius already collects comprehensive data and has adopted the Washington Group short set of questions to identify persons with disabilities and same would be used for the upcoming population census in 2021.  Furthermore, the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity collects all the necessary information on persons with disabilities for the purpose of assessing data who are entitled to Basic Invalidity Pension and other disability benefits. |
|  |  | **National implementation and monitoring (Art. 33)** | |
| 40 | 46 | The Committee recommends that the State party designate an independent monitoring mechanism in conformity with the Paris Principles, ensuring that persons with disabilities and their representative organizations fully participate in the designation of the mechanism and monitoring the implementation of the Convention as required by article 33 (3). | **Implemented**  A steering committee chaired by the Minister of Social Integration, Social Security, and National Solidarity has been set up to monitor the implementation of the Convention as required by Article 33 (3). |
|  |  | **Follow up and dissemination** | |
| 41 | 47 | The Committee requests that the State party, within 12 months and in accordance with article 35, paragraph 2, of the Convention, provide information on the measures taken to implement the Committee’s recommendation as set out above in paragraph 8 and 42, which concerns the withdrawal of the State party’s reservations, the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention and the Marrakesh treaty. | **Implemented**  Two reservations are being removed. The Marrakesh Treaty is being ratified.  The ratification of the Optional Protocol will depend on the removal of the three reservations. |
| 42 | 48 | The Committee requests the State party to implement the recommendations of the Committee as contained in the present concluding observations. It recommends that the State party transmit the concluding observations for consideration and action to members of the Governments and Parliaments, officials in relevant ministries, local authorities, and members of relevant professional groups such as education, medical and legal professionals, as well as to the media, using modern social communication strategies. | **Implemented**  Various stakeholders are members of the Steering Committee chaired by the Minister of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity |
| 43 | 49 | The Committee strongly encourages the State party to involve civil society organizations, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities, in the preparation of its periodic report. | **Implemented**  All relevant stakeholders were involved in and they would be also involved in the preparation of the next Report. The preparation of the first periodic Report. |
| 44 | 50 | The Committee requests the State party to disseminate the present concluding observations widely, including to non-governmental organizations and representative organizations of persons with disabilities, as well as to persons with disabilities themselves and members of their families, in national and minority languages, including sign language, and in accessible formats, and to make them available on the government website on human rights. | **Implemented**  It is implemented through the Steering Committee. |