**Annex II**

**STATUS ON RESERVATIONS TO THE CONVENTION**

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was ratified in January 2010 with 3 reservations namely:

(i) **Reservations on Article 9(2) (d)**, which is as follows:

***2. States Parties shall also take appropriate measures:***

***d) To provide in buildings and other facilities open to the public signage in Braille and in other easy to read and understand forms;***

***Latest status:***

*The Building Regulations, worked out by the then Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport attends to the issue of accessibility to new buildings and buildings which will undergo renovations requiring a permit. The removal of reservation 9(2)(d) is now being considered.*

It is to be noted that in 2017, the then Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Land Transport made 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 first schedule and Subpart G and J of the second schedule of 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;

(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.

(ii) **Reservations on Article 11,** which is as follows:

***States Parties shall take, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters***.

***Latest status:***

*With regards to the reservations made under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) to Article 11 which deals with situations of risks and humanitarian emergencies, given that the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act 2016 was proclaimed on 1 July 2016, procedures have been initiated for the removal of this Reservation.*

It is to be noted that following the proclamation of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act in July 2016, a National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Centre was set up to coordinate the efforts of various agencies responsible for disaster risk 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 the event of disasters.

(iii) **Reservations on Article 24 (2) (b)**, which is as follows:

***2. In realizing this right, States Parties shall ensure that:***

***b) persons with disabilities can access an inclusive, quality and free primary education and secondary education on an equal basis with others in the communities in which they live;***

***Latest status:***

*The State of Mauritius has now engaged in a policy of inclusive education and expects to remove the reservation as soon as this policy is fully implemented. The Ministry of Education, Tertiary Education, Science and Technology has already set up a High Level Committee comprising representatives of the Ministry of Social Integration, Social Security and National Solidarity, the Mauritius Institute of Education, the Ombudsperson for Children and the Office of Public Sector Governance with a view to achieving parity on government funding between disabled and non-disabled children. The Committee has had consultations with all stakeholders concerned including NGOs looking after children with disabilities. Once this parity is achieved, the reservation might be removed.*

In this context, it is to be noted that since 2006, the State of 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 which 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 also be noted that, in 2018, the Special Education Needs Authority (SENA) Act 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 schools are still under way and will be carried out in phases, the reservation on Article24 (2) (b) is being maintained.

Therefore, the State of Mauritius is presently in the position of withdrawing 2 out of the 3 reservations on the Convention, namely articles 9(2) (d) and 11. Actions have already been initiated to do so.