



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND
INTERNATIONAL TRADE
(HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION)

Annual Report for
Financial Year 2020-2021



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PART I –THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

In September 2017, the former Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Institutional Reforms was created and the portfolio of Human Rights was transferred from Prime Minister's Office to the newly created Ministry.

Following the general elections held in November 2019, the subject matter for Human Rights was entrusted to a full-fledged Division, the Human Rights Division (HRD), under the aegis of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade.

The Senior Chief Executive is the Administrative Head and Accounting Officer of the Human Rights Division and is responsible for the overall administration and general supervision of the different sections of the Division and for the implementation of government policies and programmes.

She is assisted in her duties by a Deputy Permanent Secretary, an Assistant Permanent Secretary and officers of the Financial Operations Cadre, Human Resources Management Cadre, Procurement and Supply Cadre as well as officers of the General Services Grades.

The HRD is mandated to ensure that the State of Mauritius fulfils its reporting obligations and also provides a platform for the dissemination of information on Human Rights through the National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up.



1.2 VISION, MISSION AND CORE VALUES

(i) Our Vision

Our vision is to have a country where Human Rights and human dignity are valued, humanitarian laws are respected and each individual can enjoy his/her fundamental rights freely as per the Constitution and International laws.

(ii) Our Mission

- a) To promote Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.
- b) To empower individuals to recognise their fundamental rights and claim any violation of their Human Rights without fear and prejudice.
- c) To ensure appropriate actions are taken and implemented for the State to meet its international reporting obligations regarding Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.
- d) To establish a national platform for engagement and active participation of all stakeholders including public organisations, NGOs and civil society, to address the challenges in Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.
- e) To ensure that the State of Mauritius is compliant with the Arms Trade Treaty.

(iii) Our Core Values

- a) Customer Satisfaction
- b) Creativity and Innovativeness
- c) Teamwork
- d) Staff Development
- e) Recognition of dedication of our staff
- f) Professionalism and Integrity
- g) Quality and Excellence

1.3 OUR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- (i) To ensure that fairness and justice prevail in our society.
- (ii) To ensure that the fundamental rights of all are respected.
- (iii) To establish appropriate mechanisms in order to uphold the rule of law.
- (iv) To mainstream Human Rights issues.
- (v) To be a platform for dissemination of data, information and statistics on Human Rights.
- (vi) To ensure that the State of Mauritius fulfils its Human Rights obligations.
- (vii) To ensure that State Reports are prepared in a timely manner and follow up actions are taken thereon.
- (viii) To liaise with international bodies to ensure dissemination of Human Rights for one and all.
- (ix) To enhance the governance landscape in public sector organisations.
- (x) To enhance institutional reforms so that our institutions become more responsive to the needs of the society.
- (xi) To activate the role of institutional development to ensure proper implementation of plans and programmes.

1.4 MINISTER'S STATEMENT

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Human Rights Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade for the Financial Year 2020-2021. The Report gives an account of the Division's performance for the year. I wish to express my satisfaction regarding our State reporting obligations. The State of Mauritius has actually submitted the following reports to various Human Rights Committees, International Multilateral Organisations such as the United Nations and the African Union during the period:



- a) An Interim Report for the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women in October 2020.
- b) An Interim Report for the International Covenant for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in March 2021.
- c) The Compliance Report for Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Convention in April 2021.
- d) The Annual Report for Amended CCW Protocol II on the Prohibitions and Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-traps and other Devices in April 2021.
- e) The Annual Updates of the National Report for the CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War in April 2021.
- f) The Transparency Report of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in April 2021.
- g) The Arms Trade Treaty Annual Report for calendar year 2020 in May 2021.

In line with its mandate to disseminate information on Human Rights issues, a delegation comprising of the Senior Chief Executive and the Assistant Permanent Secretary headed to Rodrigues in November 2020 to discuss Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law issues. Moreover, International Humanitarian Law awareness materials produced by this Division were also handed over to the Island Chief Executive for wider distribution to the members of the public.

The Financial Year has been challenging in view of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Putting respect for human rights has been at the centre of Government's actions as it is crucial to the success of the public health response to the pandemic and the path to economic recovery.

Honourable Alan Ganoo

Minister of Land Transport and Light Rail

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade

1.5 SUPERVISING OFFICER'S STATEMENT

I am pleased to be associated with the presentation of the Annual Report on the performance of the Human Rights Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade for the Financial Year 2020-2021.



The year under review was a challenging and hectic one for this Division given that it has also been marked by the COVID-19 pandemic. I am pleased to report, that the Division has been able to meet up to these challenges along its way successfully.

We managed to work through roster and home-based assignments to ensure dissemination of information on Human Rights issues and submission of seven reports on behalf of the State of Mauritius.

I wish to express my warm gratitude and appreciation to all staff of the Division.

I look forward to the same rigour and determination on the part of all staff on the challenges awaiting us in the next financial year.

Asha Devi Burrenchobay
Senior Chief Executive
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade
(Human Rights Division)

1.6 ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION

The Human Rights Division is responsible, inter alia to:

- (i) draft and prepare reports on Human Rights in line with State obligations;
- (ii) maintain and monitor a database on the implementation of recommendations made by the United Nations Treaty Bodies and the African Union Commission;
- (iii) facilitate through the National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-Up consultations, coordination and engagements with all the relevant stakeholders;
- (iv) respond to all queries, questionnaires, surveys and procedures made by Treaty Bodies and other regional Human Rights organisations; and
- (v) advise Government on Human Rights issues as and when required.

(i) NATIONAL MECHANISMS FOR REPORTING AND FOLLOW UP (NMRF)

The NMRF is a unique inter-ministerial structure set up administratively for effective reporting and implementation of treaty obligations, engagement with the international and regional Human Rights systems and follow up on the recommendations or decisions emanating from the Treaty Bodies, the Human Rights Council, the Universal Periodic Review, Special Procedure Mandate Holders, Regional Human Rights Mechanisms and at the national level. The NMRF is chaired by the Hon. Minister responsible for Human Rights and comprises representatives of Ministries and Departments, National Human Rights Institutions and Non-Governmental Organisations / the Civil Society. The NMRF held two meetings during the Financial Year 2020-2021.

The Human Rights Division also engaged actively with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the African Commission on Human and People's Rights in the promotion and protection of Human Rights.

(ii) INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

International Humanitarian Law is the set of international treaties customary rules that, in times of armed conflict, defends people who are not or are no longer taking part in hostilities and restricts the use of means and methods of war.

The State of Mauritius is party to most of the International Humanitarian Law instruments though it is a peaceful country and outside the armed conflict regions. The list of International Humanitarian Law instruments to which Mauritius is party is indicated in Table 3 at paragraph 1.7 on page 12.

1.7 CONVENTIONS AND TREATIES

Mauritius is party to the following international instruments and has ratified and acceded to the following:

Table 1: Ratification of Human Rights Conventions

| SN | Treaty/Convention | Date of ratification |
|--|--|----------------------|
| 1 | Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW-OP) | 31 October 2008 |
| 2 | Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (CRC-OP-AC) | 12 February 2009 |
| 3 | Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) | 08 January 2010 |
| 4 | Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (CRC-OP-SC) | 14 June 2011 |
| Other Multilateral Treaties | | |
| 5 | United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime | 18 April 2003 |
| Regional Human Rights Instruments | | |
| 6 | African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child | 14 February 1992 |
| 7 | African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights | 19 June 1992 |
| 8 | Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights | 03 March 2003 |
| 9 | Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa | 16 June 2017 |

Table 2: Accession to Human Rights Conventions

| SN | Treaty/Convention | Date of accession |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1 | International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) | 30 May 1972 |
| 2 | International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) | 12 December 1973 |
| 3 | International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR) | 12 December 1973 |
| 4 | Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPROP-1) | 12 December 1973 |
| 5 | International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) | 09 July 1984 |
| 6 | Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) | 26 July 1990 |
| 7 | Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) | 09 December 1992 |
| 8 | Optional Protocol to the Convention against Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT- OP) | 21 June 2005 |
| Other Multilateral Treaties | | |
| 9 | The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction | 23 March 1993 |
| 10 | Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational | 24 September 2003 |
| 11 | Convention for the protection of individuals with regards to automatic processing of personal data (European Treaty 108) | 17 June 2016 |

Table 3: International Humanitarian Law Instruments

| | Treaty | Date Signed/ Acceded / Succeeded |
|----|--|--|
| A | The Four Geneva Conventions and their Protocols | |
| 1 | 1949 Geneva Convention I for the Amelioration of the conditions of the Wounded and Sick in the Armed Forces in the Field | Ratified on 18 August 1970 |
| 2 | 1949 Geneva Convention II for the Amelioration of the condition of the Wounded and Sick and Shipwrecked members of the Armed Forces at Sea | Ratified on 18 August 1970 |
| 3 | 1949 Geneva Convention III relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War | Ratified on 18 August 1970 |
| 4 | 1949 Geneva Convention IV relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War | Succeeded on 18 August 1970 |
| 5 | 1977 Protocol I – Additional to the 1949 Geneva Convention relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflict | Ratified on 22 March 1982 |
| 6 | 1977 Protocol II – Additional to the 1949 Geneva Convention relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts | Ratified on 22 March 1982 |
| 7 | Final Act of the Diplomatic Conference of Geneva of 1974-1977 | Signed on 10 June 1977 |
| B. | The Biological Weapons Conventions 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction | Ratified on 07 August 1972 |

| | Treaty | Date Signed/ Acceded / Succeeded |
|----|--|---|
| C. | Chemical Weapons Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production Stock-piling and Use of chemical Weapons and their Destruction | Ratified on 9 February 1993 |
| D. | The Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and its Protocols | |
| 1 | 1925, Geneva Protocol on Asphyxiating, Poisonous or other Gases and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare | Acceded on 12 March 1968 |
| 2 | 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) which may deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects | Acceded on 6 May 1996 |
| 3 | 1980 Protocol I on the Non- Detectable Fragments | Acceded on 6 May 1996 |
| 4 | 1980 Protocol II on the Prohibitions and Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-traps and other Devices | Acceded on 6 May 1996 |
| 5 | 1980 Protocol III on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons | Ratified on 6 May 1996 |
| 6 | 1995 Protocol IV on Blinding Laser Weapons | Ratified on 06 May 1996 |
| 7 | Amended Protocol II on the Prohibitions and Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-traps and other Devices (1996) | Ratified on 02 November 2018 |
| 8 | Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War | Ratified on 02 November 2018 |
| 9 | Convention on the prohibition of the Use of Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their destruction, 1997 | Acceded on 03 December 1997 |

| | | |
|---------------|---|---|
| 10 | Convention on Cluster Munitions, 2008 | Ratified on 01 October 2015 |
| Treaty | | Date Signed/ Acceded / Succeeded |
| E. | Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the event of armed conflict | Ratified on 22 September 2006 |
| F. | The Rome Statute | |
| 1 | The Rome Statute for the International Criminal Court, 1998 | Ratified on 5 March 2002 |
| 2 | Amendment to the Statute of the International Criminal Court | Ratified on 05 September 2013 |
| G. | The Convention on the Rights of the Child | |
| 1 | The Convention on the Rights of the Child | Ratified on 26 July 1990 |
| 2 | The 2000 Optional protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict | Ratified on 12 February 2009 |
| H. | Arms Trade Treaty | |
| 1 | Arms Trade Treaty | Ratified on 23 July 2015 |
| 2 | Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, 1948 | Acceded on 08 July 2019 |
| 3 | Convention on the Prohibition of military or any hostile use of environmental modification techniques (ENMOD), 1976 | Acceded on 09 December 1992 |

1.8 QUESTIONNAIRES

Independent Human Rights Experts, known as Special Rapporteurs, are appointed by the Human Rights Council (HRC) to report and advise on Human Rights from a thematic or country-specific viewpoint.

The Special Rapporteurs:

- (i) conduct annual thematic studies, solicit information through calls for contribution and organise for expert consultations;
- (ii) commit to the building out of international Human Rights standards; and engage in advocacy, raise public awareness and technical cooperation assistance.

Special Rapporteurs and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) send questionnaires to the HRD on a regular basis, soliciting information from Member States on various issues.

The HRD liaises with relevant Ministries and Departments to seek information and submits the compiled inputs as responses to the OHCHR. These replies are officially published on the website of the OHCHR.

During the Financial Year 2020 - 2021, the Human Rights Division replied to 43 questionnaires on the following topics:

- (i) Administration of Justice
- (ii) Business and Human Rights
- (iii) Children
- (iv) Coercive Measures
- (v) Data protection
- (vi) Democracy
- (vii) Development
- (viii) Education
- (ix) Freedom of Expression
- (x) Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association
- (xi) Freedom of Religion and Belief

- (xii) Independence of Judiciary
- (xiii) Leprosy
- (xiv) Mercenaries
- (xv) Migration
- (xvi) Minorities
- (xvii) Persons with Disabilities
- (xviii) Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
- (xix) Sustainable Development Goals
- (xx) Toxic Substances
- (xxi) Trafficking in persons
- (xxii) Water and Sanitation
- (xxiii) Women Rights

1.9 GENDER STATEMENT

Gender equality is at the very heart of Human Rights. The HRD recognises the major role of women as agents of development and shares the opinion that gender equality and empowerment of women are critical factors for overall economic, social and political progress. The Division ensures that gender practices are an integral part at all levels in its decision-making process. Out of the 28 officers, there is a mix of 8 males and 20 females officers working without any disparity, whether at professional, technical or support staff level.

The Division is adopting the following practices for an appropriate gender approach:

- (i) employment under delegated power from the Public Service Commission will be given due consideration, that is, irrespective of applicants' caste, colour, creed, ethnic origin, impairment, marital status, place of origin, political opinion, race, sex or sexual orientation,
- (ii) reinforcement of equal opportunity at all levels of the Division, in both the technical and administrative functions.



1.10 ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

The HRD is manned by a workforce of 28 staff. The staffing position as at 30 June 2021 is at Annex A.

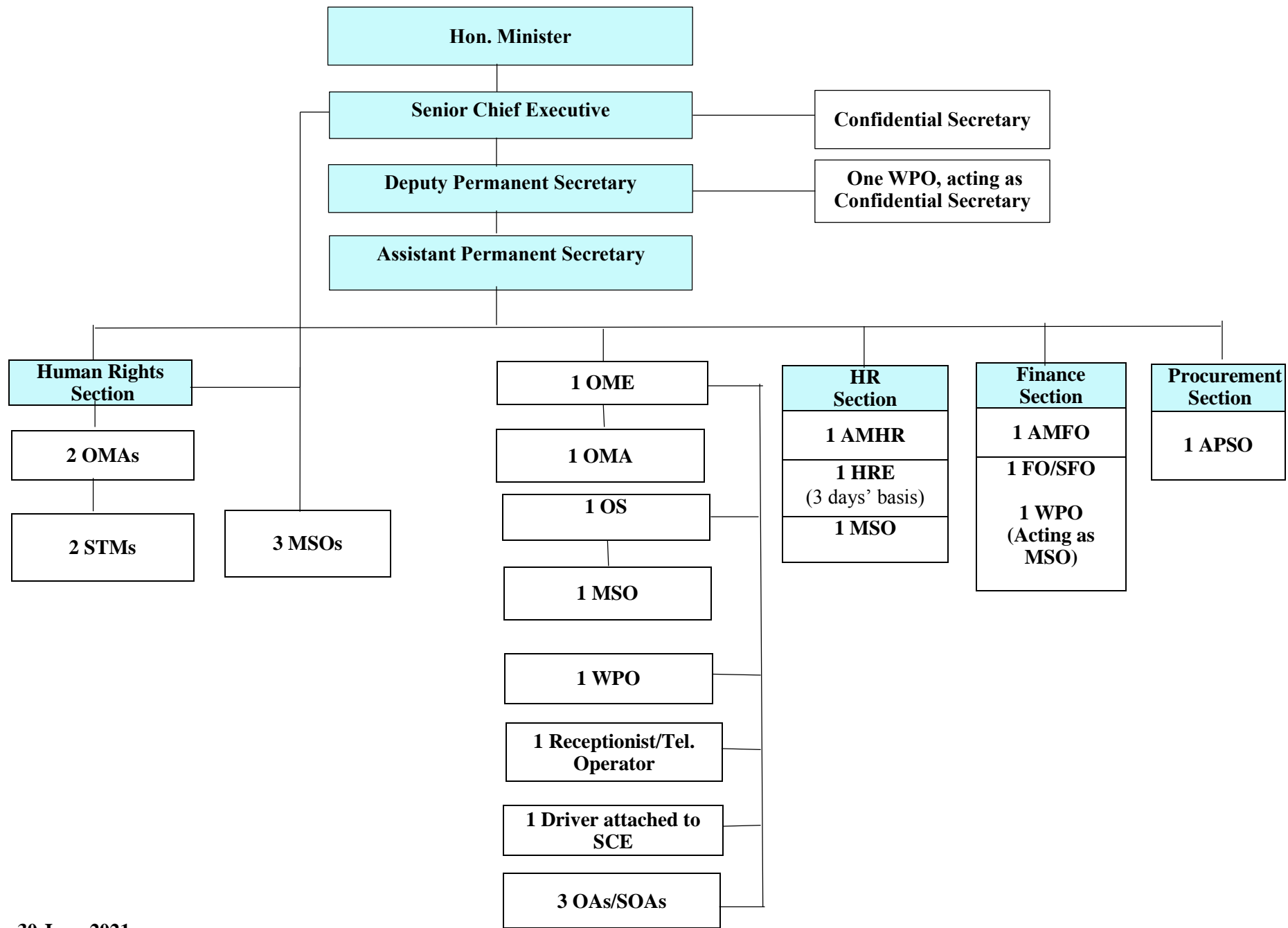
The workforce includes two Interns who have been enlisted under the Service to Mauritius Programme of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development. They are posted in the Human Rights Unit to provide support to the existing team, while gaining experience and enhancing employability on the labour market.

One officer from the Central Information Systems Division (CISD) provides technical support as and when required.

One Health and Safety Officer from the Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms serves the Division on a part time basis.

Furthermore one post of Human Rights Officer has been created and established in the Civil Establishment Order 2019 and its Scheme of Service prescribed on 05 February 2020. The post was reported to the Public Service Commission on 20 November 2020 for further necessary actions to fill it.

An organigram of the HRD is at page 19 and a list of Senior Officials is at page 20.



1.11 LIST OF SENIOR STAFF

| POST | NAME | PHONE No | FAX No | E-MAIL |
|--|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|
| Senior Chief Executive | BURRENCHOBAY Asha Devi (Ms) | 260-1907 | 214-3616 | aburrenchobay@govmu.org |
| Deputy Permanent Secretary | JURAWON Abdul Nizam | 260-1908 | 214-3643 | ajurawon@govmu.org |
| Assistant Permanent Secretary | EMRITH Rakesh | 260-1904 | 241-3616 | raemrith@govmu.org |
| HUMAN RESOURCES | | | | |
| Assistant Manager, Human Resources | OOJAGEER Koresha Banon (Mrs) | 260-1910 | 214-3616 | kboojageer@govmu.org |
| FINANCE SECTION | | | | |
| Assistant Manager Financial Operations | KHODABUX Salmah Bibi Oummeh (Mrs) | 260-2401 | 214-3616 | sakhodabux@govmu.org |
| ADMINISTRATION SECTION | | | | |
| Office Management Executive | MOONEESAMY Marie-Anne (Mrs) | 260-1906 | 214-3616 | mmooneesamy@govmu.org |
| PROCUREMENT SECTION | | | | |
| Procurement and Supply Officer/ Senior Procurement and Supply Officer | RAMSEOOK Pooja (Mrs) | 260-1905 | 214-3616 | pramseook@govmu.org |
| RECEPTION | | | | |
| Reception Desk | | 214-1909 | | |

PART II-HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION'S ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

2.1 MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS FROM JULY 2020 TO JUNE 2021

(i) Reports submitted

The State of Mauritius submitted the following reports to the office of the High Commission for the Human Rights and the Arms Trade Treaty Secretariat in Geneva during the Financial Year 2020 - 2021:

a) An Interim Report for the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on 30 October 2020.

The follow up Report was submitted to the OHCHR on 30 October 2020 on:

- ❖ Paragraph 16 - Temporary special measures
- ❖ Paragraph 18 (b) - Stereotypes and gender-based violence against women
- ❖ Paragraph 38 (c) - Marriage and family relations
- ❖ Paragraph 40 - Data collection and analysis

The next Periodic Report is due in November 2022. Given that Mauritius has availed of the Simplified Reporting Procedure, it is expected that the list of issues would be received at least 6 months prior to the reporting deadline.

b) An Interim Report for the International Covenant for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) on 08 March 2021.

The Interim Report on the Concluding Observations and Recommendations was submitted in March 2021.

The Interim Report is available on the website of this Division and has been posted on the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

c) Compliance Report for Certain Conventional Weapons Convention (CCW) in April 2021.

At the third Review Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the CCW held in 2006, it was decided to establish a compliance mechanism applicable to the Treaty, thus undertaking to consult each other and to cooperate bilaterally, through the Secretary-General, or through other voluntary international procedures, regarding any concerns which relate to the fulfilment of their legal obligations or to resolve any issue that may arise with regard to the interpretation and application of the provisions of the Convention.

In this context, the State of Mauritius submitted its CCW Compliance Report covering calendar year 2020. The report contained information on:

- ❖ dissemination of information on the Convention and its Protocols to their armed forces and to the civilian population;
- ❖ steps taken to meet the relevant technical requirements of the Convention and its protocols and any other relevant information pertaining thereto;
- ❖ legislation related to the Convention and its Protocols;
- ❖ measures taken on technical cooperation and assistance; and
- ❖ other relevant matters.

However, it is to be noted that there are presently no conventional weapons in the State of Mauritius.

d) Annual Report for Amended CCW Protocol II on the Prohibitions and Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-traps and other Devices (1996) in April 2021.

Article 13 of the Amended CCW Protocol II, paragraph 4, stipulates that High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary and shall circulate them to all High Contracting Parties in advance of the Conference.

Mauritius having ratified the Amended CCW Protocol II, therefore, submitted its annual report covering calendar year 2020 and the latter contained information regarding the following matters:

- ❖ dissemination of information on this Protocol to their armed forces and to the civilian population;

- ❖ mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes;
- ❖ steps taken to meet technical requirements of this Protocol and any other relevant information pertaining thereto;
- ❖ legislation related to this Protocol;
- ❖ measures taken on international technical information exchange, on international cooperation on mine clearance, and on technical cooperation and assistance; and
- ❖ other relevant matters.

e) Annual Updates of the National Report for the CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War in April 2021.

Having ratified the CCW Protocol V on 02 November 2018, the State of Mauritius has an obligation to submit Annual Updates for National Reports of the CCW.

Subsequently, Annual Reports of the National Report covering calendar year 2020 was submitted in April 2021 and included the following information:

- ❖ clearance, removal or destruction of ERW;
- ❖ recording, retaining and transmission of information;
- ❖ other precautions for the protection of the civilian population, individual civilians and civilian objects from the risks and effects of ERW;
- ❖ provisions for the protection of humanitarian missions and organizations from the effects of ERW;
- ❖ assistance with respect to existing ERW;
- ❖ co-operation and assistance;
- ❖ victim assistance;
- ❖ generic preventive measures;
- ❖ compliance; and
- ❖ other relevant matters.

However, it is worth noting that most of the above-mentioned issues are not relevant to Mauritius since we are a peaceful country, which is not involved in armed conflict and has no explosive remnants of war.

f) The Transparency Report of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in April 2021.

Pursuant to Article 7 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), Mauritius, having ratified the CCM, is under the obligation to provide updates of transparency measures taken to the Secretary-General of the United Nations annually.

Consequently, Mauritius submitted its Transparency Report of the CCM covering period January 2020 to December 2020.

It provided updates on the following issues:

- ❖ national implementation measures;
- ❖ all cluster munitions, including explosive sub munitions;
- ❖ technical characteristics of all cluster munitions produced or owned;
- ❖ status of programmes for the conversion or decommissioning of cluster munition production facilities;
- ❖ status of programmes for destruction of cluster munitions;
- ❖ types and quantities of cluster munitions destroyed;
- ❖ cluster munitions discovered after completion of the destruction and their plans for their destruction;
- ❖ size and location of all cluster munition contaminated areas;
- ❖ status of programmes for the clearance and destruction of all cluster munition remnants;
- ❖ measures taken to provide risk reduction education and effective warning to civilians;
- ❖ status of implementation of the obligations;
- ❖ institutions mandated to provide information;
- ❖ national resources, including financial, material or in kind; and
- ❖ international cooperation and assistance provided, amongst others.

g) The Arms Trade Treaty Annual Report for calendar year 2020 in May 2021.

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is the only legally binding instrument to regulate the global arms trade. At its core, the ATT aims to promote transparency in the arms trade in order to build confidence amongst States Parties. One way that the treaty advances this objective is its requirement for States Parties to annually report on their arms exports and imports.

According to Article 13(3) of the ATT, States Parties are required to submit a report on an annual basis including information ‘*concerning authorized or actual exports and imports of conventional arms covered under Article 2(1)*’ that were made during the preceding calendar year.

Therefore, the ATT Annual Report 2020 was prepared and submitted to our Permanent Mission in Geneva for onward transmission to the ATT Secretariat.

The report highlighted information provided by the implementing agency of the treaty, namely, the Mauritius Police Force and other relevant stakeholders, such as the Customs Department on arms exports and imports that occurred during that calendar year.

Globally, the report provided a summary of exports and imports to the ATT and it also highlighted emerging trends in reporting practices as well as certain challenges to transparency.

(ii) State Reviews

The Republic of Mauritius represented by a delegation led by the former Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade was reviewed on its 9th to 10th Combined Periodic Report on the Implementation of the (ACHPR) on 24 and 27 July 2020.

The African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights was satisfied with the explanation/information provided by the State of Mauritius, and commended the effort made by the country for respect of human rights, however, the ACHPR has not yet issued its Concluding Observations.

Hon. Solomon Ayele Dersso, Chairperson of the ACHPR also spoke on behalf of the Commission and requested at this point in time for Mauritius to be the champion of the ACHPR and their Ambassador.

2.2 NATIONAL MECHANISMS FOR REPORTING AND FOLLOW UP (NMRF)

Various meetings of the NMRF were held to address all reporting obligations and follow up actions in a more systematic manner with all stakeholders, Ministries, Departments, Civil Societies and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs).



The last NMRF meeting was held on 18 February 2021.



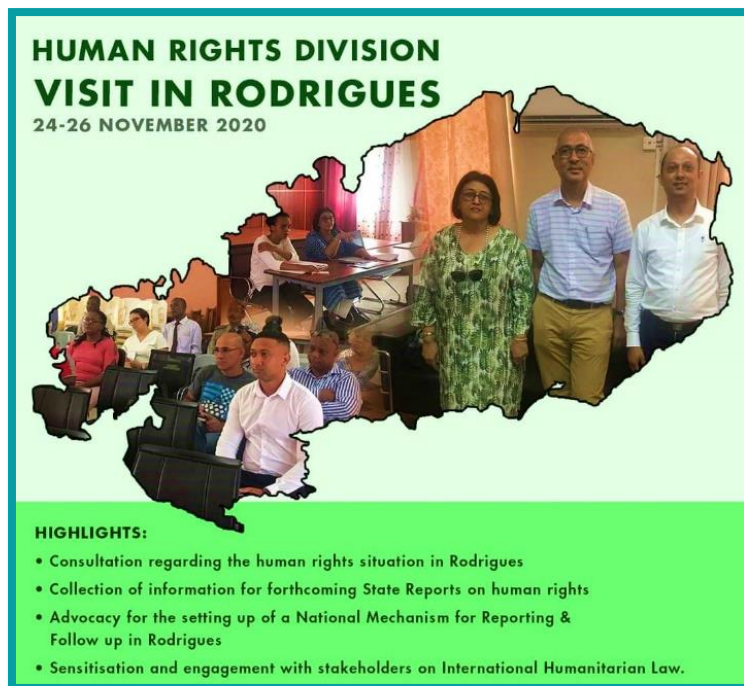
2.3 AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Awareness in Rodrigues

A delegation comprising of Ms A.Burrenchobay Senior Chief Executive and Mr R.Emrith Assistant Permanent Secretary headed to Rodrigues from 24 to 26 November 2020 to discuss Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law issues.

The main objectives of the mission were to:

- (i) carry out consultations regarding the Human Rights situation in Rodrigues, especially with respect to the forthcoming State Reviews for CERD and CAT;
- (ii) explain the National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-Up and set up a similar structure for Rodrigues; and
- (iii) disseminate information on International Humanitarian Law.



Furthermore, International Humanitarian Law awareness materials produced by this Division were also handed over to the Island Chief Executive for wider distribution to the public.

2.4 LECTURES AND TALKS ORGANIZED AROUND SPECIFIC THEMES RELATING TO HUMAN RIGHTS

Human Rights Day

The Human Rights Division in collaboration with the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office in Mauritius organised a half-day symposium on 10 December 2020 at the Hennessy Park Hotel, Ebène, on the theme “*Build back better by putting Human Rights at the core of the recovery*”.

This year marked the 72th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the event was organised as an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of Human Rights in re-building the world we want, re-iterate the messages we pushed at the height of the COVID-19 crisis, the need for global solidarity as well as our interconnectedness and shared humanity as human beings.

The main objectives of the symposium were to:

- a) illustrate the response of Mauritius to COVID-19, its economic impact and the recovery process;
- b) reflect on the various economic initiatives put in place for recovery by Government and the private sector and how we can “Build Back Better” by placing Human Rights at the core of recovery;
- c) reflect on transformative action, showcasing practical and innovative examples that can enhance the COVID-19 recovery, contribute to Building Back Better, achieve the Global Goals and foster more resilient and just societies; and
- d) sensitize all actors on the importance of Human Rights in the post COVID-19 world and the need for a new, inclusive and sustainable global deal based on the respect for human rights.

The programme of the event comprised of an official opening ceremony where the Honourable Dr Renganaden Padayachy, Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, Honourable Mr Nandcoomar Bodha, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade and Dr Laurent Musango, United Nations Resident Coordinator, Ad interim addressed the audience.

The Division also marked its presence on the social media platform by officially presenting its Facebook Page and YouTube Channel during the event.



Additionally, a song/video clip produced by DIS MOI (Drwa de Lom Divan) in collaboration with this Division and funded by the United Nations Mauritius was launched on the Human Rights Day 2020. The clip explains the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the national language (Kreol). The opening ceremony was followed by panel discussions.

The event was attended by 190 participants, including those from, *inter alia*, Government Bodies, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), Business Organisations, Association of Employers, Chamber of Commerce, representatives of Trade Union Federations and Association of Employees, NGOs, Representatives of International Institutions, University Students, Youth Councils and the Civil Society.



Mrs Vimi Appadoo from Dale Carnegie Mauritius was the moderator of the second part of the event and the panellists comprised:



- ❖ Dr Laurent Musango, Representative of the World Health Organisation in Mauritius;
- ❖ Mr Neetish Hurry, Director of Analytics and Cognitive Computing, International Economics Ltd;
- ❖ Mr Kevin Ramkaloan, Chief Executive Officer, Business Mauritius; and
- ❖ Mrs Danielle Wong, Former Director of Mauritius Export Association (MEXA) and representative of the Civil Society

2.5 WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

Workshop on Human Rights

The Human Rights Division organized a workshop on Human Rights at the Hennessy Park Hotel, Ebène, on 29 October 2020 with a view to engaging more actively with members of the National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-Up (NMRF) and also other representative of the Civil Society and the Non-Governmental Organisations.

The main objectives of the workshop were to:

- (i) apprise the participants of the legislative framework and the institutional set up for Human Rights in Mauritius;
- (ii) identify any proposals for legislative or structural amendments to improve the Human Rights landscape in Mauritius;
- (iii) exchange information on the Human Rights actions effected by the NGOs and Civil Society; and
- (iv) propose ways to improve the synergies and strengthen the cooperation between all stakeholders with a view to addressing more effectively the Human Rights issues in Mauritius.

The of the workshop comprised two panels of discussions moderated each by a Senior Lecturer from the University of Mauritius. Discussion were held on the following topics:

- (i) legislative framework and institutional set up for Human Rights in Mauritius; and
- (ii) how to create better synergies and strengthen the cooperation between all stakeholders with a view to addressing more effectively the Human Rights issues in Mauritius.

The panellists were Mr B. Sik Yuen, G.O.S.K, Former Chief Justice, Mr D. Seetulsingh, S.C. Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission, Ms S. Aumeeruddy-Cziffra, Chairperson of the Public Bodies Appeal Tribunal, H.E. Mrs C. Umutoni, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Mauritius H.E. Mr V. Degert, Ambassador to the European Union in Mauritius ME J.C Bibi, Barrister at Law, Ms S.Gareeboo, Assistant Parliamentary Counsel, Attorney-General office and Mrs Delphine Bouic, Manager, CIEL Foundation.



The workshop was attended by 115 participants from different Ministries/Departments, Parastatal Bodies, Civil Societies, Non-Governmental Organisations and National Human Rights Institutions.

2.6 TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Training and Development is an important component of the Human Resource Management. Staff of the Division are provided with regular training to keep them abreast of new skills, trends and techniques. A list of generic competency-based training courses is run by the Civil Service College, Mauritius with the main objective to increase staff sense of responsibility and accountability. On the other hand, specific training programmes with the aims of improving the officer's technical competencies and knowledge in order to produce a positive change in the functioning of the Division and enhancing productivity have also been organised.

List of training courses and seminars attended by officers from July 2020 to June 2021.

- (i) Competency-based Training Courses organised by the Civil Service College, Mauritius:
 - a) Advanced Microsoft Excel
 - b) Awareness in Gender Mainstreaming
 - c) Tender Preparation and Evaluation
 - d) Writing Effective Minutes of Meeting
 - e) Statutory Interpretation
 - f) First Aid
 - g) Registry Procedures
- (ii) Workplace Safety for Confidential Secretaries, Senior Word Processing Operators and Word Processing Operators.
- (iii) Safety and Health in the Workplace for Management Support Officers.
- (iv) Safety and Health in the Workplace for Office Management Assistants.
- (v) Fire Safety and Fire Risk Management.
- (vi) In-House Training programme on Developing Self-Confidence and Work-Life Integration conducted by the Dale Carnegie Training Centre.

PART III- FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

3.1 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Appropriation of funds for the Human Rights Division is made from VOTE 8-2 'Human Rights Division' of budget for the financial year 2020 -2021.

3.2 ANALYSIS OF MAJOR CHANGES

The Budgetary Provision for Financial Year 2020-2021 was Rs 21 Million compared to Rs 30.5 Million in Financial Year 2019-2020.

The reduction in Budget Provision is mainly due to General Government measure 'to reduce recurrent expenditure by 10% compared to Voted Provision for Financial Year 2019-2020'; and reduction in number of officers and associated costs relating to change of structure of the Office from a Ministry (former Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Institutional Reforms) to a Division.

The Actual Expenditure incurred for Financial Year 2020-2021 is Rs 17.90 Million representing 85.24% of the total provision for the year.

3.3 STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

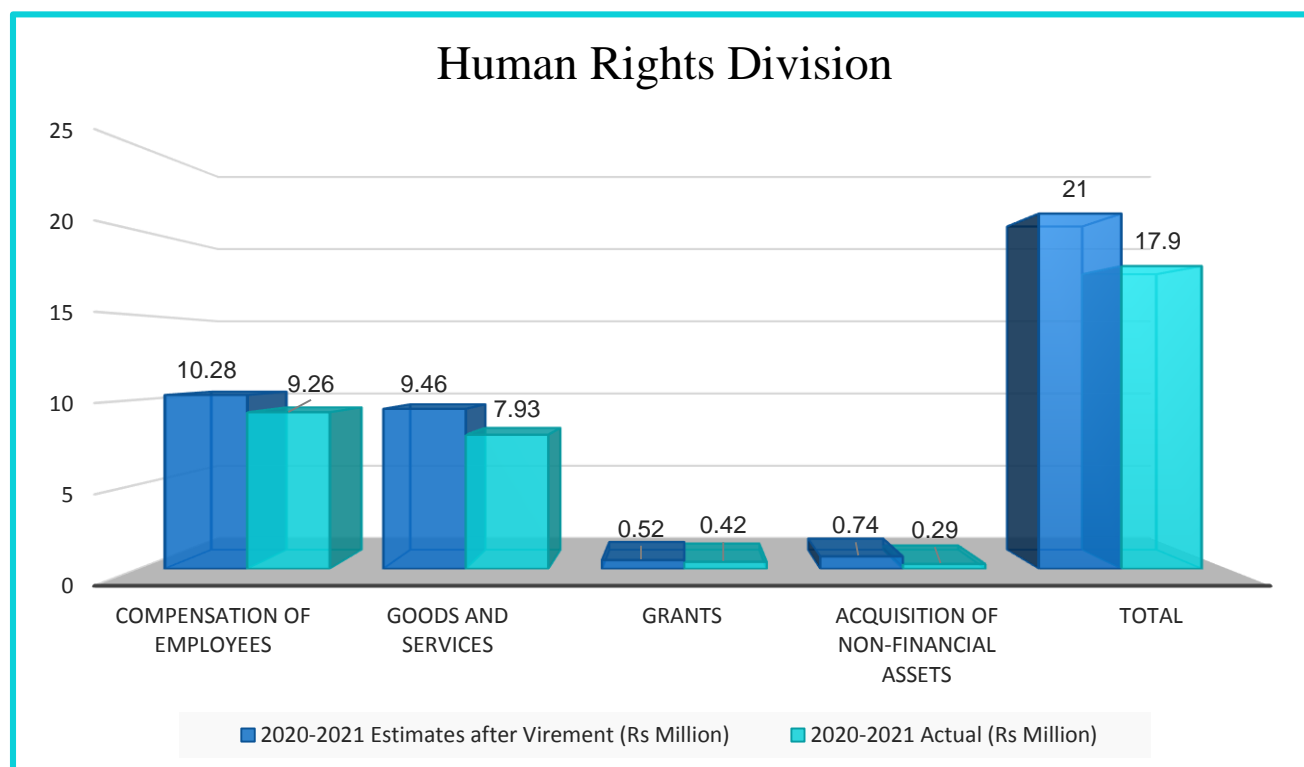
Statement of Revenue (NIL)

The Human Rights Division does not collect Revenue.

Statement of Expenditure

The Preparation of the Statement of Expenditure is based on information extracted from the Treasury Accounting System.

| List of Expenditures | 2019-2020 Actual | 2020-2021 Estimates after Virement | 2020-2021 Actual |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| | (Rs Million) | (Rs Million) | (Rs Million) |
| Compensation of Employees | 11.28 | 10.28 | 9.26 |
| Goods and Services | 6.23 | 9.46 | 7.93 |
| Grants | 0.41 | 0.52 | 0.42 |
| Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets | 0 | 0.74 | 0.29 |
| Total | 17.92 | 21.00 | 17.90 |



PART IV- WAY FORWARD

4.1 SWOT ANALYSIS, TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

The changing economic, social and environmental landscape provides new challenges and opportunities for Government. Expectations about performance and quality of organisations in the Public domain are increasing all the time.

The public sector is constantly being asked to do more with less. The SWOT analysis on the next page provides an overview of the position of this Division and the various trends and challenges and other operational/strategic issues to address to improve its efficiency and effectiveness.

STRENGTHS

- Good leadership
- Exposure to best international practice
- Experienced Senior staff
- Engagement and collective responsibilities
- Opportunities for collaborative research
- Wide array of compiled information
- Database of Reports on various Human Rights issues
- Good communication and operating network with Ministries/Departments

WEAKNESSES

- Limited number of staff
- High staff turnover
- Lack of technical expertise in Human Rights
- Duplication of work by various Governmental Institutions
- Lack of well-established methods
- Time consuming processes
- Heavily dependent on paperwork
- Disconnected approach to Institutional Reforms

OPPORTUNITIES

- Aggressive Human Rights sensitization at all levels of society
- Access to additional Regional and International Human Rights Instruments
- Research output beneficial to layman
- Training and development in new Human Rights approaches and Institutional Reforms
- Use of Management Information System (MIS) in Human Rights and Institutional Reforms
- Creating a Human Rights Cadre

THREATS

- Change in portfolio of Ministry
- Merging and diversification of existing entities
- Low commitment from stakeholders
- Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic

4.2 STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The Strategic Direction of the Human Rights Division over the next three years is as follows:

- (i) To develop appropriate human rights indicator for monitoring of human rights in Mauritius.
- (ii) To implement effectively the recommendations made by Treaty Bodies, the Human Rights Council and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.
- (iii) To strengthen the engagement with all national actors on human rights.
- (iv) To enhance human rights awareness.
- (v) To strengthen capacity on human rights and international humanitarian law.
- (vi) The promotion of International Humanitarian Law.

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade
(Human Rights Division)
Staffing Position as at 30 June 2021**

| SN | POST | FUNDED POSITIONS 2020/2021 | NO. IN POST | REMARKS |
|-----------|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| 1 | Senior Chief Executive | - | 1 | Paid by Prime Minister's Officer |
| 2 | Deputy Permanent Secretary | 1 | 1 | |
| 3 | Assistant Permanent Secretary | 1 | 1 | |
| 4 | Human Rights Officer | - | - | Funds have been approved by PMO to fill in one vacancy. Post has been advertised by the Public Service Commission on 20 November 2020 |
| 5 | Assistant Manager, Human Resources | - | 1 | Paid by Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms |
| 6 | Assistant Manager, Financial Operations | 1 | 1 | |
| 7 | Financial Officer/Senior Financial Officer | 1 | 1 | |
| 8 | Human Resource Executive | - | 1 | Paid by Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms |
| 9 | Assistant Procurement and Supply Officer | 1 | 1 | |
| 10 | Office Management Executive | 1 | 1 | |
| 11 | Office Management Assistant | 3 | 3 | |
| 12 | Office Supervisor | 1 | 1 | |

| | | | | |
|----|--|-----------|-----------|--|
| 13 | Confidential Secretary | 2 | 1 | One vacancy has been reported to the Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms |
| 14 | Management Support Officer | 3 | 5 | Two MSOs are paid by the Ministry of Financial Services and Good Governance and the Ministry of Public Service, Administrative and Institutional Reforms. |
| 15 | Word Processing Operator | 2 | 2 | |
| 16 | Receptionist/Telephone Operator | 1 | 1 | |
| 17 | Driver | - | 1 | On secondment from the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and attached to the SCE. |
| 18 | Office Auxiliary/ Senior Office Auxiliary | 3 | 3 | |
| | TOTAL | 21 | 26 | <u>Note:</u> In addition, there are two (2) Interns enlisted under the Service to Mauritius Enlisted Programme of the Ministry of Finance, Economic and Planning Development and posted to this Division with effect from February 2021. |