

Statement of European Disability Forum, on behalf of:

INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY ALLIANCE (IDA)

Member Organisations:

Arab Organization of Persons with Disabilities, Disabled People's International,
Down Syndrome International, European Disability Forum,
Inclusion International, International Federation of Hard of Hearing People,
Latin American Network of Non-Governmental Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and
their Families, Pacific Disability Forum,
World Blind Union, World Federation of the Deaf,
World Federation of the Deaf Blind,
World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry

Human Rights Council 25th session, 3-28 March 2014
UPR segment – Adoption of UPR Outcome – Mauritius

20 March 2014

Thank you. With support from the International Disability Alliance and its member organization, Disabled People International, a UPR report was submitted by the Federation of Disabled Peoples Organizations Mauritius, a national umbrella organization of persons with disabilities.

We thank the government of Mauritius for its presentation today, and congratulate it for accepting recommendations 128.26, 128.45, 128.68, 128.106, 128.107, 128.108, 128.109, 128.110, and 128.111, made by Djibouti, Kuwait, Argentina, Maldives, Senegal, New Zealand, Turkey, Cambodia, and Ethiopia.

We note that Mauritius had made reservations to the CRPD on articles 9 (accessibility), article 24 (education), and article 11 (on protection in situations of risk and emergencies). We thank the governments of Togo and Uruguay for echoing the deep concern of persons with disabilities regarding these reservations, in recommendations 129.10 and 129.11, respectively.

The Government of Mauritius has indicated its willingness to withdraw these reservations, but only after it has fully achieved implementation of the relevant obligations. However, this does not seem like the best approach, because these obligations will always need to be implemented progressively over time. It is important to indicate the willingness to implement them, by withdrawing its reservations, and to begin immediately with increased actions to implement these obligations, and to create plans to do so over time and on a permanent and ongoing basis. Accordingly, we recommend the government to withdraw the reservations as soon as possible.

Regarding recommendation 129.12, to ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRPD (Australia)- we request the government to ratify the Optional Protocol to the CRPD without delay.

Regarding recommendation 129.35, to formulate strict legislation to prevent abuse and exploitation of children with disabilities: we urge the government to adopt legislation, to improve police investigation and prosecution of perpetrators, and to ensure the safety of all persons with disabilities, including children.

We recommend the government to address the other key issues in the report of DPO Mauritius, in consultation with them, including:

- the lack of an awareness campaign programme (per article 8 CRPD),
- inaccessible buildings (including schools), roads and pavements,
- the need for inclusive education planning and implementation;
- sexual abuse;
- regular employment in tourism, information/communication and technology;
- lack of equal opportunities and equal remuneration

Finally, we congratulate Mauritius for accepting UPR recommendations regarding participation in political life, improvement of living conditions, inclusive, quality and free education, and on skill development programs to public officers and staff on how to better assist persons with disabilities.

We urge the government to implement these without delay in consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations.

Thank you.