



# Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2016-2017

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and  
International Trade**

**October 2017**

# Introduction

This is the Annual Report on Performance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade for the financial year 2016/17, which has been prepared following amendments made to the Finance and Audit Act. The report has been prepared according to guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

Reporting on performance aims at strengthening governance, transparency and accountability in relation to the resources as approved by the National Assembly. The report is a mechanism for tracking of progress made towards in achieving the set targets and objectives of the Ministry, and provides information for our stakeholders and the public at large.

The structure of the Annual Report is as follows:

**Part I** sets out the vision, mission and overview of the Ministry/Department, its roles and functions as well as its organizational structure.

**Part II** describes mainly the major achievements, status on the achievements of budget measures and a review of how the Ministry/Department has performed during the previous year including the internal Key Performance Indicators.

**Part III** provides the financial highlights for the previous year.

**Part IV** provides a situational analysis of the environment in which the Ministry operates and which impacts on its service delivery. It also includes the strategic direction to realize the Ministry's vision, objectives and desired outcomes.

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## Our Vision

A prosperous and sustainable Mauritius fully integrated in a globalised and equitable world.

## Our Mission

- To formulate and conduct the foreign policy of the Republic of Mauritius including our Trade and Regional Integration policies with a view to safeguarding and promoting our strategic interests and to preserve our national sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- To expand our diplomatic relations at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels with a view to establishing partnerships supportive of the economic objectives set by the Government.

## Minister's Statement

The Annual Report on Fiscal Year 2016/2017 reflects the numerous achievements, targets and challenges of my Ministry. It also happily coincides with my tenure of office at the helm of the Ministry.

The Report sets in a clear and concise manner the Vision and Mission of the Ministry on the eve of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Independence of Mauritius and five decades of Mauritian diplomacy, from the very beginning to this day.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade has carried out its work diligently over the years with commendable achievements namely the forging of bilateral, regional and international relations. These include the establishment of diplomatic relations with as many countries as possible, accession to important regional and international organisations, the hosting of numerous high level international conferences, the accession to key international instruments and the furtherance of our agenda as a Small Island Development State.

Nevertheless, after 50 years of Independence, it is high time to reassess the operation of the Ministry and our overseas representations so as to further the objectives of Government as contained in Vision 2030. To this end, I have initiated a process of consultations with the different divisions and missions abroad with a view to transforming the Ministry so as to be geared towards a more modern and pro-active diplomacy, equipped with a new foreign policy toolbox

I have no doubt that this process will consolidate our acquis whilst at the same time re-engineering our resources and skills for all those engaged at the service of Mauritius.

## Accounting Officer's Statement

I am thankful to the Staff for their dedication and commitment in preparing the First Annual Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, in accordance with the Finance and Audit Act.

I am also very proud of the achievements of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade in the making of the foreign policy of Mauritius at the national, regional and international levels.

It would be too long to enumerate all the achievements, but I would wish to dwell on a major achievement that is indicative of the dynamism and performance of the Ministry namely the adoption on 22 June 2017 of the UN Resolution on Chagos Archipelago with a majority of 94 constitutes a landmark achievement for Government.

Political diplomacy and economic diplomacy are two key components, amongst others, of our Foreign Policy and are intertwined. In that respect, the recent recruitment of Economic and Trade Counsellors is an innovative approach geared towards the furtherance of our economic diplomacy component.

Whilst much emphasis is laid on those at the Ministry who are at the forefront, I would like to commend the Administration for its tireless efforts in ensuring the smooth running of the Headquarters and the Overseas Missions.

As we enter into the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Independence and of our Foreign Policy, this Ministry is poised to play an increasingly important role in the furtherance of the goals of Government.

## **Roles and Functions of the Ministry / Department**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs , Regional Integration and International Trade is mandated for the administration of all matters flowing from membership of the United Nations and the specialised agencies, diplomatic missions in Commonwealth and foreign countries, correspondence with representatives of Commonwealth and foreign countries accredited to Mauritius, Treaties, Conventions and protocol; International Trade, including all trade and trade related matters flowing from membership of Regional and International Organisations; Bilateral, Plurilateral and Multilateral Trade Negotiations and Agreement; and the Industrial Property Office.

Our Responsibilities are to:-

- Ensure that the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Mauritius are safeguarded in all international fora
- Conduct our foreign policy with a view to promoting and safeguarding the interest of Mauritius
- Deal with all matters pertaining to the conduct and administration of foreign affairs, regional integration and international trade, including all trade and trade-related matters, patents and trademarks
- Act as the focal point of Government in its interaction with foreign governments, regional and international organisations
- Raise awareness of the benefits to be derived from bilateral, regional and international instruments
- Act as the depositary of all bilateral, regional and international treaties, conventions, protocols and agreements
- Provide consular service and assistance as appropriate

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade is currently organised at Headquarters (HQ) as follows:

- Foreign Affairs comprising seven Directorates, namely: -
  - Bilateral I (Asia, Middle East, Far East)
  - Bilateral II (Europe, Americas and Australasia)
  - Bilateral III (Africa and the Indian Ocean Islands)
  - Multilateral Economic Directorate
  - Multilateral Political Directorate I (African Union, Commonwealth, Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie and Human Rights Issues)

- Multilateral Political Directorate II (United Nations and its Specialised Agencies)
- Protocol Directorate
- Regional Integration Division, which focuses on the active participation of Mauritius in various regional organisations to which Mauritius is a party; and
- International Trade Division, including the Industrial Property Office, which is responsible for the formulation of trade policies, negotiation and implementation of Trade Agreements.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs , Regional Integration and International Trade is supported by a total of 19 Diplomatic Missions overseas and 1 Consulate, and a network of Honorary Consulates (68 overseas). The network of missions is uniquely placed to perform, on behalf of the Government of Mauritius, a diverse range of representational, promotional and assistance functions and these offices are an integral and essential tool for the delivery of the foreign policy and strategic objectives of the Ministry.

The 19 Missions are headed by 3 Career Ambassadors and 16 non-career Ambassadors on contract.

## Senior Management Team

Title / Directorate	Contact Details
Secretary for Foreign Affairs	Ambassador Mrs U. C. Dwarka Canabady Phone :(230) 405- 2541 Fax : (230) 212-5507 Email :mfa@govmu.org sfa@govmu.org
Permanent Secretary	Mr. V. K. Daby Phone :(230) 405- 2523 Fax : (230) 212-2043 Email :vdaby@govmu.org
Minister Counsellor and Head, Bilateral Directorate I	Mr A. Hurree Phone :(230) 405- 2539 Fax : (230) 211-3242 Email:ahurree@govmu.org
Minister Counsellor and Head, Bilateral Directorate II	Mr J. Bissoondoyal Phone :(230) 405- 2619 Fax : (230) 212-5702 Email: jbissoondoyal@govmu.org
Minister Counsellor and Head, Bilateral Directorate III	Mrs. M. H. Chavrimootoo Phone :(230) 405- 2526 Fax : (230) 211-2836 Email: hchavrimootoo@govmu.org
Minister Counsellor and Head, Multilateral Political Directorate I	Mr R. Bhukory Phone :(230) 405- 2563 Fax : (230) 212- 5496 Email: rakbb@hotmail.com
Head, Multilateral Political Directorate II	Mr P. Gopaul Phone :(230) 405- 2528 Email:pgopaul@govmu.org
Head, Multilateral Economic Directorate	Mr S. Gujadhur Phone :(230) 405- 2530 Email: subhasgujadhur70@yahoo.com
Chief of Protocol, Protocol Directorate	Mr J. Nayeck Phone :(230) 405- 2686 Fax : (230) 212-4976 Email: protocol@govmu.org
Director, Regional Integration Division	Mr. M. D. Phokeer Phone :(230) 405- 2622 Fax : (230) 213-7674 Email:mphokeer@govmu.org
Director, Trade Policy, International Trade Division	Mr. N. Boodhoo Phone :(230) 208-1658 Fax : (230) 212-6368 Email:sunilboodhoo59@gmail.com

### Missions Overseas (Embassies, High Commissions, Permanent Representatives and Consulates)

SN	MISSION	COUNTRY	E-MAIL and TELEPHONE NO	TIME DIFFERENCE WITH MAURITIUS
1	ADDIS ABABA*	ETHIOPIA	addisemb@govmu.org 25111 661 5997	-1hour
2	ANTANANARIVO*	MADAGASCAR	memad@moov.mg 261 20 22 321 57	-1hour
3	BEIJING*	CHINA	mebj@govmu.org 86 10 6532 5695 (Embassy) 86 10 6532 5698 (Consular Section)	+4 hours
4	BERLIN*	GERMANY	berlin@mauritius-embassy.de 49 30 26 39 3610 (Consular Section)	-3 hours (Winter) -2 hours (Summer)
5	BRUSSELS*	BELGIUM	brusselsemb@govmu.org 32 2733 9988	-2 hours (Summer) -3 hours(Winter)
6	CAIRO*	EGYPT	cairoemb@govmu.org 202 2736 5208/9	-1 hour (Summer) -2 hours (Winter)
7	CANBERRA***	AUSTRALIA	canberra@c@govmu.org 612 6281 1203 612 6282 4436	+6 hours(Winter) +7 hours(Summer)
8	GENEVA**	SWITZERLAND	genevamis@govmu.org 41 22 734 8550	-3 hours.(Summer) -2 hours.(Winter)
9	ISLAMABAD***	PAKISTAN	islamabadhc@govmu.org 92 51 282 4657/8 92 51 282 8985(Consular Section)	+1 hour
10	KUALA LUMPUR***	MALAYSIA	klhc@govmu.org 603 2163 6301/06 603 2162 3941	+4 hours
11	LONDON***	UK	londonhc@govmu.org 44 207 581 0294/95	-4 hours (Winter) -3 hours (Summer)
12	MAPUTO*	MOZAMBIQUE	maputohc@govmu.org 258 2149 4624/182	-2 hours
13	MOSCOW*	RUSSIA	moscow_emb@govmu.org 7495 915 7617/0492	Nil
14	MUMBAI Consulate	INDIA	mumbaicons@govmu.org 91-22 2284 1410 (Consul's Office)	+1.5 hours

15	NEW DELHI***	INDIA	mhcnewdelhi@gmail.com 91 11 2410 2161/62	+1.5 Hours
16	NEW YORK**	USA	newyorkmis@govmu.org 1 212 949 0190/0259	-9 hours (Winter ) -8hours (Summer)
17	PARIS*	FRANCE	parisemb@govmu.org 331 42 27 30 19(Embassy) 331 42 27 99 50(Consular Section)	-2hrs (Summer) -3hrs (Winter)
18	PRETORIA***	SOUTH AFRICA	pretoriahc@govmu.org 27 12 342 1283/4	-2 hours
19	RIYADH*	SAUDI ARABIA	emb.riyadh@govmu.org 966 11 482 9567/ 9591	-1 hour
20	WASHINGTON*	USA	mauritius.embassy@verizon.net 1-202-244 1491/2	-9 hours(Winter) -8 hours(Summer)

**Note:**

- \*Embassy
- \*\*Permanent Representation
- \*\*\*High Commission

## About Our People

The Secretary for Foreign Affairs, as the Accounting and Responsible Officer of the Ministry, is accountable for the sound administration and management of the Ministry and all the Mauritius Missions Overseas.

She is supported by the Permanent Secretary, the Heads of Directorates, the Diplomatic Cadre, the Administrative Staff and the Line Managers (Human Resource/ Finance/ Procurement). Other supporting staff are Officers of the Analyst (Cooperation) & Analyst Trade Police Cadres, Internal Control Cadre as well as officers belonging to the general services grades.

**The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade** is responsible for the implementation of foreign and trade policies as laid down by Government and is actively involved in the development and formulation of policies that safeguard and promote the interests of the Republic of Mauritius and Mauritians abroad.

There are 3 main divisions, namely, (1) The Foreign Affairs Division, (2) Regional Integration Division, and (3) International Trade Division, including the Industrial Property Office, as shown in Figure 1.

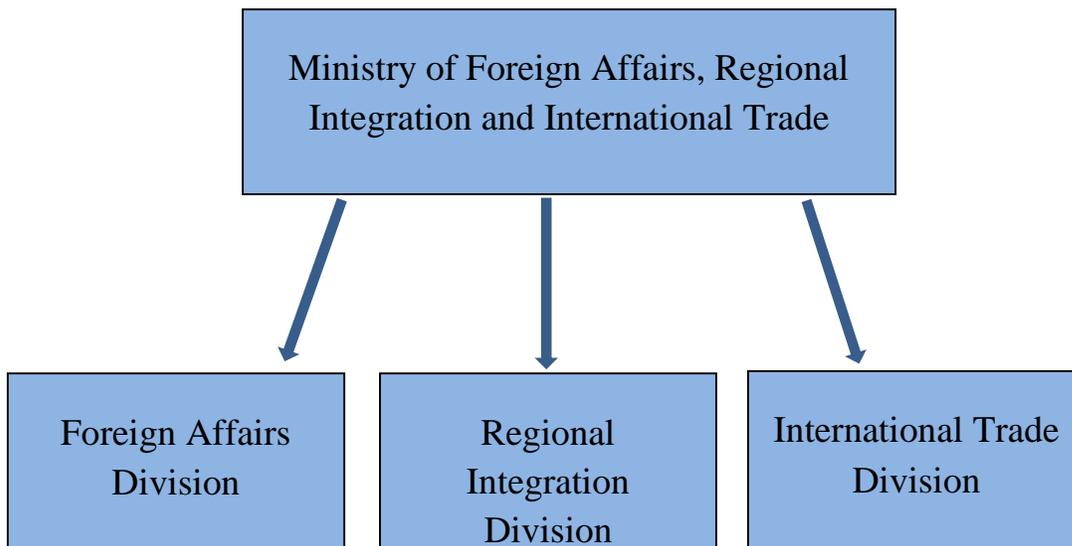


Figure 1

The Foreign Affairs Division represents the core area of activity of the Ministry. It is divided into seven Directorates, namely:

- Bilateral Directorate I (Asia, Middle East)
- Bilateral Directorate II (Europe, Americas, Australasia)
- Bilateral Directorate III (Africa and Indian Ocean Islands)
- Multilateral Political Directorate I (African Union, Commonwealth, La Francophonie and Human Rights Issues)
- Multilateral Political Directorate II (United Nations and its Specialised Agencies)
- Multilateral Economic Directorate (Economic Cooperation, WTO and Trade Related Issues); and
- Protocol Directorate (Protocol matters, Accreditation of Envoys, Immunities and Privileges)

Each Directorate is headed by either a Minister Counsellor or a Senior Officer of the Diplomatic cadre.

**The Bilateral Directorates** are responsible for overseeing relations of Mauritius with other States on a bilateral basis. The three directorates look into government-to-government relations. This includes development cooperation, negotiations of agreements, security issues or it may require managing the position of Mauritius in situations where internal developments in another country are affecting our interests.

**The Political Directorates** are responsible for multilateral political issues on the international agenda and activities relating to regional and international organisations comprising inter-alia the United Nations, “Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie”, the Commonwealth, the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Union.

**The Multilateral Economic Directorate** focuses on emerging economic and trade issues at international level. It also aims at consolidating relations with traditional and non-traditional economic partners including the development of new instruments of cooperation with them and in particular with emerging economies.

**The Protocol Directorate** facilitates visits by Heads of States, Heads of Government and guests of the Government of Mauritius and provides Protocol support and courtesies during such visits. It acts as an interface for the coordination of all administrative arrangements, including the preparation of official programmes, requests for airport facilities for VIPs on arrival and departure and assigning Protocol officers.

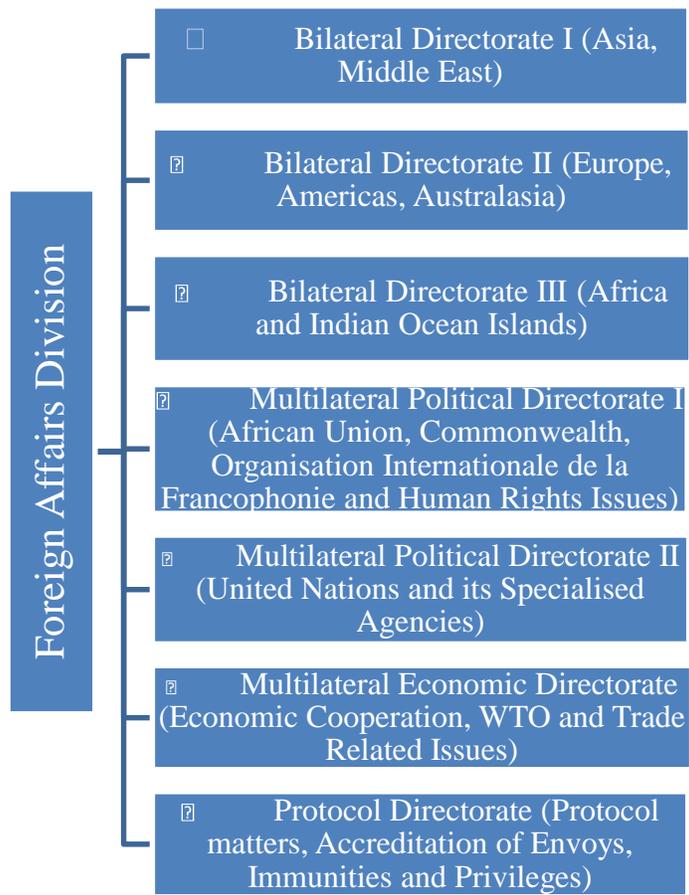


Figure 2 above shows the functional areas of the Foreign Affairs Division

The **Regional Integration Division**, focuses on the active participation of Mauritius in various regional organisations to which it belongs.

The Regional Integration Division is responsible for the promotion and enhancement of regional and continental integration through our membership in: -

- Southern African Development Community (*SADC*)
- Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (*COMESA*)
- Indian Ocean Commission (*IOC*), and
- Indian Ocean Rim Association (*IORA*)

Figure 3 shows the responsibilities of the Regional Integration Division

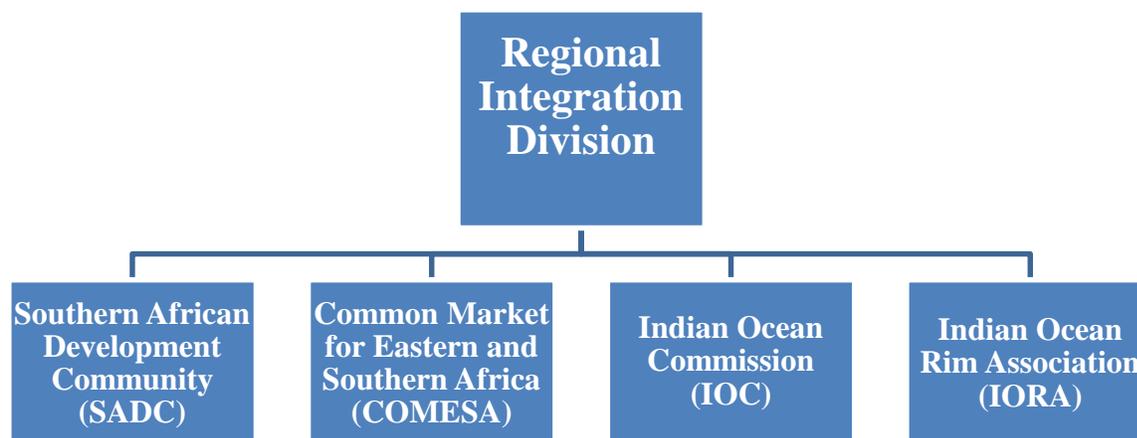


Figure 3

The **International Trade Division**, including Industrial Property Office, is responsible for the formulation of trade policies, negotiation and implementation of Trade Agreements.

- Negotiates trade deals for Mauritius at the Multilateral level as well as in the context of regional and bi-lateral trade relations
- Ensures that international trade rules are shaped in a manner as to create better trading opportunities for Mauritian exporters on international, regional and individual markets
- Follows up on implementation of Trade Agreements
- Prepares for the Trade Policy Review of Mauritius

### **Industrial Property Office (IPO)**

- Administers the Industrial Property legislations
- Registers and protects industrial property rights, namely, patents, industrial designs and trademarks
- Helps in the dissemination of information on the importance of IP rights

Figure 4 shows the organizational set up of the International Trade Division

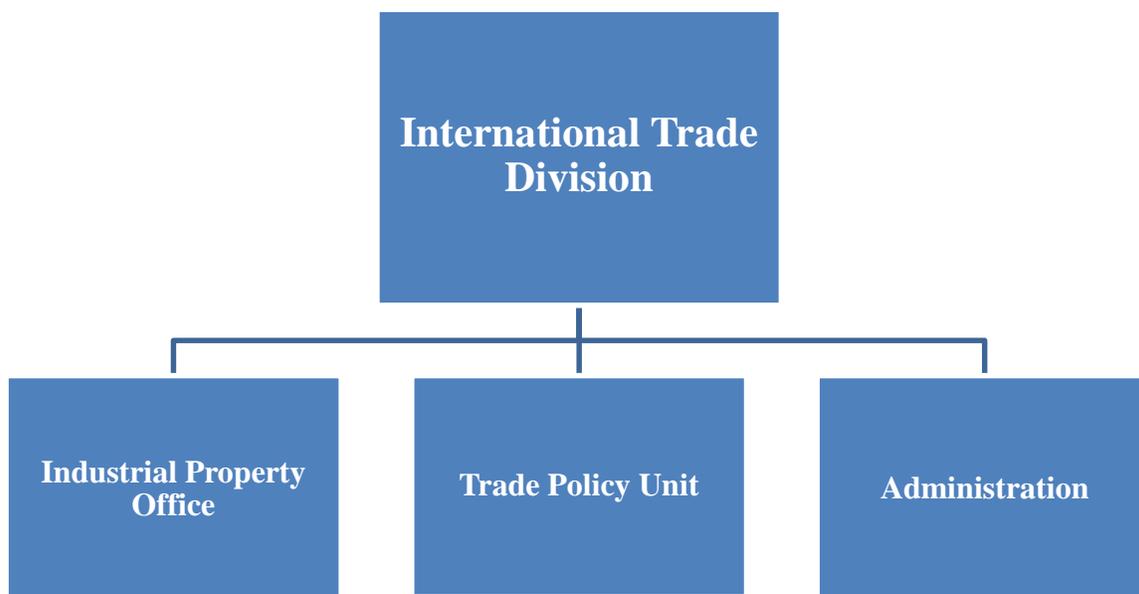


Figure 4

In this regard, the Human Resources Section in collaboration with the Secretary for Foreign Affairs and other staff regularly ensures that both at Headquarters and at Missions abroad, the workforce is appropriately allocated. Movement to and from Missions are a regular feature of the Ministry and in this regard, talented people are recruited and several policies are established to enable active involvement and commitment of one and all. To ensure and sustain a professional cadre, staff are regularly trained both locally and abroad.

The Organisational structure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade as at 30 June 2017 is at Figure 4 below.

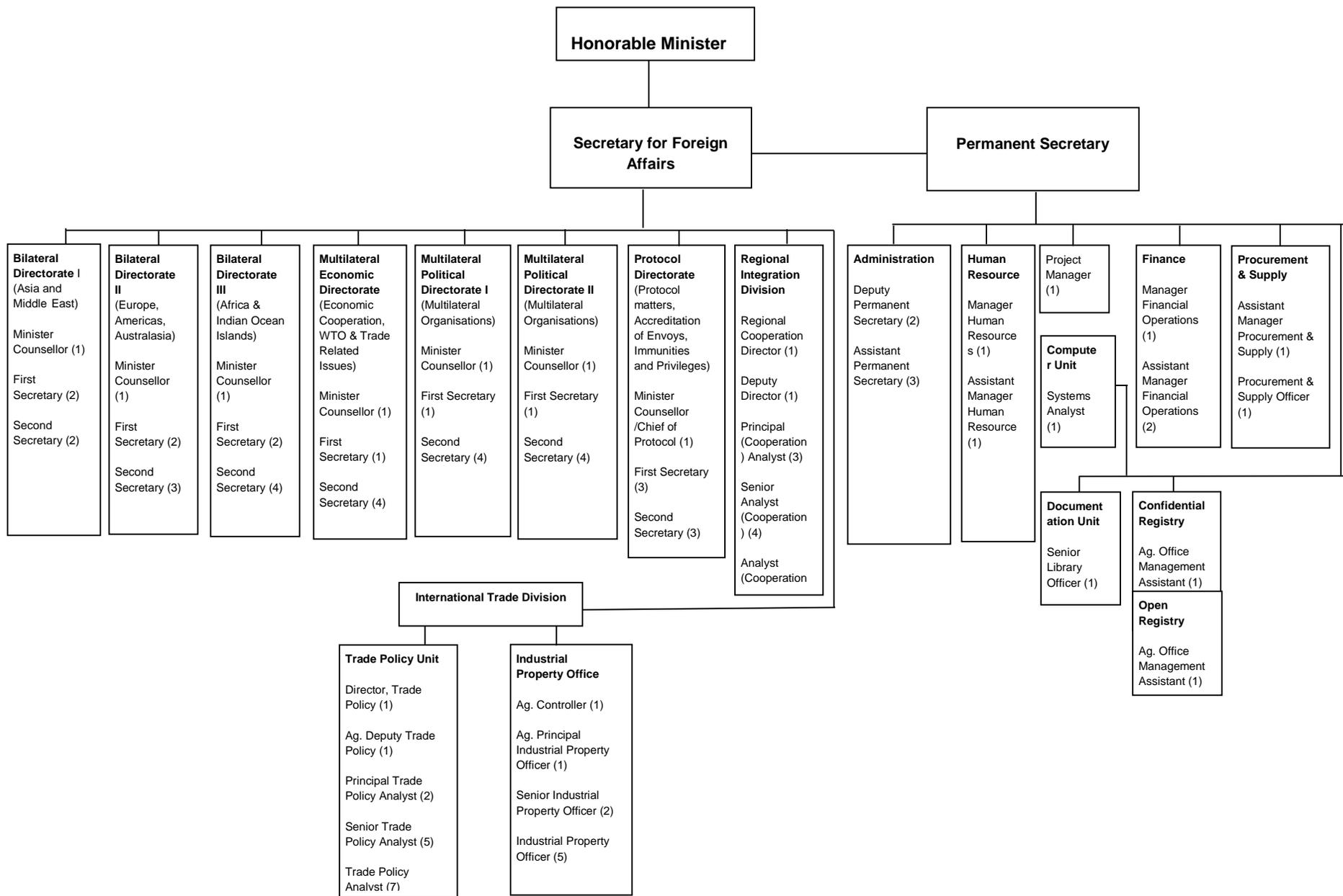


Figure 4 : Organisational structure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade

**Overseas Missions** - Alongside the structure at the Ministry there are 19 Diplomatic Missions including 1 Consulate operating in the various parts of the world. These Missions are normally headed by an Ambassador/High Commissioner or a Consul as appropriate. As an important arm of the Ministry, the Missions and Consulates based overseas are the very first window of Mauritius in the host countries.

The Missions and Consulate are as follows: -

- (i) Mauritius Embassy, Addis Ababa
- (ii) Mauritius Embassy, Antananarivo
- (iii) Mauritius Embassy, Beijing
- (iv) Mauritius Embassy, Berlin
- (v) Mauritius Embassy, Brussels
- (vi) Mauritius Embassy, Cairo
- (vii) Mauritius High Commission, Canberra
- (viii) Mauritius Mission to the United Nations, Geneva
- (ix) Mauritius High Commission, Islamabad
- (x) Mauritius High Commission, Kuala Lumpur
- (xi) Mauritius High Commission, London
- (xii) Mauritius High Commission, Maputo
- (xiii) Mauritius Embassy, Moscow
- (xiv) Consulate of Mauritius, Mumbai
- (xv) Mauritius High Commission, New Delhi
- (xvi) Mauritius Mission to the United Nations, New York
- (xvii) Mauritius Embassy, Paris
- (xiii) Mauritius High Commission, Pretoria
- (xix) Mauritius Embassy, Riyadh
- (xx) Mauritius Embassy, Washington D.C.

The staff position of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade is shown below:

JOB TITLE	NUMBER OF STAFF
Secretary for Foreign Affairs	1
Permanent Secretary	1
Ambassador	19
Minister Counsellor/Deputy High Commissioner	17
Adviser (contract)	3
Director, Cooperation	1
Director, Trade Policy	1
Deputy Permanent Secretary	2
First Secretary	27
Assistant Permanent Secretary	4
Analyst Cooperation Cadre	14
Analyst Trade Policy Cadre	16
Human Resources Cadre	5
Financial Operations Cadre	13
Second Secretary	49
Procurement Cadre	2
Project Manager (contract)	1
Senior Library Officer	1
General Services Cadre	151
Machine Minder	1
Controller Industrial Property Office	1 (acting)
Industrial Property Cadre	8
Principal Internal Control Officer	1
Interns under Service to Mauritius Programme	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>343</b>

### Major Achievements

#### Main achievements for Financial Year 2016/17

- **Mauritius Embassy in Saudi Arabia opened.**

The Embassy of the Republic of Mauritius in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia has been set up and is operational as from 29 December 2016. The Embassy has been technically operational from an office space that was rented until 28 February 2017. As from 01 March, the Chancery has moved into the permanent premises offered by the Saudi authorities in the Diplomatic Quarters in Riyadh.

- **The Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub set up in Mauritius.**

At the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting held in Sri Lanka in November 2013, Commonwealth Leaders agreed to the principle of establishing a Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub Response Mechanism. The main objective of the entity is to provide infrastructural support to SIDS and LDCs in accessing and managing climate finance.

Mauritius offered to host the Hub and at the CHOGM 2015, held in Malta, Commonwealth Leaders endorsed the offer of Mauritius.

The Host Country Agreement in respect of the Hub was signed in the presence of the former Prime Minister on the sidelines of the UNGA in September 2016. The Hub formally started its operations in Mauritius in October 2016. The Office of the Hub is located at the Sterling House in Mauritius.

- **Funds to the tune of EURO 506,344 obtained as budget support under COMESA Regional Integration Support Mechanism (RISM).**

The Regional Integration Support Mechanism (RISM), funded by the EU, aims at assisting Member States to implement regional programmes at national level. To benefit funds under RISM, Member States need to respond to Call for Proposals. Mauritius has to report on progress and achievements of regional programmes at national level. Under the 7th Call for proposal, an amount of €506,344 has been disbursed and credited to the consolidated Fund in March 2017.

- **Funds to the tune of EURO 1.4 M obtained under the SADC Trade Related Facility (TRF) Programme.**

The projects submitted by Mauritius under the SADC TRF have been approved by the SADC Secretariat and a Financing Agreement between Mauritius and the SADC Secretariat has been signed. A Project Manager has been recruited for managing and overseeing implementation of the projects.

- **Further derogation of 1000 tons of Preserved Tuna secured in addition to the yearly allocation of 3000 tons.**

In the context of the IEPA, the possibility to utilize 8000 tons of non-origination for the production of canned tuna has been secured. This quantum has been distributed among Mauritius, Madagascar and Seychelles. Our share is 3000 tons. A mechanism to redistribute unused quotas has been agreed upon. Since Madagascar has not used all its quota, Mauritius has asked for and obtained a redistribution of 1000 tons of Tuna.

- **Signature of the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between the Republic of Mauritius and the Government of Jersey**

A Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement between Mauritius and Jersey was signed on 3 March 2017 in London.

Under this Agreement, double taxation which is an impediment to cross-border activities will be eliminated. The Agreement also provides for reduced taxation at source or exemption on various sources of income and this should be an added incentive for an increase in cross-border activities.

The agreement is being given considerable importance in supporting business links and also a powerful inducement for entrepreneurs of both countries to explore the possibilities for mutually profitable ventures.

- **Extension of the Visa Waiver Agreement Between Mauritius and China:**

With a view to increasing people-to-people exchange, Mauritian Nationals are now granted a visa-free period of up to 60 days on arrival in China. The visa free period was previously of 30 days. Mauritius is among the very few countries in the world to which China has granted visa free for a period of 60 days.

- **Contributing to the shaping of international policies and standards through elections to International bodies**

Former Judge S.Gupt Domah, was elected to the Sub-Committee on Prevention of Torture for a term of 4 years on 27 October 2016.

- **Contributing to the UNGA Resolution**

Our Diplomatic Missions in collaboration with the Prime Minister's Office successfully ensured the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution requesting an advisory opinion of the ICJ on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965.

- **Extending the Diplomatic Network of Mauritius and Raising visibility**

HE Ambassador I. Dhalladoo presented his credentials to the President of the Swiss Confederation on 1 September 2016 as the first Ambassador of Mauritius to Switzerland, with residence in Geneva. During the presentation of credentials, the Ambassador raised the issue of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Mauritius and Switzerland on a Consultation Mechanism. The MOU was signed during the Swiss Week in Mauritius, on 04 August 2017.

Geneva Mission in September 2016 was accredited as a bilateral Mission. The following portfolios were added to Mission's schedule of duties and responsibilities, in addition to the existing schedule of a Permanent Mission to the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG), ILO, WTO, WHO, WIPO, IOM, Vienna-based International Organisations such as IAEA, UNODC, UNIDO, UNCITRAL:-

- (i) Enhancement of bilateral, political, economic, investment, cultural, scientific, medical cooperation with Switzerland;
- (ii) Whole range of consular services towards the Mauritian diaspora residing in Switzerland and neighbouring French regions (Ferney-Voltaire, Annemasse, Nyon, etc), as well as Swiss nationals travelling to Mauritius (visas, etc);
- (iii) Promotion of the economic, business, commercial, tourist, trade and investment interests of Mauritius in the different cantons;

- **Trade Facilitation with a view to expanding Market Access**

### **Mauritius-China FTA**

In 2015, Mauritius and China have agreed to look into the possibility of signing a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to enhance trade in goods and services, investment and economic cooperation between the two countries. However, prior to discussions on the FTA, both parties have agreed to conduct a joint feasibility study on the parameters of the FTA. An MOU to launch the joint feasibility study (JFS) was signed in November 2016 by the Honorable Prime Minister in Beijing.

A first draft of the Feasibility Study has already been examined through Video Conference in March 2017. The study is expected to be finalized and signed by the end of May 2017 in the context of the visit of the Chinese Vice-Minister of Commerce.

The JFS covers four main pillars, namely, trade in goods, trade in services, investment and economic cooperation. It is a comprehensive document which provides an elaborate assessment of the state of play in each of the pillars.

Negotiations between Mauritius and China are expected to start shortly after the JFS has been concluded. The Agreement will be comprehensive and will cover several areas, namely, trade in

goods, trade in services, investment, intellectual property rights, and areas of economic cooperation. This FTA will be the first one that China will sign with a country in the African region and will serve as an example for other countries in Africa to follow suit.

### **Diplomatic initiative for the establishment of a SADC Qualifications framework.**

The establishment of the SADC Regional Qualifications Framework was approved at the SADC Meeting of Ministers of Education and Training in September 2011 in Angola as a reference framework with ten level descriptors as an initial phase of the Framework. This will contribute to the efforts of developing a continental qualifications framework for mutual recognition of degrees and qualifications in higher education.

Mauritius is giving due consideration to the alignment of the Regional Qualifications Framework (RQF) to national qualification framework designed to facilitate regional benchmarking in education and training and to address the issue of equivalence in qualifications. The RQF will facilitate the mobility of students and enhance employability of professionals within the region. The RQF will also help to establish institutional linkages with our partners in the regional organizations and also with institutions of higher learning outside the region. In the long run, it will help to boost up the image of Mauritius as a centre for good quality education and add value to trade in services.

### **Diplomatic initiative for the establishment of a project on Competitiveness and Ease of Doing Business at the level of the Indian Ocean Commission.**

The IOC Member States have a strong political will to accelerate economic and trade cooperation within the IOC region and with the European Union, which can be achieved through enhanced competitiveness and improvement in the business environment in the Indian Ocean region.

Under the 11th EDF € 8 m has been earmarked under the IOC Specific envelop for a project on “Enhancing Entrepreneurship and Business Cooperation”. The overall objective of the project is to contribute to increase economic and trade opportunities for entrepreneurs in the Indian Ocean Commission region. The specific objective is to enhance the competitiveness and trade readiness of Small and Medium Enterprises, with a special focus on SMEs headed by women and youth.

The expected results under this project are in terms of reduction in the number of bottlenecks faced by SMEs, especially SMEs headed by women and youth in doing business, and enhanced trade opportunities between the IOC region and the EU through improved business intelligence.

The total cost of the Project is Euro 8 million and will be implemented through Programme Estimates, service contracts and call for proposals over a 5-year period.

- **Industrial Property**

Given the prominent role that Intellectual Property (IP) plays on the economic and cultural development, it was considered imperative that our Intellectual Property policy be reinforced so as to mainstream IP in our economic and social development and to promote innovation and creativity. To this effect, a draft Industrial Property Bill has been drafted. The objective is to have a comprehensive legislation that would encompass all aspects of Industrial Property, namely Trade Mark, Patent, Industrial Design, Plant Breeders' Rights, Geographical Indications and Layout Design of integrated circuit.

The intention of enacting a comprehensive Industrial Property Bill is to adopt a more coherent approach to IP development in Mauritius and to also include in the new Bill developments on the IP front that has taken place since 2002.

In September-October 2016, WIPO provided Mauritius with a series of technical assistance with regard to our accession to various WIPO administered international Treaties namely, the Patent Corporation Treaty, the Madrid Protocol and the Hague Agreement.

Another area where WIPO assisted Mauritius is the review of the Intellectual Property Development Plan (IPDP) which was developed in 2009. In November 2016, experts from WIPO travelled to Mauritius to assist us in the review of the IPDP. The latter seeks to ensure, amongst others, that the organisations involved in IP enforcement, the potential users as well as generators of IP have the technical capacity and know-how to use IP as a tool to promote research, innovation, investment and economic growth. It recommended that Mauritius puts in place a national IP policy, a coordinating mechanism through an IP Council, and the establishment of a single IP Office based on the international best practice. The IPDP also recommended the revision of IP laws to meet the country's requirements and ensure compliance with latest development on IP at the International level. This is being carried out through the new proposed draft Industrial Property Bill.

A public consultation process was conducted in January 2017 and comments from the public were collected. The draft Bill was thereafter amended, taking into account some of these comments. The draft bill has been sent to the SLO for official legal vetting. Subsequently, the draft Bill will be introduced in the National Assembly for adoption.

Thereafter, a decision will be taken by Government to join the WIPO administered Treaties and actions will be initiated to launch procedures to deposit instruments of acceptance to WIPO.

- **Sensitisation on Intellectual Property**

In the context of the World IP Day (26 April 2017), two workshops were held on 26-27 April for the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and the researchers/academia with a view to raise awareness on what is intellectual property and the benefits thereof among the SMEs, the academics, students and the public at large. In parallel, an Expo-Vente was organized to showcase the savoir-faire of Mauritian small and medium entrepreneurs to the public. A help desk on IP was also put up to assist potential inventors on filing of patents and other details on registration of IP rights. It is the plan that the celebration of the World IP Day becomes an annual event to increase awareness of IP in Mauritius.

- **Sensitisation Initiative on AGOA**

An AGOA Preparedness Workshop was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade in collaboration with the Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives on the 5th April 2017. The workshop was attended by some 100 participants (namely around 70 entrepreneurs).

The workshop facilitated interaction between entrepreneurs and representatives of institutions dealing with SMEs like MauBank, SMEDA, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection.

It was noted that the SMEs in several sectors produce high quality goods and that an important step would involve linking the entrepreneurs with potential buyers in the US.

Following the workshop it was agreed that follow-up actions would concentrate on:-

- (i) Assessing constraints faced by local enterprises and distinguish between those that could be addressed at domestic level and those, which would require technical assistance from competent US authorities.
- (ii) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade would pursue discussions with the US Embassy in Mauritius in order to explore means and ways to better assist the exports of SMEs to the US market.
- (iii) There was a need to encourage vertical collaboration between large and small companies whereby large companies can outsource certain manufacturing processes to the smaller companies and build linkages.
- (iv) The Ministry of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives to take stock of existing schemes for SMEs and identify possible improvements or additional schemes that may be requested. They would also elaborate or update any existing database of SMEs exporters outlining the products being manufactured and currently exported.
- (v) The establishment of an online platform with the profiles of the SME's as a marketing tool.

## Status on Implementation of Budget Measures

A number of measures were announced in the Budget 2016-2017. Table 1 below shows the status of the measures which pertain to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade.

Table 1 – Budget Measures pertaining to Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade for year 2016/2017

Para in Budget Speech	Budget Measure	Status
157	To revive and finalise the negotiations with New Delhi on the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) including a Preferential Trade Agreement.	<p>Following a meeting held between Mauritius and India in Port Louis in September 2016, to decide on how to move the negotiation forward, both sides agreed to update the Joint Study Group Report and submit their request with respect to goods and services.</p> <p>Mauritius has already submitted its request in November 2016.</p> <p>A business meet was organised by the Indian High Commission in March 2017 on the opportunities with respect to CECPA whereby the importance for an early resumption of talks was highlighted.</p> <p>Major bottleneck: India's internal procedures are cumbersome and it might take time before a reply is received.</p>
158 - 159	To continue to build on our Africa strategy for the establishment and management of Special Economic Zone project in Senegal, Madagascar and Ghana	<p>The Special Economic Zones in Senegal, Ghana and Madagascar are at various stages of development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Senegal:</b> Three Agreements have been signed between Senegal and Mauritius for the management and development of the SEZ in Senegal. Mauritius has been allocated 53 hectares of land by the Government of Senegal in the emerging city of Diamniadio. The first Special Economic Zone in Senegal inaugurated will give Mauritian companies access to warehouses and office spaces totaling 31,000 square meters on 13</li> </ul>

		<p>hectares. Phase 2 of the development will be on 40 hectares.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ghana:</b> A 20-hectare plot in Dawa, some 50 km East of Ghanaian capital Accra, has been identified for the development of a Technology Park. The Mauritius Africa Fund has requested a second plot of land in the Kwabenya region of Greater Accra which would house a Cyber Tower. Ghana has earmarked a plot of land of 10-12 acres within the University of Ghana. The Ghanaian authorities have been urged to accelerate the land acquisition process for the eventual construction of the Cyber Tower. Consultations are being pursued on two other project proposals submitted by Mauritius, namely, the setting up of a solar energy power generation plant and a tourism and hospitality project in Ghana.</li> <li>• <b>Madagascar:</b> A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the setting up of Special Economic Zone was signed with Madagascar in March 2016. The MoU makes provision for the development of a Special Economic Zone on a plot of land of 80 hectares within the Ehoala Park in Fort Dauphin in the Anosy region of South-Eastern Madagascar. Other sites in the region of Diego Suarez in the North and in the region of Tuléar in the South-West of Madagascar have been identified, inter-alia, for the setting up of a tourist village, the establishment of a business and industrial park, and large scale agricultural development.</li> </ul>
160	Establishment of an Embassy in Saudi Arabia.	The Embassy of the Republic of Mauritius in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia has already been set up and is operational since the end of December 2016.
160	Setting up of a Consulate in Jeddah in Saudi Arabia.	Necessary follow up will be pursued.
161	Opening of a Consulate in Reunion Island	The opening of the Consulate in Reunion Island has been deferred.
162	Recruitment of seven Counsellors (Economic Matters) in addition to those already serving in Paris, New Delhi and Johannesburg.	The Report of the Panel is under consideration.

163	Introduction of a Consolidated Bill which will encapsulate all aspects of industrial property as well as provide for the protection of patents, plant breeders' right, industrial designs and marks including geographical indications and trade names.	The Draft IP Bill has been finalised and has been uploaded on the Ministry's website as well as the Trade Portal for public consultation. Comments have been collected and working sessions held with relevant stakeholders and SLO to finalise the bill. A study will be commissioned on the economic impact of adopting international exhaustion of TradeMark Rights. The tentative date for the introduction of the Bill in the National Assembly is during the fourth quarter of 2017.
164-165	Adherence to a number of World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Administered Treaties, namely, Patent Corporation Treaty (PCT), The Hague Convention and the Madrid Protocol to facilitate the registration of Patents, Trademarks and Industrial Designs.	Procedures to initiate action for accession to these Treaties will be activated after the adoption of the Bill.

## Status on Implementation of Key Actions

Table 2 below shows the status of the Key Actions and the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) pertaining to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade which were included in the Budget 2016/2017.

Table 2 – Status of Key Actions and KPIs for year 2016/2017

Key Action	Key Performance Indicator	Target (as per Budget Estimates)	Status
Opening of an Embassy in Riyadh and a Consulate in Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) and in Reunion Island (France)	1. Embassy opened in Riyadh (Saudi Arabia)	June 2017	The Embassy of the Republic of Mauritius in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia has been set up and is operational as from 29 December 2016.
	2. Consulate opened in Jeddah (Saudi Arabia)	June 2017	The matter is still being pursued.
	3. Consulate opened in Reunion Island (France)	June 2017	The opening of the Consulate General of Mauritius in Reunion Island has been deferred.
Promotion of Investment in Strategic Markets	Number of Counsellors (Economic matters) recruited	7	The Report of the Panel is under consideration.
Implementation of the Africa strategy through inter-alia expanding visa access in Cote d'Ivoire and other African countries	Number of African visa waive agreements secured	$\geq 2$	<p>Visa waive secured for <b>Benin</b> in February 2017.</p> <p><b>Comoros</b> – On 17 July 2017, the Comoros informed that visa will be granted free of charge to Mauritius nationals travelling to Comoros for a stay not exceeding 30 days, on the basis of reciprocity.</p>
Increasing the number of visits at Ministerial/Heads of States level from various countries to advance the bilateral agenda with these countries	Number of visits from foreign Ministers/Heads of states	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit of President of Comoros in July 2016</li> <li>• Visit of Minister of Investment, Trade &amp; Industry of Botswana in November 2016</li> <li>• Visit of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kenya in January 2017</li> <li>• Visit of Secretary of State of Seychelles Responsible for Drug abuse and Rehabilitation in March 2017</li> </ul> <p>The following Bilateral meetings were held in the margins of the African Economic Platform in March 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Swaziland</li> <li>• President of the Union of Comoros</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• President of the Republic of Madagascar</li> <li>• Prime Minister of the Republic of Rwanda</li> <li>• Minister of Finance, Trade and Economic Planning of the Republic of Seychelles</li> <li>• Minister of Economy and Finance of the Kingdom of Morocco</li> <li>• Visit of Vice-President of Ghana and delegation in March 2017 for celebration of Independence Day. DTA Agreement signed and First Session of Joint Commission held</li> <li>• Visit of President of Comoros and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Comoros in April 2017 in the context of the First Session of the Mauritius-Comoros Permanent Joint Commission.</li> <li>• Visit of Minister of Home Affairs of Seychelles in May 2017.</li> </ul>
Pursuing negotiations for the development of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China and Russia, a Continental Free Trade Area and a Tripartite Free Trade Area	1. FTAs signed with China and Russia	Jun 17	<p>Negotiations with China to start tentatively by end of Oct and beginning of Nov 2017. The Chinese authorities have yet to complete their internal procedures to launch the negotiations.</p> <p>Consideration is being given to sign an FTA with Eurasia instead of Russian Federation.</p>
	2. Continental Free Trade Area launched	Dec 17	The 3rd meeting of the African Ministers of Trade was held on 15-16 June 2017 in Niger, where the modalities for tariff negotiations were adopted and modalities for trade in services negotiations were approved. This decision was also approved by the AU Assembly of Heads of State at the Summit Meeting held on 3-4 July 2017. Negotiations are on-going in the different technical working groups.
	3. Tripartite Free Trade Area launched	Jun 17	Negotiations under phase 1 of the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) are still ongoing, namely on Rules of Origin, Trade Remedies and Tariff Liberalisation. Mauritius is yet to sign the TFTA Agreement.
Finalisation of a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with India	Preferential Trade Agreement with India finalised	Jun 17	<p>A meeting on the resumption of talks was held in September 2016. Four working groups have been set up to pursue negotiations with the Indian side. Revised market access offer has been submitted by Mauritius in November 2016.</p> <p>The 2nd Meeting of the India-Mauritius CECPA was held in New Delhi on 27-28</p>

			September 2017. The meeting agreed that negotiations on the CECPA will take place in parallel with the finalisation of the Joint Study Group Report. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled to take place in Mauritius from 27-28 November 2017.
Finalisation of the comprehensive Industrial Property Bill	Industrial Property Bill finalised	Dec 16	The draft Bill has been submitted to the State Law Office for vetting. Tentative date for Introduction of Bill in the National Assembly is fourth quarter of 2017
Submission of the 1st African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Country Progress Report (CPR) to the Secretariat	APRM Country Progress Report submitted to the Secretariat.	Dec 16	The Draft Progress Report has been elaborated. The views of the Prime Minister's Office have been received on the draft. The Report is expected to be validated by end 2017 and subsequently submitted to the APRM Secretariat.

## Risk Management, Citizen Oriented Initiatives & Good Governance

### System of Internal Audit

The system of internal audit in place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade is an independent appraisal function, designed to provide objective appraisals regarding risk management and control over processes of financial, operational and information technology areas within the Ministry.

The internal control assists management in the effective discharge of their responsibilities, by furnishing appraisals, recommendations, and comments concerning the activities under review.

The process to manage these risks are as follows:

- Submit to the Accounting officer an annual audit plan for approval, demonstrating their areas of audit review;
- Conduct reviews of activities and control systems within the organization, at intervals set in the audit plan;
- Promptly report the results of examinations made, their findings and recommendations to management for appropriate action on any deficiency noted;
- Validate the improvement made once management asserts that the matter has been completed;
- Conduct special examinations at the request of management.

## **Audit Committee**

There is an Audit Committee set up at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade. The Audit Committee is an independent structure, and assists and advises the Accounting Officer in: -

- (a) the supervision of the entire audit and reporting process;
- (b) ensuring that proper and timely attention is paid to control issues; and
- (c) ensuring that Audit recommendations and other corrective actions are implemented.

The Audit Committee reports are forwarded to the Office of Public Sector Governance for further scrutiny.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade is not figured out in the Report of the Director of Audit. However, Ministry still monitors the implementation of recommendations and follow-up actions on the issues raised by the Director of Audit, and same is communicated to the Office of Public Sector Governance (OPSG).

## PART III – FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

### Financial Highlights

As per the budget estimates, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade has 3 Votes under its control as follows:

- 7-101: General
- 7-102: Foreign Relations & Regional Integration
- 7-103: International Trade

As such, appropriation of funds is made through the Votes.

### Statements of Revenue and Expenditure

The Statements of Revenue and Expenditure have been prepared from data captured from the Treasury Accounting System (TAS).

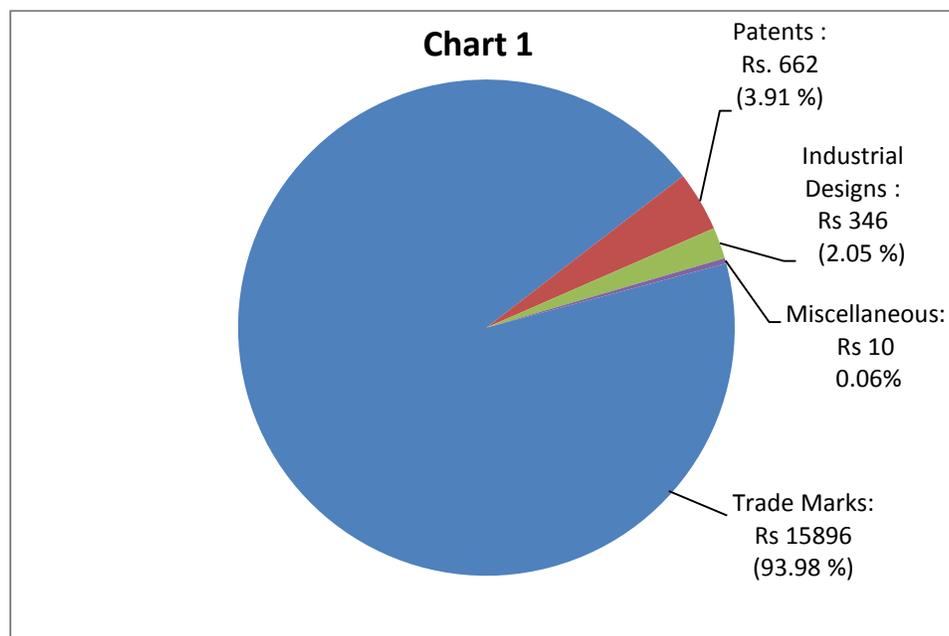
#### *Statement of Revenue*

Table 5 below provides a summary of total revenue from Sales of Goods and Services

(Trade Mark, Patents, Industrial Design) and other sources which were collected by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade

<b>Revenue (Rs /000)</b>	<b>2015-2016 Actual</b>	<b>2016-2017 Estimates</b>	<b>2016-2017 Actual</b>
Sales of Goods and Services (TradeMark,Patents,Industrial Design)	15739	17890	16904
Miscellaneous Revenues	20	20	10
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>15759</b>	<b>17910</b>	<b>16914</b>

The breakdown of total revenue of Rs16914 collected during the financial year 2016-2017 is illustrated in chart 1 below:

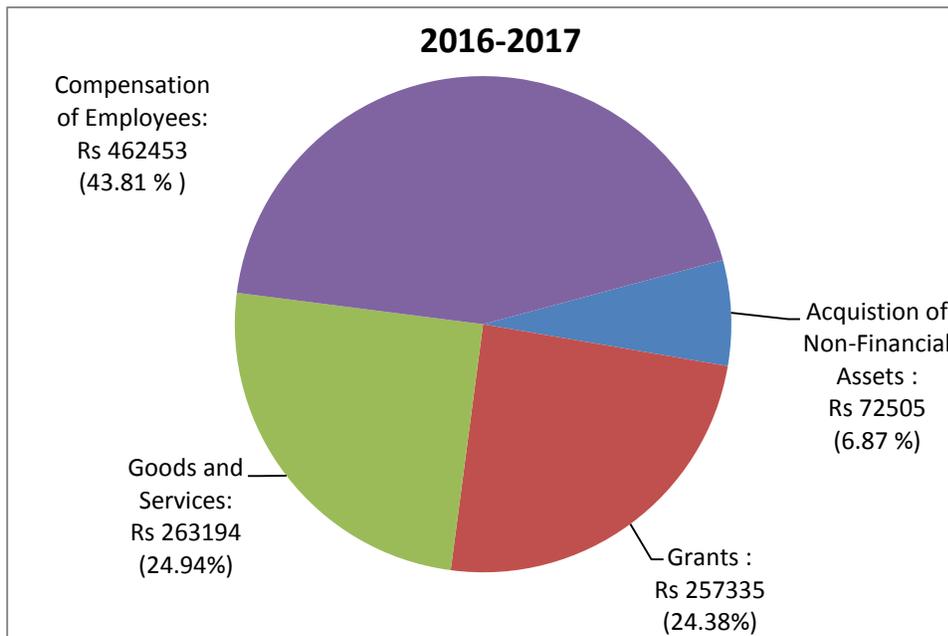


### *Statement of Expenditure*

Table 4 below provides a summary of total expenditure incurred by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade under Vote 7-1 (Ministry) which includes Sub-Heads 7-101, 7-102 and 7-103.

<b>Vote 7-1 (Rs /000)</b>	<b>2015-2016 Actual</b>	<b>2016-2017 Estimates</b>	<b>2016-2017 Actual</b>
Compensation of Employees	435937	528258	462453
Goods and Services	237687	305432	263194
Grants	214095	229110	257335
Acquisition of Non-Financial Assets	46779	130501	72505
<b>Total</b>	<b>934498</b>	<b>1193301</b>	<b>1055487</b>

The total expenditure for the financial year 2016-2017 amounted to Rs1055487 is shown by economic categories in Chart 2 below:



### Trends and Challenges

#### **Organisational strengths**

The primary asset of the Ministry is the ability, dedication and professionalism of its staff deployed both at Headquarters and its Missions overseas and the network of Honorary consuls abroad. The Ministry has a frontline role in pursuing the Government's development agenda through building relationships with our traditional development partners and with international institutions. Our network of diplomatic missions and consulates leverage their influence and are able to explore opportunities and yield successful outcomes as pertains to the successful implementation of the foreign policy and strategic objectives set by Government.

#### **Weaknesses in service delivery**

The Foreign Service is multidisciplinary and cuts across different spheres of the public service. The multidisciplinary dimension requires constant adaptation and new approaches. This is compounded by the fact that the Ministry has to operate in a complex, unpredictable and fast changing international environment. Therefore, the Ministry requires more manpower and enhanced diplomatic, technical and managerial skills and improved organisational effectiveness and efficiency including improved communication methods to respond to international challenges and meet the foreign policy priority objectives.

With new markets to be tapped to diversify exports and new trade issues emerging at the Multilateral level namely the interface between trade and climate change, trade and environment, trade and exchange rate policy, amongst others, the officers of the trade policy cadre are faced with additional challenges. The implementation of the new Trade Remedy Law and managing the Trade Information Portal expand the scope of activities of the cadre. Additional manpower will be required to cope with all these issues.

#### **Opportunities for improvement**

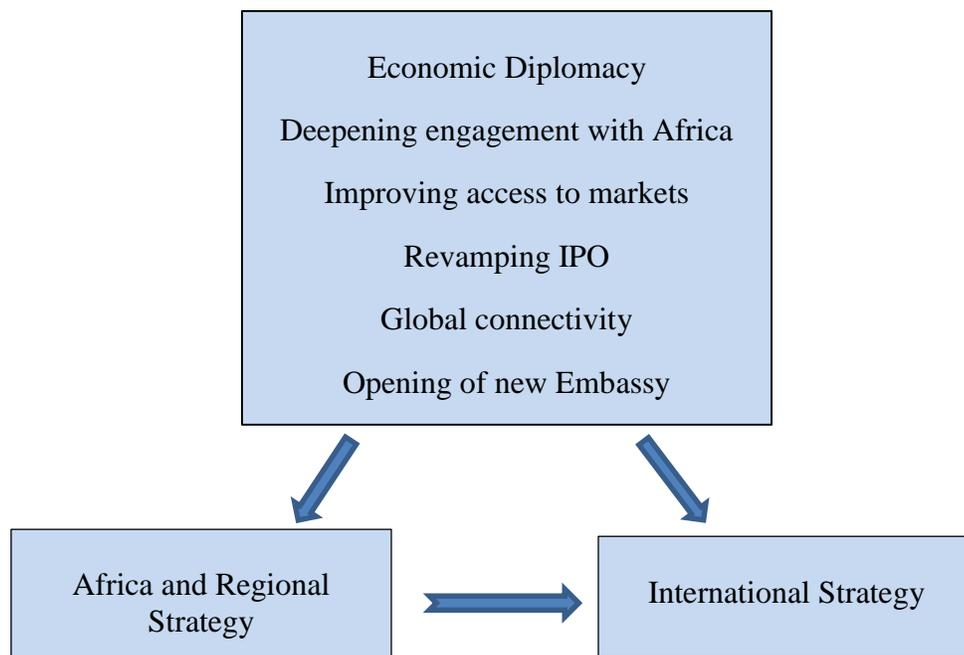
Making the best use of ICT (Intranet, e-networking with Missions overseas), appropriate training and upgrading of skills, greater internal coordination are some of the avenues that need to be properly explored for improvement of delivery of service. Obviously, the necessary financial resources are key in this regard.

### **Threats arising from failure to improve service delivery**

The advancement of vital trade, economic, political interests of Mauritius will be jeopardised with lesser market openings, poor visibility of Mauritius on the international scene, lesser awareness of Mauritius as an important tourist and investment destination, and poor response to the consular needs of Mauritian nationals in Mauritius and abroad.

## Strategic Direction

- Conduct an economy- driven diplomacy, which aims at creating opportunities for export of goods and services as well as promoting investment through the consolidation of trade networks, existing markets and creation of new ones.
- Unlocking the potential of regional integration and preparation of regional projects for regional funding.
- Conclusion of agreements with countries such as India and China to further diversify our markets and open up new opportunities. CECPA with India will be concluded in 2017 whilst negotiations with China will start in mid-2017.
- Raise the visibility of the Republic of Mauritius through the opening of new Embassies in strategic locations, expanding the network of Mauritius Honorary Consulates and the hosting of regional and international high-level events.
- Promote Mauritius as an important gateway to Africa by deepening economic engagement with Africa, the new global frontier of growth.
- Reinforcement of the Intellectual Property Office for the effective implementation and enforcement of the provisions of such legislation.



**Figure 4: Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade Strategic Plans**